

*When I think of Christmas Eves, Christmas feasts, Christmas songs, and Christmas stories, I know that they do not represent a short or transient gladness. Instead, they speak of a joy unspeakable and full of glory. God loved the world and sent His Son. Whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life. That is Christmas joy. That is the Christmas spirit. —Corrie ten Boom (1892-1983)*

#### Prelude and Silent Prayer

### God Calls Us to Worship: Jeremiah

23:5-6

*Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the LORD is the great God, and the great King above all gods. AMEN*

#### O Come, O Come Emmanuel

(Hymn 194)

**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.**

**O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes,  
on Sinai's height, In ancient times didst give the law in  
cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Rod of Jesse free, thine own from Satan's  
tyranny;**

**From depths of hell Thy people save and give them vict'ry  
o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to  
thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by  
Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide thy  
heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to  
misery.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**AMEN**

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 9:2-

7

**Leader:** *The people who walked in darkness have seen a  
great light;  
those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon  
them a  
light has shined.*

**Congregation:** *You have multiplied the nation and  
increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to  
the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the  
spoil.*

**Leader:** *For You have broken the yoke of his burden and  
the staff of his shoulder; the rod of his oppressor; as in the  
day of Midian. For every warrior's sandal from the noisy  
battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for  
burning and fuel of fire.*

**Congregation:** *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a  
Son is given, and the government will be upon His  
shoulder, and His name will be called Wonderful,  
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of  
Peace.*

**Leader:** *Of the increase of His government and peace  
there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over  
His kingdom,*

**Congregation:** *To order it and establish it with  
judgment and justice from that time forward, even  
forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform  
this. AMEN*

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** Hymn  
196

**Confession of Sin:** Psalm 143:1-

2

*Hear my prayer, O Lord, give hear to my supplications!  
In your faithfulness answer me, and in Your  
righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your*

*servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous.*

**AMEN**

#### Silent Confession followed by Corporate Confession

**Leader:** *Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.*

**Congregation:** *Holy Lord, we have sinned times  
without number,*

**and been guilty of pride and unbelief,  
of failure to find Thy mind in Thy Word,  
of neglect to seek Thee in our daily life.**

**Our transgressions and short-comings present us with  
a list of accusations, but we bless Thee that they will  
not stand against us, for all have been laid on Christ.**

**Deliver us from every evil habit,**

**every accretion of former sins,**

**everything that dims the brightness of Thy grace in us,  
everything that prevents us taking delight in Thee.**

**Then we shall bless Thee, O Father,**

**for helping us to be upright. For Christ's sake,**

**AMEN.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

I John 1:9

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us  
our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**AMEN**

**Leader:** *Our sins are forgiven!*

**Congregation:** *Thanks be to God!*

**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** Hymn  
193

#### The Revelation of the Promise

**We constantly believe that God, after the fearful and  
horrible departure of man from his obedience, did  
seek Adam again, call upon him, rebuke and convict  
him of his sin, and in the end made unto him a most  
joyful promise, that “the seed of the woman should**

bruise the head of the serpent,” that is, that he should destroy the works of the devil. This promise was repeated and made clearer from time to time; it was embraced with joy, and most constantly received by all the faithful from Adam to Noah, from Noah to Abraham, from Abraham to David, and so onwards to the incarnation of Christ Jesus; all (we mean the believing fathers) under the law did see the joyful day of Christ Jesus, and did rejoice. AMEN

#### Intercessory Prayer

Philippians 4:6-

7

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. AMEN*

**Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.**

**Your kingdom come.**

**Your 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.**

**And do not lead us into temptation,**

**But deliver us from the evil one.**

**For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

#### Tithes and Offerings

#### Doxology

### God Consecrates Us with His Word

The Reading of the Scriptures:

Psalms 111

*Leader: The Word of the Lord.*

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon:  
Covenant”

“Remembering His

**Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!**

**Hymn 198**

### God Communes with Us

*Elder: God is good!*

**Congregation: All the time!**

*Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Let us pray.*

Corporate Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Congregation:**

**Almighty Father,**

**Whose dear Son, on the night before**

**He suffered,**

**did institute the Sacrament of His Body and Blood;**

**mercifully grant that we may thankfully receive the same in remembrance of Him,**

**Who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of life eternal; Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**Who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy**

**Spirit, one God,**

**world without end. AMEN**

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Joy to the World  
195

Hymn

### God Commissions Us

Micah

6:8

*Elder: He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? AMEN*

#### Benediction

Christ, We Do All Adore Thee  
737

Hymn

# Christ Church

*Worshiping Christ and equipping God's people  
to extend His Lordship  
down through our generations  
and out into the world.*

**The Lord's Day  
Covenant Renewal Service  
First Sunday of Advent**

**November 29, 2015**