

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 9, 2018 10:15 A.M.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

Prelude: "Back to Bethlehem"

arr. Ham

Welcome and Announcements

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

Silent Prayer and Preparation

- * Call to Worship: Psalms 130:5–7
- * 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 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. 4
O come, O Branch O Jesse's stem, unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

based in Isaiah 11:1–3

Reader 1: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;

Reader 2: from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

Reader 3: The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—

Reader 1: the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,

Reader 2: the Spirit of counsel and of power,

Reader 3: the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord—

Reader 1: and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

Reader 2: We light these candles as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ.

* Prayer of the Day:

Heavenly Father, Covenant God, we praise you that you have fulfilled your promise to your servants long ago. In your own good time you caused a righteous Branch to spring up again to bring justice and righteousness among your people. May we today, who call upon the name of Jesus in this place, live in the safety of the salvation he has won for us, and may we likewise live as beacons of our Lord's salvation and flourish like trees planted by streams of water. In the name of Christ our righteousness we pray. Amen.

* Response: "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession: based on *Our World Belongs to God*, st.10

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 92:12–15

Response: "How Blest Are They Who, Fearing God" PH 1

God's Will for Our Lives: adapted from Exodus 20:1–17

Choral Anthem: "Advent Fanfare" Larson

Congregational Prayer

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

* Hymn: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" PH 351

Prayer for Illumination

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

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 17:22–24

Sermon: *Signs of the Season: Trees*

Prayer

* Hymn: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" PH 327

OUR RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

* Offertory Prayer

Offering: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: "Veni, Veni" ("O Come, O Come, Emmanuel") arr. Davis

* Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (inside front cover of the Psalter Hymnal)

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

* Benediction:

II Peter 3:18

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! **Amen.**

* Response: "The Trees of the Field"

PH 197

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
The trees of the field will clap their hands,

the trees of the fields will clap their hands while you go out with joy.

* Postlude