

We Gather to Worship God

Voluntary: i) Chorale Prelude on "Nun komm,
der Heiden Heiland", BWV 661
ii) Ecce Dominus veniet"

J S Bach
Marcel Dupré

Welcome

Call to Worship

Minister: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
When I will fulfil My promise to My people.

**All: Justice and righteousness will fill the land
And all will live in peace and safety.**

Minister: God's due time, not our immediate now,

All: God's perfect timing, not ours of impatience.

Minister: God's time is now due!

We light this candle as a symbol of the hope
We have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

First Advent Candle is lit

Hymn: 509 Jesus calls us!

St Andrew

(Please remain seated for the hymn, and no singing!)

1. Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult
Of our life's tempestuous sea,
Day by day, His voice is sounding,
Saying, 'Christian, follow Me.'
2. As of old, Saint Andrew heard it
By the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
Leaving all for His dear sake.

Responsive Prayer

Minister: Lord, have mercy on us,
We are not ready for Your coming.

All: **We live in sin, as though there were no justice,
We live in fear, as though there were no grace.
Forgive us, Lord.**

Minister: Show us Your mercy and steadfast love.
Lead us in Your truth, and teach us Your paths,

All: **For You are the God of our salvation.**

Silence

Minister: The Lord is your righteousness.
In Christ you are forgiven.

All: **Amen.**

God speaks to us today

Reading:

Isaiah 64:1-9

RSV p. 596

O that thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at thy presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make thy name known to thy adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at thy presence!
When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for,
thou camest down, the mountains quaked at thy presence.
From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides thee,
who works for those who wait for him.
Thou meetest him that joyfully works righteousness,
those that remember thee in thy ways.
Behold, thou wast angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one that calls upon thy name,
that bestirs himself to take hold of thee;
for thou hast hid thy face from us,
and hast delivered^[a] us into the hand of our iniquities.
Yet, O LORD, thou art our Father;
we are the clay, and thou art our potter;

we are all the work of thy hand.
Be not exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity for ever.
Behold, consider, we are all thy people.

Voluntary: Improvisation on "Crimond"

Eric Thiman

Tear heaven open

"On earth there is no heaven, but there are pieces of it."
~ *Jules Renard*

"Aim at heaven, and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither."
~ *C S Lewis*

Questions for reflection

- Where would you expect to see heaven?
- What can sometimes obscure our vision of heaven?
- With the coming of Jesus, first time round, heaven came to earth. How might we work to help others see its promise and its wonder?

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"Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for."
~ *Robert Browning*

"Every year we celebrate the holy season of Advent, O God. Every year we pray those beautiful prayers of longing and waiting, and sing those lovely songs of hope and promise."
~ *Karl Rahner*

Intimations

We bring to God our Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

**All: Our Father,
Which art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done in 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, the power and the glory, forever.
Amen**

Hymn: 273 O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

(Please remain seated for the hymn, and no singing!)

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 Dayspring, 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.*

Closing Responses

Minister: In our watching and our waiting,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: In our hopes and in our fears,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: In our homes and in our world,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Benediction

Voluntary: Fantasy on "Veni Emmanuel"

Kenneth Leighton