

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
Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2015

Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world. – From The Last Battle, by C.S. Lewis

Prelude and Silent Prayer

God Calls Us to Worship: Psalm 8:1-2, 9 *O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens! Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger... O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth! AMEN*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(Hymn 196) **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. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear; Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, Of thy birth we long to hear! O'er the hills the angels singing News, glad tidings of a birth: "Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth." Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end; By his life he brings us gladness, Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend. Leaving riches without number, Born within a cattle stall; This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all. 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. 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

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hymn 203

Confession of Sin:

Isaiah 59:1-2

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. AMEN

Silent Confession followed by Corporate Confession

Leader: *Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.* **Congregation:** O most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;
Who pardons all such as truly repent and turn to You;
We humbly confess our sins, and implore Your mercy.
We have not loved You with a pure heart fervently;
Neither have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We have not done justly, nor loved mercy,
Nor walked humbly with You, our God.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord, According to Your loving-kindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,
Blot out our iniquity.
Create in us a clean heart, O God; And renew a right spirit within us.

**Cast us not away from Your presence,
And take not Your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore unto us the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold us with your free Spirit.**

In Jesus' name. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon Isaiah 59:19b-20 *When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. "The Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," says the Lord. AMEN*

Leader: *Our sins are forgiven!*

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel **Hymn 194**

The Nicene Creed **Trinity Hymnal, Page 846**

Intercessory Prayer 1 Timothy 2:1-2, 5

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence... For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man 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:

Acts 6

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.* **Congregation:** **Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon:

Service or Sabotage

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn 208

God Communes with Us

Leader: 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: Thanks be to You, O God, For Your presence and Your purpose,
For Your lovingkindness and Your steadfast Spirit.
May the blessings of this table strengthen our faith,
Increase our generosity, And unify our hearts,
For we pray in the name of Jesus, The Risen One. AMEN**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn 214

God Commissions Us

1 John 4:9-11

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. AMEN

Benediction

Of the Father's Love Begotten Hymn 162, verse 5

**Christ, to thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to thee, Hymn, and
chant, and high thanksgiving, And unwearied praises be, Honor, glory, and
dominion, And eternal victory, Evermore and evermore! AMEN**