

Growing Young Disciples

-Children are invited to join the Christmas Drama practice downstairs-

*Hymn

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

Glory to God Hymnal, PCUSA



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heav - en - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Confession Poem

“Toward the Light”

Ann Weems

-Continue in Silent Personal Prayer of Confession-

Hymn

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
Beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
And we at war on earth hear not the tidings that angels bring
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Assurance of Forgiveness

“Awake! Awake and greet the new morn. Sing out your joy for soon he is born. Behold! The child of our longing. Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together...To us all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a singing...music to heal the broken soul, the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and violence.” Let us break forth with Hallelujahs.

Hallelujah! A gift undeserved comes again. Be born in us this Christmas.

Anthem

Equipping

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Collective New Testament Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him,

“Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”

Jesus answered them,

“Go and tell John what you *hear and see*:

the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:

“What did you go out into the wilderness to look at?”

A reed shaken by the wind?
What then did you go out to see?
 Someone dressed in soft robes?
 Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

What then did you go out to see?
 A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,
 "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."
 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Meditation

Prayers of the People

Prayer (Ends with) *"Longing for Abundant Hope, let us sing together in prayer..."*
 Verse 1 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* 2
 Prayer (Ends with) *"Longing for Abundant Hope, let us sing together in prayer..."*
 Verse 2 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* 2

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

Whether in worship or afar, offering may now be scheduled once or for automatic renewal online. See offering card.

Offertory *"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine"* German Carol

Advent Doxology

Hope in the God who reigns above, who holds us all in steadfast love;
 Whose Spirit blows across the earth, preparing us for second birth. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sending

***Hymn** *"Song of Hope"* 432
 Sing Twice. Change final phrase to: *"faithful when we see Christ born"*

***Blessing**

***Postlude** *"Fantasia on 'Adeste Fidelis'"* Smith

Order of Worship

Third Sunday in Advent
"Abounding in Hope"



First Presbyterian Church
 Kalispell, Montana
 December 11, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.



John the Baptist sending a Messenger to Jesus from Prison

Gathering

Prelude *"Bethlehem Manger"* Wells

***Call to Worship** Psalm 146:5-10

Ringing of bells symbolizes the progression of Advent. First, one bell will be heard, then two, and finally, three, indicating we are in the third week of Advent as we hear this sacred text.



Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
 whose **hope** is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth,
 the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps **faith forever**;
 who **executes justice for the oppressed**;
 who **gives food to the hungry**.



The Lord **sets the prisoners free**;
 the Lord **opens the eyes of the blind**.
 The Lord **lifts up those who are bowed down**;
 the Lord **loves the righteous**.



The Lord **watches over the strangers**;
 he **upholds the orphan and the widow**,
 but the way of the wicked he **brings to ruin**.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

**Those who are able, please stand*
 The congregation responds with the **bold print**