

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 28, 2021 –First Sunday in Advent

8:30 A.M.

REFLECTION **John 1:4-5**

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (ESV)

WELCOME **Welcome Video**

HYMN **Now Thank We All Our God**

Martin Rinkart, Johann Cruger, Catherine Winkworth

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms,
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven—
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

INVITATION **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,

on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (ESV)

PRAYER

SONG **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Charles Wesley, Mark Hunt

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 ev'ry nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
of thy birth we long to hear!

O'er the hills the angels singing
news, glad tidings of a birth:

"Go to him your praise bringing:

Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
he whose glories knew no end:
by his life he brings us gladness,
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

CONFESSIO

King Jesus, you have called us to trust your light even in the midst of the darkness, and yet we would still choose other things over you.

Over truth, we choose our own narratives.

Over honor, we choose what suits our needs.

Over justice, we choose our convenience.

Over love, we choose self preservation.

Over that which is commendable, we choose shame.

Over excellence, we choose mediocrity.

Over the praiseworthy, we choose entertainment.

Rather than apply our hearts and minds to the practice of these things, we content ourselves to the status quo. Redirect our affections, Lord! Give us ears to hear and eyes to see such that, being met by your mercy and grace, we might delight in your ways. Lead us in your paths and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all the day long.

PRAYER

ASSURANCE from Psalm 103:8-14

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.

SONG King of Kings

Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood

In the darkness we were waiting
without hope, without light
till from Heaven you came running.
There was mercy in your eyes.

To fulfil the law and prophets,
to a virgin came the Word
from a throne of endless glory
to a cradle in the dirt.

Chorus: Praise the Father. Praise the Son.
Praise the Spirit three in one.
God of Glory, Majesty,
praise forever to the King of Kings.

To reveal the kingdom coming
and to reconcile the lost,
to redeem the whole creation
you did not despise the cross.

For even in your suffering
you saw to the other side
knowing this was our salvation.
Jesus, for our sake you died.

And the morning that you rose
all of heaven held its breath
till that stone was moved for good
for the Lamb had conquered death.

And the dead rose from their tombs
and the angels stood in awe,
for the souls of all who'd come
to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born.
Then the Spirit lit the flame.
Now this Gospel truth of old
shall not kneel, shall not faint.

By his blood and in his name,
in his freedom I am free,
for the love of Jesus Christ
who has resurrected me.

© 2019 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Fellow Ships Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)
So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

PRAYER Congregational Prayer

BIBLE Philippians 4:8-9

[8] Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. [9] What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. (ESV)

MESSAGE The God of Peace Will Be with You

Drew Wilkins, Pastor of Student Ministries

SONG **Another in the Fire**

Chris Davenport, Joel Houston

There's a grace when the heart is under fire,
another way when the walls are closing in,
and when I look at the space between
where I used to be and this reckoning,
I know I will never be alone.

Chorus: There was another in the fire
standing next to me.

There was another in the waters
holding back the seas.
And should I ever need reminding
of how I've been set free,
there is a cross that bears the burden
where another died for me.
There is another in the fire.

All my debt left for dead beneath the waters,
I'm no longer a slave to my sin anymore.
And should I fall in the space between
what remains of me and this reckoning,
either way I won't bow to the things of this world,
and I know I will never be alone.

Chorus 2: There is another in the fire
standing next to me.

There is another in the waters
holding back the seas.
And should I ever need reminding
what power set me free,
there is a grave that holds no body,
and now that power lives in me.

There is another in the fire, oh.

Bridge: And I can see the light in the darkness
as the darkness bows to him.
I can hear the roar in the heavens
as the space between wears thin.
I can feel the ground shake beneath us
as the prison walls cave in.
Nothing stands between us.
Nothing stands between (us).

There is no other name
but the name that is Jesus,
he who was and still is
and will be through it all.
So come what may in the space between,
all the things unseen and this reckoning,
I know I will never be alone.
I know I will never be alone.

Chorus 3: There'll be another in the fire
standing next to me.
There'll be another in the waters
holding back the seas.
And should I ever need reminding
how good you've been to me,
I'll count the joy come ev'ry battle
'cause I know that's where you'll be.

© 2018 Hillsong MP Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

BENEDICTION

All texts used by permission CCLI#299717

THE GOD OF PEACE WILL BE WITH YOU

Philippians 4:8-9

1. Face the darkness
2. Hold fast to the light
3. Practice these things