

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church  
**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

December 18, 2011      10:15 A.M.

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**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

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

Prelude: "Back to Bethlehem Medley"      arr. Ham  
          "Angels We Have Heard on High"      arr. Bock

Welcome and Announcements

**ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING**

Silent Prayer and Preparation

\* Call to Worship:      Isaiah 49

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name. He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."

**He who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself says, "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."**

\* Hymn: PH 335      "Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"      RICHMOND

\* 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.**

This is the Advent of our King.

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

\* Prayer of the Day:

**Almighty God, who makes us glad with the yearly festival of the birth of Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so may we behold him without fear when he shall come to be our Judge, even Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

Angels' Candle

Response: "O Come, O Come, Immanuel"

Veni Immanuel

Solo: O come, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind;  
bid all our sad divisions cease  
and be yourself our King of Peace.

**All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

## CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Prayer of Confession:

**Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have too often followed the devices and desires of our own hearts and have broken your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare us as we confess our sins, and restore those who are repentant, according to your promises declared unto us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may live a godly, righteous, and holy life to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.**

Silent Prayer and Confession

Minister: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Isaiah 1

Covenant Kids: "Come to Earth, O Tiny King"

Schram

Congregational Prayer

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

\* Hymn: PH 215 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" WINCHESTER OLD  
[Children age 3 through grade Pre-K may leave during the response.]

Solo: "The Angel Gabriel"

BASQUE CAROL

Reading from the Old Testament:

Isaiah 35

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading from the Psalms:

Psalms 115

\* Reading from the Gospel:

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon: *The Royal Road to Christmas: The Virgin Shall Conceive*

Prayer

\* Hymn: PH 354, stanzas 1-4 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" REGENT SQUARE

## THE OFFERING OF TRIBUTE

\* Offertory Prayer

Offering: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: "Veni, Veni"

arr. Davis

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

\* Blessing:

Now may he, who by his Incarnation, gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and good will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you now and forever. **Amen.**

\* Doxology: PH 354, stanza 5 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

Saints and angels join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore their voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Postlude: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Haan

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