

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23, 2018 10:15 A.M.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

Prelude: "O Come, O Come, Immanuel"

Peeters

Welcome and Announcements

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

Silent Prayer and Preparation

- * Call to Worship: based on Psalm 126:2-3
- * Hymn: "Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come" PH 337
- * 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. 7
O come, O King of Nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace.
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 3: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

Reader 1: And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest on him. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

Reader 2: We light these candles with joy,

Reader 3: as a sign that our waiting and hope for the coming Christ would shine forth and ring out into all the earth.

Prayer of the Day:

Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Open our eyes, help us 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: "Away in a Manger"

PH 348

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession:

based on Ephesians 5:5–7

Prayer of Confession

Response: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

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

Assurance of Pardon:

Isaiah 61:10–11

God's Will for Our Lives:

Ephesians 4:21–25

Song of Praise: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

PH 215, v. 1–4

Congregational Prayer

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

* Hymn: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

PH 353

Prayer for Illumination

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

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 28:31–38 (p. 82)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Signs of the Season: Bells*

Prayer

* Hymn: "It Came upon a Midnight Clear"

Insert

OUR RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

* Offertory Prayer

Offering: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Leavitt

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

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

- * Benediction: Titus 2:11–14; I Thessalonians 5:23–24

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,

Training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We live now in the power of Christ, to the praise of his name!

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and your spirit, soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Amen.

- * Response: “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” PH 215:6

“All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
to those on whom his favor rests
goodwill shall never cease.”

- * Postlude: “Savior of the Nations, Come” Callahan