

WORSHIP KIT 11-28-2021

PRELUDE: “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming”

arr. Alice Jordan

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Advent Candle Lighters—**Linda and Sarah Lerch**

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” TWC 133 (v1)

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: On this, the first Sunday of Advent, we hear the prophet’s words:
“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light” - A LIGHT OF HOPE

People: “**For unto us, a child will be born.**” **This child brings us HOPE!**

Leader: Heavenly Father, we lay at your feet HOPE: hope that all diseases; all hatred; all evils; all wars will cease! We pray for Your HOPE that all these will cease!

People: **With this season of Advent, we pray the HOPE that with Christ’s birth, a rebirth of all will take place!**

Leader: As we light the Advent candle of HOPE, may this transformation truly happen!

***OPENING HYMN: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

TWC 135

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (pause)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus said, Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. God abounds in love and mercy and welcomes our return, for in Christ,

God came to us that we might have abundant life. Friends, I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Praise be to God!

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

TWC 805

1ST SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 9: 2-9

SOLO: “The People Who Walk in Darkness” (Unto Us A Child Is Born) Bryant Vocalist; Philip Aley

2ND SCRIPTURE READING:

Luke 2: 1-7

SERMON: THE LIGHT OF HOPE

Pastor John G. Hamilton

***THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

HYMN: “The Solid Rock”

TWC. 517

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (see end page for prayer) AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

We are stewards of God’s household, managers of the earth’s treasures for a little while. This time of offering gives us opportunities to invest in causes consistent with God’s will for us , to offer the light of God’s love to sisters and brothers living in despair. Let us not rob God by withholding what is already God’s own.

OFFERTORY: Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming.....”Es Ist Ein Ros’ Entsprungen

***DOXOLOGY**

TWC 809

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank you God, for the privilege of sharing your bounty with those in need. Thank you for prospering our work and witness. We seek to walk in your light and follow the pathways where you lead. We want to share the good news of salvation through these gifts and by the way we live. May all your people be made ready for Christ’s coming.

***HYMN “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

TWC 133 (vs 1,3,5)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again” TWC 840

***POSTLUDE. “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming Jubilee” Alice Jordan.**

Prayer for the People

Please join Pastor John in reciting this prayer .

The Christmas Dash

It has begun, Lord, that sporting event in which we all
are participants: the hundred-yard dash to Christmas.

The starting gun has sounded, and we are off and running.

The boxes are opened with decorations beckoning to
be hung; and strings of lights are taunting us
with their tangled mess.

The lists are almost writing themselves
and growing daily - lists for shopping and parties,
cards to send and gatherings to attend.

The expectations are growing, too,
as we pine for what Christmas is supposed to be
and remember what it used to be.

So we run the Christmas dash,
legs churning and feet burning,
thoughts turning and hearts yearning.

Lord, help us not to run past You.

Instead, lead us to the God-moments You have for us:
joyful reunions, healing tears and forgiving words,
the face of need, selfless giving and eternity living.

Give us eyes to see, ears to hear,
and hearts to receive the gifts You have for us.

Most of all, lead us to the Christ child,
to the moment in eternity when
in the flesh our Creator becomes our Redeemer.

Yes, Lord, of all the Christmas presents,
may we receive Your Christmas presence.

The race is on, the dash to Christmas;
may we follow it... to the manger.

Amen.

Rev. Dr. John G. Hamilton