

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18, 2016 10:15 A.M.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

*Upon entering the sanctuary please maintain silence and turn off all electronic devices
for the sake of the congregation's preparation for worship.*

** indicates congregation stands*

Prelude: "What Child Is This?"
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

arr. Davis
arr. Davis

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

Silent Prayer and Preparation

* Call to Worship: Psalm 80:1-3, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim
and Benjamin and Manasseh.**

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Now let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you
nurtured for yourself.

Then we will never turn back from you;

give us life, and we will call on your name.

**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be
saved.**

* Hymn: PH 332, vv. 1-4

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

MERTON

* God's Greeting:

Grace and peace be to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be God,

And blessed is his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Advent Reading: Isaiah 59:9, 60:1-3, 19

All: In this season of Advent, we look for Christ to come and bring his light to our dark world.

Reader 1: We wait for light, and lo! there is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in gloom.

Reader 2: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Reader 1: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.

Reader 2: But the LORD will arise upon you, and nations shall come to your light.

Reader 1: The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night.

All: For the LORD will be your everlasting light and your God will be your glory.

Response: PH 342, vv. 1-4 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession: I John 3:7-8

Prayer of Confession:

O Key of David, you open the way to the future and no one closes; you close the way to the past and no one opens. Release us and all your people from the sins of the past, that we may face the future with bold and living hope—through the merits of the Son of David, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: I John 2:1a-2

Choral Anthem: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" arr. Willcocks

God's Will for Our Lives: I Peter 1:13-16

Hymn: PH 331 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN

Congregational Prayer

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Choral Anthem: "See, Amid the Winter's Snow" arr. Forrest

[Children age 3 - grade Pre-K may leave after the anthem.]

Alleluia, alleluia. See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Hail, thou ever-blessed morn. Hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing throughout Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Alleluia, alleluia. Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies,
He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim.

Hail thou ever-blessed morn. Hail redemption's happy dawn.

Sing throughout Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Alleluia, alleluia. Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this.

Hail thou ever-blessed morn. Hail redemption's happy dawn.

Sing throughout Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 7:10–16 Matthew 1:18–25

Sermon: *God in the Real World*

Prayer

**O Immanuel,
child of promise and sign of hope,
you come from a distance far beyond our reach,
yet are closer to us than we are to ourselves:
remain with us in our own days of expectation,
that we may give birth to what is just, true, beautiful, and good—
through the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
abides with us, one God now and forever. Amen.**

* Hymn: PH 345 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

THE RESPONSE OF FAITH

* Offertory Prayer

Offerings: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: “Back to Bethlehem”

arr. Ham

* The Apostles’ Creed (Inside front cover of the Psalter Hymnal)

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

* Benediction: Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.
Amen.

* Hymn: PH 332, v. 5 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

MERTON

Honor, glory, might, dominion to the Father and the Son,
with the ever-living Spirit while eternal ages run.

* Postlude: “The First Noel”

arr. Huntsinger