



First Presbyterian

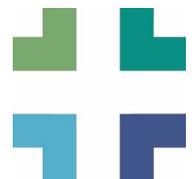
ROME



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2020

11:00 AM



God's People Gather for Worship

"By God's grace alone and to his glory alone, we exist to worship God in his greatness and his holiness with Gospel-driven passion and integrity..." (excerpted from FPC Rome Mission Statement)

Preparing our Hearts

Prelude

"Sleepers Wake, a Voice is Calling"

J.S. Bach

Ms. Faye Kesler, organ

Invocation

Declaring God's Praise

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Giddens Family

Advent Reflection

"Canticle of the Turning"

arr. John Ferguson

Chancel Choir

Dr. Aaron Rice, director

Ms. Faye Kesler, organ

Hymn

"Come Thou Long-Expected

Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Affirming Our Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Confessing Our Sin and Embracing Our Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Psalm 51:1-4, 9-12, 16-17

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.

All: Wash away all our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is always before us.

Leader: Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak, and justified when you judge.

All: Hide your face from our sins and blot out all our iniquity.

Leader: Create in us a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us.

All: Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us.

Leader: Restore to us the joy of your salvation and grant us a willing spirit, to sustain us.

All: You do not delight in sacrifice, or we would bring it;

Leader: you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

All: Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;

Leader: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Assurance of Divine Pardon

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

"What Sweeter Music"

John Rutter

Advent Ensemble

Ms. Faye Kesler, organ

Hearing God's Word

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"Remember Your Creator While
You Are Young and Old"
Dr. Jonathan Schwartz

Scattering as Christ's Church

Hymn

"What Child is This?"
GREENSLEEVES

What Child is this,
Who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherd's watch are keeping?

(refrain)

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.

Haste, haste

To bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

(refrain)

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving heart enthrone Him.

(refrain)

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

"God Rest You Merry"
Wilbur Held
Ms. Faye Kesler, organ



Today's Scripture

Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8 NIV

⁷ Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes to see the sun.

⁸ However many years a man may live, let him enjoy them all.

But let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many.

Everything to come is meaningless.

⁹ Be happy, young man, while you are young,

and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth.

Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see,

but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment.

¹⁰ So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless.

¹ Remember your Creator in the days of your youth,

before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say,

"I find no pleasure in them"—

² before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark,
and the clouds return after the rain;

³ when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop,
when the grinders cease because they are few,
and those looking through the windows grow dim;

⁴ when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades;
when men rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint;

⁵ when men are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets;
when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags himself along
and desire no longer is stirred. Then man goes to his eternal home
and mourners go about the streets.

⁶ Remember him—before the silver cord is severed, or the golden bowl is broken;
before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, or the wheel broken at the well,

⁷ and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

⁸ "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Everything is meaningless!"
