

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ First Sunday of Advent ~ 29 November 2020

Preparation for Worship:

“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering ‘it will be happier’.”
~Alfred Lord Tennyson

Prelude

Prelude on Picardie

Paul Karvonen

Call to Worship:

Leader: Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!

People: The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

Litany for Advent:

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Adonai, Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai: Come with outstretched arm to save us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Prayer of Adoration:

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may keep alert as we watch for the glorious coming of Jesus Christ, our judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

Leader: On this first Sunday in Advent, we light the candle of hope.

“The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks...”

People: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

***Hymn**

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

1) *Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear.*

The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.

The bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh.

Up! Watch with expectation. At midnight comes the cry!

2) *See that your lamps are burning; replenish them with oil.*

Look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.

The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.

Arise, O heirs of glory! The bridegroom is at hand!

3) *Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear.*

Arise, thou sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere!

With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see

The day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

Call to Prayer

“A voice is calling in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Gathering Prayer

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

“The wilderness will rejoice the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing.” Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: in him we are forgiven. Amen.

***The Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

Announcements: *Please turn in your pledges! Check your weekly emails from the church. "Hope" is the word!*

Choral Anthem

Adam Lay Ybounden

Boris Ord

Prayer of Illumination

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

The Psalter: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Sermon

"Keep Awake"

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

***The Doxology**

Old Hundredth

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God all creatures here below!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host! Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

- 1) *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.*
- 2) *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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*
- 3) *O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Little Prelude and Fugue in F

J.S. Bach