

Sunday, December 11, 2022, 9:30am

Prelude by Katelyn Hulst (What Child Is This, The First Noel, O Holy Night)

Praise Singers: **“Comfort and Joy”**

Everybody's saying 'Merry Christmas'
Everybody's smiling, singing happy songs
But this December your world is unraveling
And you don't feel like singing along

Friends are sending cards with warmest wishes
But you're feeling lonely, like a winter wind
So take your heart back to the center of the season
There you see the gift that came to us in Bethlehem

Jesus Christ
He is heaven's love
Here at last
Forever God with us
All our hope found in a baby boy
He knew we needed comfort and joy

There's no need to keep your tears from falling
Sometimes what's most painful are those holidays
But Christmas shows that God cares for us deeply
The same boy in the manger holds you still today

For the widow and the orphan all alone
For the prodigals and soldiers far from home
The peace of God reaches down to every aching soul!

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Welcome

*God's Greeting

*Songs: **“O Come, All You Unfaithful”**

1 O come, all you unfaithful, come,
weak and unstable, come,
know you are not alone

2 O come, barren and waiting ones,
weary of praying, come,
see what your God has done

Chorus
Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you

3 O come, bitter and broken, come
with fears unspoken, come,
taste of His perfect love

4 O come, guilty and hiding ones,
there is no need to run
See what your God has done

Bridge

He's the Lamb who was given slain, for our pardon
His promise is peace for those who believe
(repeat)

5 So come, though you have nothing, come
He is the offering, come,
see what your God has done

Bob Kaufflin | Lisa Clow

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“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

1 Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee with Thy hosts above,
pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

4 Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee:
changed from glory into glory, 'til in heaven we take our place,
'til we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and grace.
Charles Wesley | Rowland H. Prichard
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“Prepare Him Room”

1 O behold, the mystery now unfolds
See the star shine on the virgin foretold
Angels sing and light up the sky
Hope rings out in a newborn's cry
Swing wide, you ancient gates
for Christ is born today

Chorus

Prepare Him room, prepare Him room
Let the King of Glory enter in

2 God with us, the promise has come to be
This the one the prophets were longing to see
In the darkness a blazing light
To the hungry the words of life
His kingdom now is near
for those with ears to hear

3 Oh, our hearts as busy as Bethlehem
Hear Him knock, don't say there's no room in the inn
Through the cradle, cross and grave
see the love of God displayed
Now He's risen and He reigns
Praise the Name above all names

Dave Fournier | Rebecca Elliott

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Jr. Choir: “What Kind of Child? with What Child Is This?”

Time for Prayer

Offering

Video during the offering: "Even If" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6fA35Ved-Y>

They say sometimes you win some
Sometimes you lose some
And right now, right now I'm losing bad
I've stood on this stage night after night
Reminding the broken it'll be alright
But right now, oh right now I just can't
It's easy to sing
When there's nothing to bring me down
But what will I say
When I'm held to the flame
Like I am right now
I know You're able and I know You can
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone
They say it only takes a little faith
To move a mountain
Well good thing
A little faith is all I have, right now
But God, when You choose
To leave mountains unmovable
Oh give me the strength to be able to sing
It is well with my soul
I know You're able and I know You can
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone
I know the sorrow, and I know the hurt
Would all go away if You'd just say the word
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone
You've been faithful, You've been good
All of my days
Jesus, I will cling to You
Come what may
'Cause I know You're able
I know You can
I know You're able and I know You can
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone
I know the sorrow, I know the hurt
Would all go away if You'd just say the word
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone
It is well with my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul

Bible Reading: Isaiah 40:12-26, Romans 4:18-25

Sermon: "**We Waver**"

Prayer

Advent Candle Reading: based on Hebrews 11

Reader 1: We've gathered here on this Advent Sunday to draw near to You, God. Our hearts long to be close to You. Help us this season to open our hearts so that You may draw near to us.

(Light candle)

Open our eyes to the true light that came into the world as we wait to receive it again. Open our ears to the truth of Your Word.

Reader 2: Hear the Word from Hebrews 11: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered Him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

Reader 1: By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

Reader 2: Abraham and Sarah, like many others in the Bible, were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Reader 1: We waver, God. We can be so fickle and feeble. We need Your mighty strength. We need the light of Christ to reveal Your steadfast presence.

***Song: "By Faith"**

1 By faith we see the hand of God
in the light of creation's grand design
in the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
who walk by faith and not by sight

2 By faith our fathers roamed the earth
with the power of His promise in their hearts
of a holy city built by God's own hand
a place where peace and justice reign

Chorus

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward
'til the race is finished and the work is done
we'll walk by faith and not by sight

3 By faith the prophets saw a day
when the longed-for Messiah would appear
with the power to break the chains of sin and death
and rise triumphant from the grave

4 By faith the church was called to go
in the power of the Spirit to the lost
to deliver captives and to preach good news
in every corner of the earth

5 By faith the mountain shall be moved
and the power of the gospel shall prevail
for we know in Christ all things are possible
for all who call upon His name

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***God's Blessing**