

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WORD AND SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2013



The Nativity, by John Singleton Copley
1776-1777
Oil on canvas

John Singleton Copley (1738–1815) was a self-taught American-born painter, active in both colonial America and England. He was probably born in Boston, Massachusetts, to Richard and Mary Singleton Copley, both Irish. He is famous for his portrait paintings of important figures in colonial New England, depicting in particular middle-class subjects. His paintings were innovative in their tendency to depict artifacts relating to these individuals' lives.

Source: Wikipedia

WE GATHER

OPENING VOLUNTARY

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

ARR. SHANNON GRAMA

CHIME PEAL

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

ISAIAH 2:4-5

As we enter this sacred season, we gather around this wreath and light the first candle of Advent, the candle of **Hope**. With this candle we remember that Christ is the source of our hope and the light of the world, and calls us to bring light and hope to dark places. Let us pray.

Holy God, you come into the dark places and fill them with your light and love! Come into our lives again and fill us with your hope. In your presence, inspire us to work for that day when your love and light will illuminate the world around us. Today and every day, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

SONG RESPONSE (HYMN 127)

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING (JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD) WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT
(SING DURING THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH)

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus, the light of the world.*

CHIME PEAL

*OPENING HYMN 88

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

VENI EMMANUEL

*CALL TO CONFESSION

MATTHEW 3:2-3

A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

About the Music:

The hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* is based upon the "O Antiphons" which are more than a thousand years old. The antiphons were used during the period of the week before Christmas at Vespers. Each antiphon highlights a different title for the Messiah:

*O Sapientia (O Wisdom),
O Adonai (O Lord),
O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse),
O Clavis David (O Key of David),
O Oriens (O Rising Sun),
O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), and
O Emmanuel (O God with us).*

Some believe that monks arranged these antiphons in this order with a definite purpose. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one - **E**manuel, **R**ex, **O**riens, **C**lavis, **R**adix, **A**donai, **S**apientia - the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, meaning, "Tomorrow, I will come." The Latin was translated into English in the 19th century by John Mason Neale, an Anglican priest and gifted scholar.

Advent is a season of four weeks before Christmas. During the Advent season, the church claims God's promise to bring peace and justice to earth by remembering Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and by looking far to the future, trusting that we can count on God to keep a promise.

During Advent and Christmas we often refer to Jesus as "Emmanuel" or "Immanuel," which means "God with us." To know Jesus is to know God.

Total spending over Black Friday weekend in 2012 hit a record \$59.1 billion, up 13% from 2011. That is approximately \$423 per shopper.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

UNISON

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We hurt and destroy one another; we neglect the poor and hungry. We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us; deliver us; prepare the way for us, so that we may be ready to enter into your presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (BASED ON ISAIAH 35: 1, 10)

Leader: The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing.

People: Thanks be to God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

Leader: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

*JOYFUL RESPONSE HYMN 137

HE CAME DOWN

HE CAME DOWN

WE PROCLAIM

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 2:1-5

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

EVERY VALLEY

MARK HAYES

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 24:36-44

Leader: Go and tell everyone what you have seen and heard: the broken are made whole, the dead are raised, and the poor receive good news.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"KEEP, GIVE, THROW AWAY"

REV. DR. ANNE EPLING

*HYMN 86

THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN DARKNESS

ISAIAH 9

WE RESPOND

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

(PLEASE SIGN THE FRIENDSHIP PAD.)

OFFERTORY SOLO

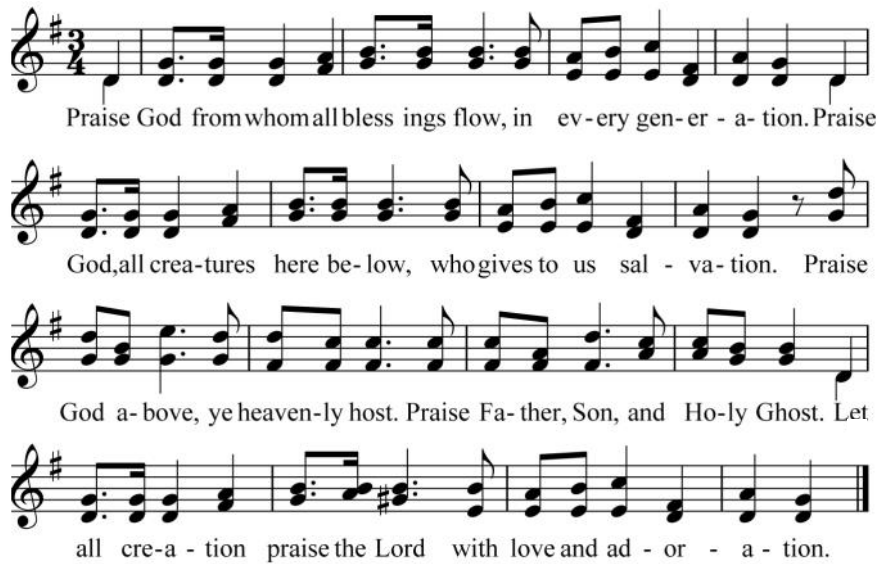
PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD DANIEL MORTIMER, SOLOIST

MARK HAYES

*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY

O TANNENBAUM



Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in every generation. Praise God, all creatures here below, who gives to us salvation. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.

The lighting of the Advent candles is an old tradition, probably originating with the Lutheran church, but appropriated by almost all others. While we light a new candle each week to signify the important themes of the season—hope, peace, joy, and love—it is important to focus primarily on the increasing light that the candles generate throughout the season as we draw nearer to our celebration of the birth of Jesus, who is the light of the world.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

UNISON

Hope of the world, you open your hands and fill our lives with good things. With gratitude, we offer you the gifts of our lives and labor. Bless these gifts we bring, that together we might plant seeds of hope in the lives of those who hunger for righteousness and justice. Bless our lives that we might bear your light and love into all the communities in which we live and move. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

UNISON

Gracious and abundant God, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your desires for your creation, at this table, and in this meal, you have met us in Christ. We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. As we have been nourished and strengthened here, send us out into the world by the power of your Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all whom we meet. Today and every day, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

WE ARE SENT

During Advent, the children will carry the Advent candles out of the Sanctuary at the end of the service to symbolize that we are sent to be Christ's Light in the world.

*CLOSING HYMN 106

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

ARR. ROBERT J. POWELL

WE WELCOME YOU TO FAITH DES PERES FOR WORSHIP!

Following the Closing Voluntary, please join us for refreshments in the Gathering Space at the front of the church.

TOGETHER AT FAITH DES PERES

PRAYER REQUESTS

Helen Barks
Joanna Gerst
Toy & Jerry Kircher
Barbara Moorman
Mackenzie Prophete
Mallorie Prophete
Jasmine Reece
Larry Schumacher

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

TODAY: Registration for the **Gingerbread House Party** on December 7th (10am-noon) is due TODAY! Sign up in the Gathering Space and make checks for \$13/house payable to Leslie Barnes.

Feeding the Flock will take place during communion today. Please check your weekly blog/email for current needs.

Plan to attend the **Congregational Meeting** today after worship. The purpose is to discuss the refinance of our loan with Presbyterian Loan and Investment Program.

THIS WEEK:

Mon, 12/2	5:30 pm	Tai Chi
Wed, 12/4	6:30 pm	Mission & Ministry Meeting
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat, 12/7	10:00 am	Annual Gingerbread House Party
Sun, 12/8		<i>Adult Discussion Group does not meet today.</i>
	10:00 am	Childcare
	10:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Sunday School & Tweens Class
	11:30 am	Coffee and Fellowship

THIS MONTH:

December 15th is **Movie Night** at the church. All ages are invited to watch "A Christmas Story" from 5:30-8:00pm in the Gathering Space. Bring a munchie to share. Join us for a commercial-free viewing of this quintessential Christmas movie!

December 16th at 10:30am is the **Annual Presbyterian Women Brunch and Cookie Exchange**. Leila Davis will be hosting. Bring 2-3 dozen cookies to exchange. Please RSVP to Leila at 314-994-0039 or Marie in the church office at 314-432-8029 or adminasst@faithdesperes.org.

THANK YOU!

Worship Team:
Terry, Henry &
Tommy Epling,
Beth Willock

Liturgist:
Beth Willock

Refreshments:
Leslie Barnes

Cantor:
Samantha Stout

FAITH DES PERES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

REV. DR. ANNE B. EPLING, PASTOR | DR. GAY HOLMES SPEARS, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST
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