

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 3, 2017 10:15 A.M.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

Prelude: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"
"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Cassler
J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

Advent Candle Lighting:

Reader 1: In this season of anticipation, our hearts are filled with hope.
Reader 2: We await God's Promised One who will make all things new.
Reader 1: We await the One who was, who is, and who shall come again.
Reader 2: The babe in Bethlehem's manger is the One with us now.
Reader 1: Jesus Christ: the Word made flesh, the Word that abides in Spirit.
Reader 2: Our hope is built on nothing less than God's only Son.
Reader 1: Come, let us welcome the Living Christ into our midst.
Reader 2: Come, O long-expected Jesus!

* Hymn: "Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

PH 335

* God's Greeting:

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors that the King of glory may come in.

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

Amen.

Praise be to God!

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has visited and redeemed the people.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

* Prayer of the Day:

God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us. God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us. God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us. God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the center, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

* Response: "Once in Royal David's City"

PH 346, v. 4

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above:
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God's Will for Our Lives

Response: "As the Deer"

As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

Refrain: You alone are my strength, my shield.
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

You're my friend and you are my brother
even though you are a King.
I love You more than any other,
So much more than anything. (*Refrain*)

I want you more than gold or silver; only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye. (*Refrain*)

Nystrom, 1984, Maranatha! Music, CCLI 1099351

Congregational Prayer

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

* Hymn: "Prepare the Way"

Prayer for Illumination

[Children age 3 - grade Pre-K may leave for Children's Church after the prayer.]

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 64:1–12 (p. 742)

Sermon: *Waiting for God*

Prayer

* Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

OUR RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

PH 1004

* Offertory Prayer: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give him my heart.

Offering: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: "O Come, O Come, Immanuel"

Schaffner

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

* Benediction:

Hebrews 13:20–21

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

* Doxology: "Once in Royal David's City"

PH 346, v. 5

Not in that poor lowly stable with the oxen standing by
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high:
there his children gather round bright like stars, with glory crowned.

* Postlude: "From Heaven Above"

Young
