

Christ Church

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

Covenant Renewal Worship
Lord's Day, December 11, 2016

Meditation

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn”
Isaiah 61:1-2

God Calls Us To Worship

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: the Lord our righteousness.” AMEN
Jeremiah 23:5-6

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

TRINITY HYMNAL 194

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

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

2 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. Refrain

3 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. Refrain

4 O come, thou Day-spring from on high
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

5 O come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. Refrain
AMEN

RESPONSIVE READING

ISAIAH 40:1-5, 9

Leader: "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" says your God. "Speak

comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the Lord's

hand double for all her sins."

**Congregation: The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the
way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought
low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places
smooth;**

Leader: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it
together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

**Congregation: O Zion, you who bring good tidings, get up into the
high mountains; O Jerusalem, you who bring good tidings, lift
up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the
cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" AMEN**

COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

TRINITY HYMNAL 197

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness,
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
blotting out each dark misdeed;

all that well deserved his anger
he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day
now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
into ever-springing gladness.

3 For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
bidding all men to repentance,
since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.

4 Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token,
that his word is never broken. **AMEN**

Confession of Sin

You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

AMEN

Hebrews 12:4-6

Silent Confession Followed by Corporate Confession

Leader: Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

**Congregation: Heavenly Father, eternal and merciful God,
we acknowledge and confess before Your divine majesty
that we are poor, miserable sinners.
But we are penitent, Lord,
and we grieve because of our sins whereby we provoked Your wrath.
We bring accusation against ourselves
and lay transgression to our own charge.
Make us bold to desire that You may, in mercy, regard our miseries.
Have compassion on us, most merciful God and Father,
and be pleased to forgive all our sins for the sake of the passion of
Your dear Son, Jesus Christ.
In His name we pray. **AMEN****

Assurance of Pardon

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. **AMEN** *Hebrews 12:7, 28*

Leader: Our sins are forgiven!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

TRINITY HYMNAL 218

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth;

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

2 Shepherds in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light. *Refrain*

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star. *Refrain*

4 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear. *Refrain*

5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising
to th'eternal Three in One. *Refrain*
AMEN

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**Congregation: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into Hades.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN**

Intercessory Prayer

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. **AMEN**

Hebrews 4:14-16

**Congregation: 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

God Consecrates Us With His Word

The Reading of The Scriptures: James 2: 14-26

Leader: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon: "Living Faith"

Matthew Carpenter

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS!

TRINITY HYMNAL 570

1 Faith of our fathers! Living still
in spite of dungeon, fire and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy
whene'er we hear God's glorious Word.

Refrain:

Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

2 Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,
were still in heart and conscience free;
and blest would be their children's fate
if they, like them, should die for thee. *Refrain*

3 Faith of our fathers! God's great pow'r
shall draw all nations unto thee;
and through the truth that comes from God
his people shall indeed be free. *Refrain*

4 Faith of our fathers! we will love
both friend and foe in all our strife,
and preach thee, too, as love knows how
by witness true and virtuous life. *Refrain*
AMEN

God Communes With Us

Elder: God is good!

Congregation: All the time!

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

**Congregation: It is truly appropriate and right that we should at all times
and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, our heavenly Father,
almighty everlasting God.
But it is especially fitting that we should now,
gathered around this table,
thank You for Your gracious covenant promises to us in Christ.
Remember, Father, our Lord's humble birth,
His holy life, His innocent sufferings and death,
and His resurrection and ascension for us.
Faithfully keep Your covenant with us for Jesus' sake
and come now to nourish and equip us for service in Your kingdom.
By Your Spirit make the body and blood of our Lord
life-giving nourishment for Your people;
in Jesus' name we pray. AMEN**

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES!

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

TRINITY HYMNAL 198

Behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near,
the Savior of the world is here.

2 A helper just he comes to thee,
his chariot is humility,
his kingly crown is holiness,
his scepter, pity in distress.

3 O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
to whom this King in triumph comes!

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

5 Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

6 So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won. **AMEN**

God Commissions Us

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. **AMEN**

1 Timothy 1:17

Benediction

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

TRINITY HYMNAL 208, CHORUS

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord. **AMEN**