

First Coming

God did not wait till the world was ready
till nations were at peace,
God came when the heavens were unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time.
God came when the need was deep and great.
Dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.

God did not wait till hearts were pure.
To a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame,
God came: and God's Light would not go out.

God came to a world which did not mesh;
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh,
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
For to share our grief, to touch our pain,
God came, with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

– *Madeleine L'Engle*
1918 - 2007

St. John's Episcopal Church
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Tidings of Comfort

Sunday, December 2, 2007



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Ellicott City, Maryland

Participants in Worship

Musician: Bonny Day

Lectors: Debbie Lieberman, Gudrun Huden

Chalice Bearer: Rick Conover

Ushers: Susan Little, Don Firmani

Altar Guild: Mary Cate Walter, Peg Lawrence, Dorcas Zoller, Beth John

Preacher: The Rev. Rosemary Beales

Celebrant: The Rev. Nicholas Szobota

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Wonder, Love, and Praise; The Book of Occasional Services.

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Please join us for a Simple Supper in the Auditorium.
Be sure to see the selection of CareNotes,
booklets that may make this time of year more gentle for you.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Ellicott City, Maryland

3:00 p.m.

December 2, 2007

WLP = Wonder, Love, and Praise

H = 1982 Hymnal

Piano Prelude

Opening Hymn:

“Come thou long-expected Jesus”

H 66

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: Stuttgart, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715;
adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God:

As darkness deepens in the world around us, we gather here to watch for the light. Each of comes here with some darkness – some pain, grief, regret, or sorrow – that makes the light more difficult to see. As the world around us twinkles with festivity, we turn aside. It is a single flame we seek; a pure and living light, which alone can illumine our darkness. Jesus, who came among us and is coming still, who knows the human heart in all its joy and sorrow, told us that he is that light - the light of God. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Let us rest in that light as we pour out our hearts before the Lord.

(Please be seated)

Litany of Lament

Leader: How long, O Lord?
will you forget me forever?*

People: *How long, O Lord?*

Leader: How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,
and grief in my heart, day after day?*

People: *How long, O Lord?*

Leader: My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?*

People: *How long, O Lord?*

Leader: Bow down your ear, O Lord, and answer me,*
for I am poor and in misery. (Psalm 86)

People: *How long, O Lord?*

Silence for Reflection

Taizé #12, "Wait for the Lord," (sing three times)

Lento (♩ = 48)

The musical score is written for piano in G major, 4/4 time, with a tempo of Lento (♩ = 48). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part starts with a piano (p) dynamic and features a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef part provides harmonic support with chords. The lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' are written below the notes. The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and features a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef part provides harmonic support with chords. The lyrics 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!' are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the treble clef part: Em, C, Am6, B, Em, D, G, Am, B, Em.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Music: J. Berthier
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Litany of Hope

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

People: *My help comes from the Lord.*

Leader: My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved,
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep

People: *My help comes from the Lord.*

Leader: The Lord himself watches over you,*
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

People: *My help comes from the Lord.*

Leader: The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.
The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in
from this time forth forevermore.

People: *My help comes from the Lord.* (Psalm 121)

Silence for Reflection

Taize #28, "Come and fill our hearts with your peace" (sing two times)

♩ = 66

D Bm D A

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Em C Em A D

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no, al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al - le - lu - ia!

Music: J. Berthier
© Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, F-71250 Taizé-Communauté

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
 People: *And also with you.*
 Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; though Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Old Testament Lesson

Ezekiel 34:11-16a

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
 People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn: (please stand)

“Shepherd of souls”

H 343

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen
 2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy
 3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not
 4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the
 word of grace, in strength of which we
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1845), alt.
 Music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); Copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications.

The Blessing

Book of Occasional Services

p.21

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Final Hymn:

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

H 56, v. 1, 6-8

(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.; © The Church Pension Fund
 Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the light of Christ.
 People: *Thanks be to God.*

Dismissal

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

COMMUNION (*All persons are invited to receive Communion or a blessing.*)

Communion Hymn: "Taste and See"

WLP 764

Post Communion Prayer (*Please kneel as you are able*)

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Night Prayer:

All: *Lord, it is night.*

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;

what has not been done has not been done.

Let it be.

The night is dark.

*Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives
rest in you.*

The night is quiet.

*Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,*

and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

*Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,*

new possibilities.

In your name we pray. Amen.

(New Zealand Prayer Book)

The Gospel (*Remain standing*)

Mark 6:34-44

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Homily

The Rev. Rosemary Beales

Litany of Comfort

Joining with the community of all those who wait for Christ's coming, let us pray, singing, "Come, Lord Jesus, come."



Come, Lord Jesus, come;
When we are weak, afraid, lonely or sad,
we lean on your everlasting arms.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Gather us under your wings
as a mother hen shelters her chicks.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Weep with us
as you wept with Mary and Martha.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

You knew the cold and hunger of a stable;
now share the poverty of our hearts.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

You dreaded the grasp of our enemy death;
Remind us that you have overcome.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

You promised to shepherd all who are lost;
Carry us, and those whom we now name
*(please name those for whom you pray,
silently or aloud.)*

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

You healed those who turned to you for help.
Let your merciful power flow to us
and to those whom we now name
*(please name those for whom you pray,
silently or aloud.)*

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

You promised to prepare a place for us;
Receive us into your eternal home, with
those we love and see no longer,
especially those we now name.
*(please name those for whom you pray,
silently or aloud.)*

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

You are the Son of righteousness,
risen with healing in your wings.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Give us life and light through the long night
and bring us to your joy in the morning.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

In your name we pray,
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Healing Prayers

You are invited to come forward and receive the laying on of hands for healing. You may also light a candle at the table in front of communion rail, as you remember a loved one or lift your own prayers to God.

Hymn for Healing

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

H 664

Bonny Day, soloist



1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah
2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me



is his Name; _____ in pas - tures fresh he
is my stay; _____ one word of thy sup -
all my days; _____ oh, may thy house be



makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.____
port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.____
mine a - bode and all my work be praise.____



He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my
There would I find a sett - led rest, while o - thers



sake his ways, _____ and leads me, for his
ta - ble spread; _____ my cup with bless - ings
go and come; _____ no more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.____
o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head.____
or a guest, but like a child at home.____

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748); para. of Psalm 23

Music: *Resignation*, American folk melody, acc. David Hurd (b. 1950)

Collect at Conclusion of Healing Prayers

Celebrant: We bring before you, O God, the troubles and perils of people and nations, the sighing of prisoners and captives, the sorrows of the bereaved, the necessities of strangers, the helplessness of the weak, the despondency of the weary, the failing powers of the aged. O God, draw near to each of them, to each of us, and to each person we have named tonight, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Tower of Strength. *Amen.*

The Peace

Offertory: *(Please stand)*

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: *And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer A *(Remain standing as you are able)*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord who came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Celebrant and People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

(The congregation may kneel or stand)

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Celebrant: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: *Christ has died.*

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.