

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

9:00 AM

CONNECTING WITH CHRIST

Prelude

Welcome, Celebration and Concerns

Call to Worship

† Lighting of the Advent Candle

First verse of *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room, And hev'n and nature sing, And hev'n and nature sing. And hev'n and hev'n and nature sing.

† Hymn *People Look East*

CLEANSING OUR HEARTS

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

We do joyfully adore You, Most Holy and Righteous Father for You have sent your Son to live in human flesh. Thank You for sending Him to dwell with us that the curse of our sinfulness would be healed by the blessing of Your presence. Forgive us, most gracious Savior, for we have strayed from following Your ways. We have become entrapped by all of the holiday preparations and we lose the meaning for our lives. Forgive us for substituting all of the temporary things for the eternal gift of Your presence. Teach us that You are the light of world to overcome the darkness of despair. Help us, when we are frustrated by our lack of control, to sense Your leading and care. Let us follow the humble way of Your Son. May we celebrate during this Advent season the glorious sign that Your Son is Emmanuel, God with all us! Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Congregational Choral Response

Hymn 241

"Arise, shine, for thy light is come. Arise, shine, for thy light is come. And the glory of the Lord is risen, the glory of the Lord is come, the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."

RESPONDING TO GRACE

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem

† Doxology

Hymn 815

† Fourth Stanza of America

Pew Hymnal, page 807

Our Father's God to Thee, Author of liberty, to Thee we sing; Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King. Amen.

† Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism questions 35-36

The meaning of Jesus being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary is that the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took upon himself our true humanity from the flesh and blood of the Virgin Mary through the action of the Holy Spirit, so that he might also be the true seed of David, like his fellow human beings in all things, except for sin. The benefit for us is that Jesus is our Mediator, and in God's sight, he covers over with his innocence and perfect holiness the sinfulness in which we have been conceived. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn 269

How Great Our Joy

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10

Pages 1076-1077

Message

All I want for Christmas is Contentment

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lovelady

CONNECTING WITH LIFE

† Hymn 267

I heard the bells on Christmas Day

† Benediction

† Postlude

† Worshipers are asked to stand, if able