

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- LOVE -

Who We Seek to Be

In our love for Christ and guided by God's Word we seek to be a community of

Joyful Worship, thoughtfully centered in the wonder and wisdom of the living God and celebrating the diversity of the body of Christ.

Loving Fellowship, encouraging and serving one another in the unifying love of the Holy Spirit.

Life-changing Learning, biblically-based preaching and teaching to equip children, youth, and adults to grow in their relationship with God.

Enthusiastic Service, reflecting the servant heart of Jesus as we proclaim the gospel near and far in word and deed.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

MATHUES FAMILY

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple;

People: The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight.

Behold, he is coming. Rejoice greatly! Shout in triumph!

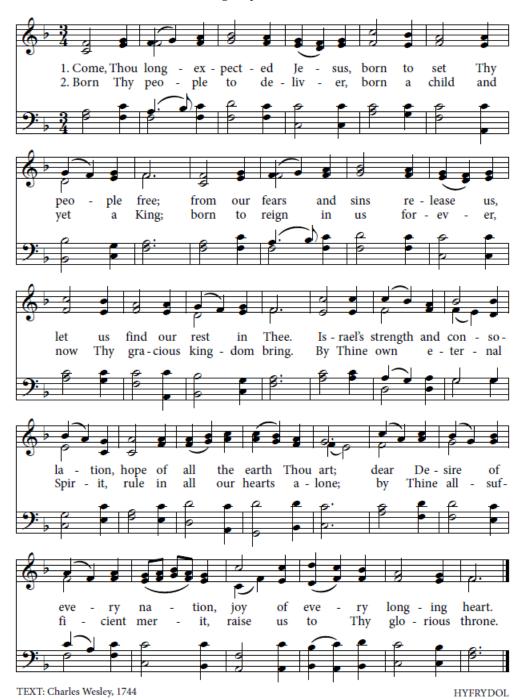
All: Our King is coming; the righteous Savior,

Who shall speak peace to the nations. Let us sing praises to our God and King!

Adapted from The Worship Sourcebook

* Invocation

* Opening Hymn: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



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WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION (in unison)

SHEROLL RITCHIE

Leader: Lord, we humbly confess that at times we struggle:

We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.

All: We have not waited to find your will for us.

We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.

Leader: We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.

Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will.

All: Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch

for your coming. Amen.

Song of Confession: My Soul in Stillness Waits (Verse 2)



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned.

The penalty is paid. Thanks be to God.

* ACCLAMATION (Please stand)

All: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might to our God forever and ever. Amen.

* Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Annika Durbin

Special Music: He Is Worthy

Andrew Peterson/Ben Shive KEVIN RITCHIE

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)
Do you feel the shadows deepen?
But do you know that all the dark won't
Stop the light from getting through?
Do you wish that you could see it all made new?

Is all creation groaning? (It is)
Is a new creation coming?
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst?
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this?

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave He was David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory Is He worthy of this? (He is) Does the Father truly love us? (He does)
Does the Spirit move among us?
And does Jesus, our Messiah
hold forever those He loves?
Does our God intend to dwell again with us?

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
From every people and tribe
Every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God
To reign with the Son

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory Is He worthy? He is! He is!

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

ALVA STEFFLER

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

(Please stand for the reading of God's Word.) READER: SETH EHORN

* New Testament Scriptures

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. NIV

Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

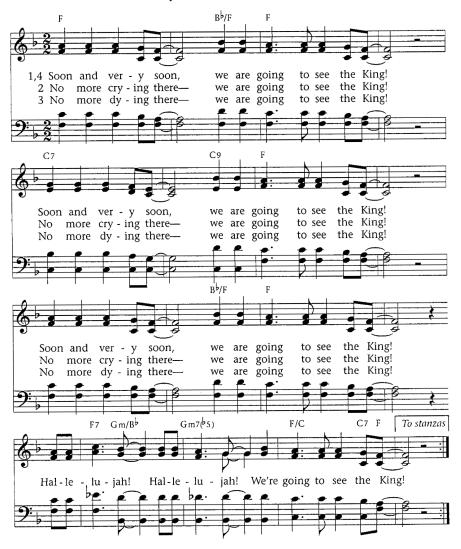
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Open to God's Love

WE ARE DISMISSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

* CLOSING SONG: Soon and Very Soon



Words and Music (SOON AND VERY SOON 12.12.12.14): Andraé Crouch (b. 1945) © 1976 Bud John Songs (ASCAP), Crouch Music (ASCAP), admin. EMICMGPublishing.com

- * BENEDICTION
- * Postlude

Today

If you are in need of prayer, elder Sheroll Ritchie will be glad to pray with you (soritchie@gmail.com or 773-551-4568).

Thanks to our musicians: Mary Hopper, Kevin Ritchie, Seth Ehorn.

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Thanks to our Livestream video crew: Peter Welander, Marc Johnson.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open	
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	3rd - 5th grade Sunday School Zoom	
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Youth Group Zoom	
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Adult Ed Zoom (Theology 101)	
·	Dan Treier on the person and work	
	of Jesus.	

This Week

Tuesday	9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
	11:00 a.m 1:00 p.m.	Food Pantry open
	7:00 p.m.	Men's Book Group (Zoom)

COMING

December 21 (shortest day): Observation of Blue Christmas, with sanctuary open hours for personal prayer and meditation (with a prayer elder available), considering this year especially many are grieving or struggling with depression and anxiety. The number in the sanctuary at any time will be limited to eight, masked and social-distanced.

Christmas Eve: Plan to come to the church parking lot by 5 p.m. for a short outdoor service with candles and carols (masked, social-distanced).