

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 2, 2018 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: "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" arr. Wilson

Welcome and Announcements

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

Silent Prayer and Preparation

- * Call to Worship: Isaiah 9:2, 6
- * Hymn: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" PH 354
- * 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 his people. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

- * Response: "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" PH 328, v. 6
O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Lighting of the Advent Candle: from Isaiah 9:2; 11:1-3

Reader 1: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Reader 2: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them has light shined.

Reader 1: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

Reader 2: And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest on him. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

- * Prayer of the Day:

Lord of hope, as night workers long for the sunrise, we long for the coming of Christ. In our worship today we yearn for your Spirit to give us a glimpse of your glory, that one day we will see in full, when all will be made new, through Christ, our Lord, our light. Amen.

* Response: "Here I Am to Worship"

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
hope of a life spent with you.

Refrain: Here I am to worship; here I am to bow down;
here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came to the earth you created,
all for love's sake became poor. (*Refrain*)

I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross. (*Refrain*)

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession:

based on Isaiah 49:8–9

Prayer of Confession:

Arise, shine: for your light has come.

O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.

Nations shall come to your light, kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. Help us in this time to prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

Response: "Savior, of the Nations, Come"

PH 336, vv. 1, 5–7

Assurance of Pardon:

Isaiah 40:1–2

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

Thanks be to God.

God's Will for Our Lives:

Exodus 20:1–17

Congregational Prayer

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

* Hymn: "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Insert? Bulletin??

Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness, shining:
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me. (*Refrain*)

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me. (*Refrain*)

Prayer for Illumination

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

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1–5

Sermon: *Signs of the Season: Lights*

Prayer

* Hymn: "Silent Night! Holy Night!"

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace! Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!"

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

OUR RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

* Offertory Prayer

Offering: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Holst

* Doxology: "Beautiful Savior"

PH 461, vv. 1, 3, 4

