



1537  
63 And he asked for a writing and wrote, saying, His John. And they marveled  
65 things  
66 <sup>a</sup>Luke 2:19; <sup>b</sup>Gen. 39:2; Acts 11:21; <sup>c</sup>Joel 2:28  
67 <sup>a</sup>1 Kin. 1:48; <sup>b</sup>Ps. 106:48  
68 <sup>a</sup>1 Kin. 1:48; <sup>b</sup>Ps. 132:17  
69 <sup>a</sup>2 Sam. 21:21; <sup>b</sup>Ps. 132:17

# ADVENT

*A Season of Expectation*

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday in Advent



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

7612 Wanymla Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239  
804-288-6439 804-282-4408 (fax) wrcob@wrcob.org www.wrcob.org

---

## Welcome

### Prelude Duet

*Arioso*

J.S. Bach

*Arioso* by Johann Sebastian Bach, John Troutman

© 1983 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

CCLI License No. 11428263 Size B; 20298271 Size A

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

#### \* Advent Candles “Stand as a Signal”

One: “They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious” (Isaiah 11:9-10 NRSV).

All: We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.

One: “In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming. “Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” And “bear fruit worthy of repentance” (Matthew 3:1,2, 8 NRSV).

All: We light these candles, the candle of joyful hope and the candle of proclaimed peace, in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God’s promise. But we also light them as a sign to the world, an

announcement there are some who hold on to hope and there are some who work the ways of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.

\* **Opening Carol**      *While We are Waiting, Come*      # 1032  
(lighting the first 2 advent candles)

*While We Are Waiting, Come* by Claire Cloninger, Don Cason,  
© 1986 Curb Word Music (Admin. by WC Music Corp.),  
CCLI License No. 11428263 Size B; 20298271 Size A

*Verse 1:*

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

*Verse 2:*

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

*Verse 3:*

With pow'r and glory, come; with pow'r and glory, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

### Time with our Children

**Song**      *There Is More Love Somewhere*      # 804 VT

*Verse:*

There is more *love*\* somewhere. There is more *love*\* somewhere.  
I'm gonna keep on 'til I find it. There is more *love*\* somewhere.

*Additional verses: hope, peace, joy*

### Pastoral Prayer

**Carol**      *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*      # 216 VT

*Verse 1:*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem has sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.

It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

*Verse 2:*

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind.  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

*Verse 3:*

Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispel in glorious splendor gloom and grief ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us,  
and lightens ev'ry load.

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

### Thoughts on Giving

From a tombstone epitaph:  
What I spent is gone.  
What I kept is lost.  
But what I gave will be mine forever.

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

### Special Music

*He Is Born*

arr. David Paxton

### Scripture Lesson

Esther 4:1-17 (*NRSVUE*)

#### Esther Agrees to Help the Jews

4 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; <sup>2</sup>he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. <sup>3</sup>In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among

the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

<sup>4</sup>When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. <sup>5</sup>Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. <sup>6</sup>Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, <sup>7</sup>and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. <sup>8</sup>Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and to entreat him for her people.

<sup>9</sup>Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. <sup>10</sup>Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai: <sup>11</sup>"All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that, if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law: to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days." <sup>12</sup>When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, <sup>13</sup>Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. <sup>14</sup>For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." <sup>15</sup>Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, <sup>16</sup>"Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." <sup>17</sup>Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

**Song***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

# 247 VT

*Verse 1:*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies.  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain:*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

*Verse 2:*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate deity;  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!

*Refrain**Verse 3:*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

*Refrain***Sermon***"If You Keep Silent"***GO IN GOD'S NAME****\* Hymn***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

# 218 VT

*Verse 1:*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee:  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

*Verse 2:*

Come, thou universal Savior; come, redeem the human race.  
Life and joy spring from thy favor; cheer each soul in need of grace.  
Still we wait for thine appearing -- make our senseless struggles cease.  
Guide us from our weary wand'ring into paths of perfect peace.

*Verse 3:*

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone.  
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Lift Up Your Heads*

anonymous

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; Behold the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is coming here; The Savior of the world is near.  
Redeemer, come, with us abide; Our hearts to thee we open wide;  
Let us thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in us reveal.

\* Please stand as able and led



<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader .....	Jori Carter
Children's Time .....	Sarah Hartman
Flautist .....	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Organist .....	Bob Phillips
Violinist .....	Bill Kinzie
Dir. of Technology and Media .....	Kevin Beers

