

# THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Season is the time for preparing for the coming of Christ and the celebration of the Incarnation of the Eternally-begotten Son of God, the second Person of the Holy Trinity. Believers remember how the Hebrews longed for the coming of the Messiah, and how their prophets foretold the birth of Christ. Our anticipation of Christmas is coupled with our anticipation of the Second Advent of Christ, when He will come again. The beauty and symbolism of the Advent Wreath reminds Christians to “prepare the way of the Lord.”

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ~ The Prophets’ Candle, the first purple candle, which represents Christ’s royalty and the sinner’s repentance, is lighted. The coming of Christ was foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament hundreds of years before the Incarnation of Christ.

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ~ The Bethlehem Candle, the second candle, is lighted pointing to the Messiah being born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem as foretold by the prophet Micah.

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ~ The Shepherds’ Candle, the third candle, is lighted to remind us that the birth of the Messiah was announced to humble shepherds, and that we straying sheep must go to Him, believe in Him and tell others the Good News of salvation.

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ~ The Angels’ Candle, lighted as the Festival of the Incarnation nears, reminds us of the angelic announcement and calls us to focus on Christ’s finished work on the cross and to anticipate His second coming.

**CHRISTMAS EVE** ~ The Christ Candle, the white one in the center of the wreath, proclaims the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, Who gives the Light of Salvation to those who walked in sin’s darkness. It is lighted on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

*The First Sunday of Advent*

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

# MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

MATTHEW 5:14

## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Christian Greeting and Call to Preparation

Rev. Kurt Cooper

The Prelude

*Savior of the Nations, Come*, BWV 659

J. S. Bach

*Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, make here Your home.  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.*

The Announcements

Rev. Cameron Whitehurst

The Chiming of the Hour

The Choral Introit

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Southern Harmony, 1835

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, Christ in whom our rest shall be.  
Israel's strength and consolation, born salvation to impart;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart!

The Call to Worship – Isaiah 40:9 (*congregation reads bold type*)

Go up into a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;

**Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news;**

Lift it up, fear not;

**say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"**

† Indicates the congregation standing

• Indicates seating for those detained

• † The Hymn No. 127

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

† The Prayer of Invocation

† The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father Which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done in 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, for ever. Amen.**

• † The Gloria Patri – No. 648 in *The Hymnal*

GREATOREX

## **SEEKING GOD'S FACE**

The Call to Confession – Romans 5:8, Hebrews 4:16

But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Prayer of Confession – Adapted from the *Book of Common Worship*, 1946

**Almighty God, rich in mercy to all who call upon You,  
hear us as we come to You, humbly confessing our sins,  
asking for Your mercy and forgiveness.**

**We have broken Your holy laws by our deeds and by our words,  
and by the sinful affections of our hearts.**

**We confess before You our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness,  
and all our failures and shortcomings toward You and our neighbor.**

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, and in Your great goodness,  
grant that we may hereafter serve and please You in newness of life,  
through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Assurance of God's Pardon – Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

The Pastoral Prayer

The Offering

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  
2 Corinthians 9:7*

The Anthem

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Geneva, 1551  
arr. John Ferguson

“Comfort, comfort now My people; Tell of peace!” So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near.  
Calling us to true repentance, since the Kingdom now is here.  
Oh, 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!  
Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!  
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign!  
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

## HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Cooper

† The Reading of God's Word – Isaiah 2:1-5

pew Bible, page 722

*If you are visiting today and do not own a personal copy of the Scriptures,  
please take one from the table in the narthex as our gift.*

All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

**The grass withers and the flowers fade,  
but the Word of our God shall stand forever. Amen.**

*Isaiah 40:6b, 8*

The Personal Meditation and Preparation of the Heart

*Children age four through kindergarten may leave to attend Children's Church.  
They may be picked up in Room E-100 after the service.*

The Sermon

**A THRILL OF HOPE**

Rev. Cooper

I. The Mountains Win Again

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

† The Hymn No. 530

*Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

† The Words of Instruction and Exhortation

† The Apostles' Creed – inside cover of *The Hymnal*

The Introduction of the Covenant Family

**JOSEPHINE MARIE MATHAI**

*Parents:* Shannon and Jacob Mathai

*Sibling:* Selah Mathai

*Baptizing:* Grandfather, Rev. Paul T. Murphy

*Assisting:* Rev. Kurt Cooper

Ruling Elder Hous Waring

## The Biblical Promise

### The Covenant Vows

1. Do you acknowledge Josephine's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate Josephine to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

### The Vow of the Congregation

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of Josephine?

### The Baptism

Rev. Paul T. Murphy

### The Baptismal Benediction and the Covenant Prayer

## **FOLLOWING GOD'S SPIRIT**

### † The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,  
Whose advent sets Thy people free;  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Ghost forevermore. Amen.**

### † The Benediction of God's Grace

### † The Threefold Amen – No. 657 in *The Hymnal*

### The Postlude

*People, Look East!*

Kristina Langlois

**A THRILL OF HOPE**  
The Mountains Win Again  
Isaiah 2:1-5

I. Mountains

II. Nations

III. Peace & Light



*The Sanctuary Flowers*

THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS THIS LORD'S DAY ARE GIVEN  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN HONOR OF THE BAPTISM OF

*Josephine Marie Mathai*

AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*Josephine Mary Murphy*

BY DR. AND MRS. JACOB MATHAI

*To* all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory;  
to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;  
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to all who will come,  
this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome  
in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.



*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)*

**trinitypca.org**

# 127 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on  
 3. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's  
 4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy  
 5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -  
 Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law in  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save, and  
 draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and  
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and

*Refrain*

til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 close the path to mis - er - y.

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

WORDS: Latin hymn; tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.  
 MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854

VENI EMMANUEL  
 LM with refrain  
 Isaiah 59:20

## Be Thou My Vision

530

*Unison*

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er  
 3. Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my  
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, thou mine in -  
 5. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won; may I reach

else to me, save that thou art — thou my best thought by  
 with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Fa - ther,  
 dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light, thou my soul's shel - ter,  
 her - i - tance, now and al - ways: thou and thou on - ly,  
 heav-en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what

day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 I thy true son; thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
 thou my high tow'r: raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 first in my heart, High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Trad. Irish; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1912

MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; arr. David Allen, 1986

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SLANE

10.10.10.10

Philippians 3:7