

ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 6, 2009

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are spiritually weak and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whomsoever will come.

Jesus taught us that if our brother has something against us, we ought to go and be reconciled to him before we do anything else in gathered worship. Please do that without delay if necessary.

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Advent is upon us. This is the time to prepare the way. He is coming and has come. We are expectant that He will arrive and make all things new, pouring his rain in the desert places.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling:
"In the desert prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the wilderness
a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all mankind together will see it.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

SILENT REFLECTION

The People Who Walk Now in Darkness

Christ Church Choir, Patrick Smith conducting

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Father, we are often hard of heart, and slow to turn to you in repentance. We are quick to give excuses for our sinful thoughts, words and deeds. We are quick to judge the sins of others, but slow to forgive. Come, Lord of Light, and shine on the dark places of our hearts that we may know our sin, and repent of it. Come, Lord Jesus, and show us mercy instead of judgment. Come, Lord, and turn us to yourself. Come Lord Jesus, come.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Our hearts are full of longing. We labor to fill it with things that never satisfy, never liberate, never grant us rest. In this ancient hymn we confess not only our need for Him, but that he is the Desire of every nation.

Here I Am to Worship

This song embodies what our response should be to the presence of the King; The King who did not count his equality with God something to be grasped, but took the form of a servant, and humbly came as a baby in the poorest of conditions, and changed the world. This song originated from Philippians 2.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS*

THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE: Candle of Humility

SERMON: JOHN SITTEMA

“A Baby Who Turns Hearts Back to God” Luke 1:5-25

A TIME OF COMMITMENT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

BENEDICTION

WORSHIP WORDS

A path to deeper worship is a clearer theology.

Christmas has lost its meaning for us because we have lost the spirit of expectancy. We cannot prepare for an observance. We must prepare for an experience.

-Handel Brown