

Wintergarden Presbyterian Church



“Blessed by Assurance”

Rev. Ruth Schaaff

December 4, 2011

Prelude

“Come Thou Almighty King”

Victor C. Johnson

Welcome

Wintergarden Life

Our Liturgist today is Gary Brenner

Pass the Peace of Christ

* Gathering Song (#2)

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” v1

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.

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Ena, Khasai & Koreh Sherriffe

Leader: Many sit hoping, waiting, wishing that things would change and that a new thing would begin.

People: It has! God has visited the people and freed them. God will give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and will guide our feet into the way of peace.

Leader: We light the candle of Hope. (Pause for lighting the candle)

Leader: This sounds like good news but how can we know? How can we be sure?

People: We listen for the ones crying out in the wilderness of their lives. In the voices **of the outcast, from the people we wouldn't expect, from places we would never go, God declares.**

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough waves be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

People: We light the candle of Peace. (The candle of peace is lit by the Sherriffe family)

Prayer of Adoration

O God of peace, your way is sure and leads to salvation. You send your Son, the promise of life eternal; your Holy Spirit guides us to truth. We hear your heralds proclaim the path of obedience, and receive your abounding grace, making firm our footsteps; we know that all is made ready to follow you faithfully. We praise you in thought, word, and deed. By your mercy, affirm your unending love for us, and in our worship make us alive in your promise.

Hymn (#28)

“*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*” vs1&3

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

*Prayer of Confession [Unison]

O God of forgiveness, with our tongues we speak evil against our sisters and brothers. By our actions, we disobey your commandments. Hostility is bred through our suspicion and envy; anger continues in spite of Christ’s peace. You open our eyes to his righteousness, yet we remain blind to the truth of his reconciling presence. Forgive our deliberate misuse of your mercy, and in Christ hear our prayer.

*Silent Confession

* Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah speaks of God’s comfort, of God’s pardoning of iniquity, and of the coming One who shall level uneven ground and make a plain of the rough places. All the earth shall know that God’s judgment is tempered by Christ’s presence and peace on our behalf. In him we have assurance of pardon.

*Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost!
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be...world without end! Amen. Amen.*

Words with Young Worshipers

Prayers of the People

1. Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

First Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25(NRSV)

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Second Reading

Matthew 11:1-6(NRSV)

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD!

The Word Proclaimed

Rev. Ruth Schaaff

“Blessed by Assurance”

*Affirmation of Faith [Unison]

The Nicene Creed

WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from Heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and

the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His Kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the Resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

Invitation to Offering

Choral Offertory

“Advent Meditation”

*Doxology [Unison]

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him all creatures, here below!
Praise Him above ye heavenly host! Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication

O God of our righteousness, in whose sight a thousand years are as one day, we come this day offering our gifts. Use them to spread the news that Christ comes so that all may dwell in peace. Help us to break down whatever hostility divides our sisters and brothers, and hear us as we dedicate ourselves anew to becoming your agents of reconciliation.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving [Responsive]

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

The Lord's Prayer [Unison]

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 debts as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Praise

Hymn (#40)

"Joy to the World" vs1&2

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

*Benediction

*Benediction Response (#44)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs4

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Postlude

"Through the Eyes of Faith"
Craig Courtney

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Organist: Maryse Harrison ~ Choir Director: Buffy Bohach

Sunday School - Children: Joy Swails ~ Teens: Wade Warden

Called by Christ...Commissioned to Care!

