



1537
63 And he asked for a writing and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marveled at him. And his mouth was opened and his tongue began to speak, and he praised God.

ADVENT

A Season of Expectation

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday in Advent



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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Welcome

Prelude Duet

Arioso

J.S. Bach

Arioso by Johann Sebastian Bach, John Troutman

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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,
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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; ²he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. ³In 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.

⁴When 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, ⁷and 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. ⁸Mordecai 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.

⁹Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai: ¹¹"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." ¹²When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, ¹³Mordecai 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. ¹⁴For 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." ¹⁵Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, ¹⁶"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." ¹⁷Mordecai 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



Ministers	All Members
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

