MITCHELL ROAD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

November 29 - 8:30 am and 9:45 am
Sanctuary

Today marks the first Sunday in Advent, a season of hope, where Christians await the coming of Christ. For thousands of years, the prophets foretold the birth of the Messiah, the Anointed One, who would redeem God's people from the darkness of their sins. No matter how great the darkness, we find our hope in the Word Made Flesh, who promises the Light of His presence.

Prelude

O Little Town of Bethlehem arr. Dan Forrest

Community Life

PRAISING THE CREATOR

Advent Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5

"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God!**

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

*Hymn of Anticipation

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

"*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*" *Words: Latin antiphons (12th century), Latin hymn (1710); tr. John Mason Neale; Music: Plainsong, 13th century, arr.* 2008; *© Lifeway Publishing*

**Please stand if able*

*Hymn of Praise

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.
"Life Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" Words: George Weissel, Public Domain, 1642; Music: Psalmodia Evangelica, Public Domain, 1789

*Prayer of Adoration

*Affirmation of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Choral Meditation

And the Glory of the Lord

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together:
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.
Words: Isaiah 40:5; Music: George Frideric Handel, from "Messiah" HWV 56 (1741), ed. Ebenezer Prout; © 1902, G. Schirmer

LAMENTING THE FALL

Confession of Sin

Book of Common Prayer

Leader: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation,
All: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Moment of Silent Confession

CHERISHING REDEMPTION

Words of Grace and Peace

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

*Song of Worship

8:30 am—On fifth Sundays, there is no Kids Church. K4-K5 will remain with parents in the service.
9:45 am—One parent may escort K4-K5 child downstairs to join Kids Sunday School.

Come behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King.
He, the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery; He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam; come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery; Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners, hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption; see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery; slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him, praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.

"Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery" Words and Music: Papa, Boswell, Bleecker © 2012 Bleecker Publishing, Song No. 7026028, CCLI No. 789870

Pastoral Prayer

LONGING FOR RESTORATION

Scripture Reading

Titus:2:11-14

Leader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Christ Comes to Us — Dave Preston

*Hymn of Response

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising, heavenward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee;
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

"Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor" Words: Frank Houghton, © OMF International Ltd. Used by permission. Music: Trad. French.

*Benediction

*Postlude

Giving is an act of worship. As we give, we ascribe worth to our God (Ps. 96:8), and it puts money in its proper place in our hearts (Matthew 6:21). Your giving to MRPC supports Gospel ministry on this campus, in our community, and among our global partners. Give online, via our app, or in the giving boxes, "As you feel led, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7)

Assisting in Worship:
Preacher: Dave Preston, Shepherding Pastor Liturgist: Adam Betterton, Church Planting Pastor

Advent at MItchell Road!

Carol Sing	Sunday, December 6, 4pm
Christmas Concert	Saturday, December 12, 4 pm Sunday, December 13, 4 pm and 6 pm
Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 24 3pm in Sanctuary (Acoustic) 5pm and 7pm in Sanctuary (Traditional) 5:15pm Fellowship Hall (Contemporary)

Learn more about our Advent services and childcare options on our website at mitchellroad.org/advent

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