

*An Advent Service  
of  
Lessons  
and  
Carols*

ADVENT  
HOPE:

*A LIGHT  
IN THE DARKNESS*

Monday 18 December 2017

5:30 p.m.

Hicks Memorial Chapel

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary





# ADVENT HOPE: A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

## *An Advent service of Lessons and Carols*

### Prelude

Chorale Prelude on *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen*

(Opus 122) Johannes Brahms

### \*Processional Hymn

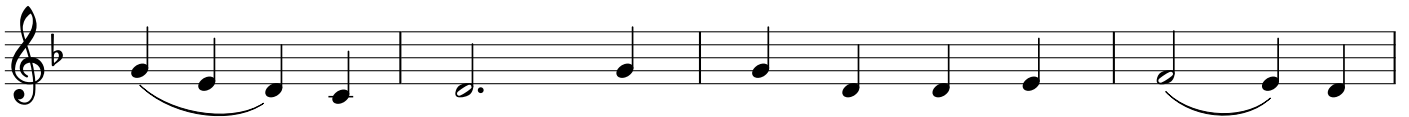
*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar

Stanza 1 - *Choir*: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.



<i>All</i>	2.O	Ho - ly	Wis - dom	from	on	high,	come,	or - der	all	things
<i>Higher voices</i>	3.O	Ad - o - nai,	in	all	your	might	re -	veal your - self	on	
<i>Lower voices</i>	4.O	Roy - al	branch of	Je -	se's	tree,	come	free us	from	all
<i>All</i>	5.O	Key of	Dav - id's	cit -	y,	come,	and	o - pen	wide	our
<i>All</i>	6.O	Morn - ing	Star, in	ra -	diance	bright	dis -	pel the	gloom	of
<i>All</i>	7.O	King and	hope of	all	the	earth,	come	vis - it	us	by



2.	might	-	i -	ly;	to	us	the	path	of	wis -	dom
3.	Si	-	nai's	height;	as	once,	in	maj -	es -	ty	and
4.	tyr	-	an -	ny.	From	depths	of	hell	your	peo -	ple
5.	heav'n	-	ly	home.	Make	safe	the	way	that	leads	on
6.	end	-	less	night.	En -	light -	en	those	who	wait	in
7.	hu	-	man	birth.	Bid	ev -	ery	sad	di -	vi -	sion



2.	show,	and	teach	us	in	her	ways	to	go.
3.	awe,	you	gave	to	us	your	right -	eous	law.
4.	save,	and	gave	us	vic -	t'ry	o'er	the	grave.
5.	high,	and	close	the	path	of	mis -	er -	y.
6.	fear;	come	shed	your	rays	of	glo -	ry	here.
7.	cease;	O	come	and	save	us,	Prince	of	Peace.



Re-joyce! Re - joyce! Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

\*Please rise in body and/or spirit

**\*Greeting and Bidding Prayer** (*Revelation 1:4-5*)

Rev. Kendra Buckwalter Smith  
*Director of the Worship Program*

**Leader:** Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come,  
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,  
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,  
the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

**People:** To him who loves us  
and freed us from our sins by his blood,  
and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father,  
to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

**Leader:** Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, we prepare ourselves  
so that we may be shown its true meaning. We have gathered to hear, in readings  
from the Holy Scriptures, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit  
and redeem God's waiting people. We rehearse Israel's story of exile  
and the account of the loving purposes of God. We rejoice, in carols and hymns,  
that God's plan of redemption is being mightily fulfilled,  
and encourage one another in Christian hope.

As we look with expectation for the coming of our Lord,  
we unite our hearts in prayer for the world which God so loves,  
for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it;  
for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death;  
and for the Church in this place and everywhere,  
that it may be freed from all evil and fear,  
and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

These prayers we humbly offer as we meditate on the readings from Holy Scripture,  
and also now, in the words that our Lord Jesus Christ taught us:

**People:** 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen!

**Leader:** The Almighty God bless us with his grace:  
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life:  
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

**People:** Amen.



## PREPARATION: THE COMING OF THE KING

Lesson

*Isaiah 40:1-8*

Jerrell Williams  
*Middler M.Div. Student*

Comfort, O comfort my people  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.  
A voice cries out:  
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'  
A voice says, 'Cry out!'  
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

*Leader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Carol** (choir)

*Comfort Ye*

Words by Jane Foster Knox (based on Isaiah)  
*Music by Mark Wilson*

*Comfort ye my people. Comfort ye my people and speak to them of peace; bid all their sorrow cease.*

*Comfort ye my people. Comfort ye my people and sing ye to Jerusalem; her sins will be forgiven.*

*The voice of one who cries, "Prepare ye the way; a highway for our God prepare ye.*

*He will reveal His glory soon. Build straight a highway for our God!"*

*Even so, Lord Jesus, come in all your glory to speak to us of peace and bid our sorrow cease.*

*Comfort ye my people. Comfort ye my people and sing ye to Jerusalem; her sins will be forgiven. Comfort ye my people.*

## HOPE: A RIGHTEOUS BRANCH TO RESTORE THE EXILES

Lesson

*Jeremiah 23:5-6*

Rebecca Young  
*Junior M.Div. Student*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called:  
'The Lord is our righteousness.'

*Leader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**\*Carol** (assembly)

*The Days Are Surely Coming*

*Glory to God #357*

# JOY: A SAVIOR TO SHINE LIGHT IN THE DARK PLACES

Lesson

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

Christin Thorpe

*Fellows and Community-Engagement Coordinator,*

*Metro-Urban Institute*

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Leader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Carol** (assembly and CCM ensemble)

*End of Exile*

*Ensemble:* The Maker of the sun and moon, the Maker of our earth,  
has made an even greater move: Himself is brought to birth.

How blessed was all creation then, what heavenly release,  
when Christ to heal our broken hearts, brought righteousness and peace

**Chorus - All:**



*Ensemble:* No star in all the heights of heaven but burned to see Him go.  
Yet unto earth alone was given, His human form to know  
His human form that we denied took death for human sin,  
overcame the great divide, let resurrection in

**Chorus (2 times)**

*Ensemble:* O perfect love eternal light, Igniter of the stars,  
Descend upon the world tonight and heal our broken hearts.

# COMFORT: THE CREATOR OF ALL TO RIGHT THE WRONGS OF THIS WORLD

Lesson

*Isaiah 42:1-9*

Dr. Tucker Ferda

*Visiting Assistant Professor of New Testament*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
I am the Lord, that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.  
See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

*Leader:* The word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

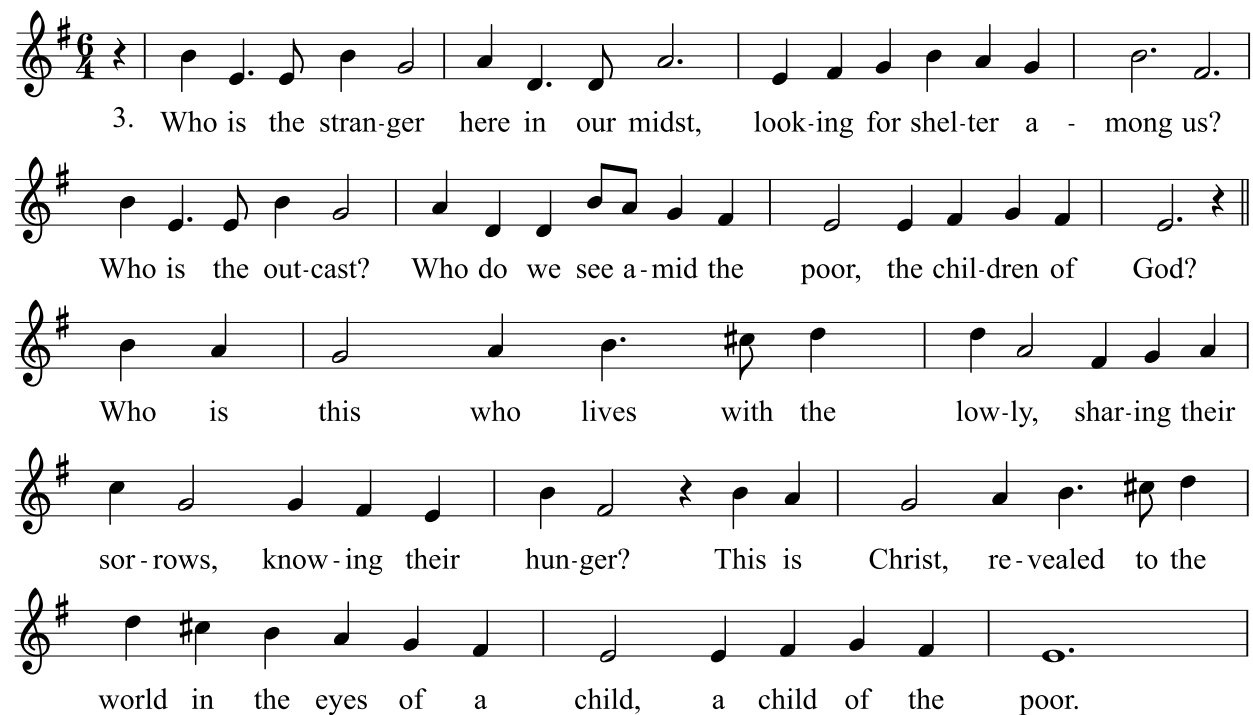


**Choir:** 1. Helpless and hungry, lowly, afraid, wrapped in the chill of mid-winter;  
comes now among us, born into poverty's embrace, new life for the world.  
Who is this who lives with the lowly, sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?  
This is Christ, revealed to the world in the eyes of a child, a child of the poor.

**All:**



2. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While  
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.



3. Who is the stran-ger here in our midst, look-ing for shel-ter a - mong us?  
Who is the out-cast? Who do we see a-mid the poor, the chil-dren of God?  
Who is this who lives with the low-ly, shar-ing their  
sor - rows, know - ing their hun-ger? This is Christ, re - vealed to the  
world in the eyes of a child, a child of the poor.

4. Why lies he in such mean es - state Where ox and ass are to  
5. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas - ant, king, to

feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here The  
own him; The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let

si - lent Word is plead - ing. This, this is  
lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

(*Final choir stanza:* Bring all the thirsty, all who seek peace; bring those with nothing to offer.  
Strengthen the feeble, say to the frightened heart: "Fear not: here is your God!")

*Child of the Poor*  
Scott Soper

*What Child Is This, GREENSLEEVES*  
Traditional English Melody, Lyrics by William C. Dix

## FULFILLMENT: GOD IS WITH US

**Lesson**

***Matthew 1:18-23***

Joanne Spence  
*Senior M.Div student*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel',  
which means, 'God is with us.'

**Leader:** The word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

\*Carol (assembly)

*Once in Royal David's City*

*Glory to God #140*  
*stanzas 1, 2, 3, 4*

**Stanza 5.** Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars his children crowned All in white shall wait around.

## EXPECTATION: CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

Lesson

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, 23-24*

Steven Barbery

*Th.M. Student*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*Leader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

Carol (choir)

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Kathleen Thomerson

arr. Dodd Lamberton

*I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.  
I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.  
I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.*

## PROMISE: THE DARKNESS WILL NOT OVERCOME

Lesson

*John 1:1-14*

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian

*Vice President for Seminary Advancement*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*Leader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

Carol (assembly)

*Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

*Glory to God #94*



## Prayer for the World

Rev. Dr. David Esterline  
*President and Professor of Cross-Cultural Theological Education*

*Leader:* God of grace and glory,  
in this world so filled with despair, we cling to your promise:  
surely Christ is coming soon.  
As we wait for this glorious appearing,  
we pray for the world that you so love:  
we long for your Holy Spirit to bring healing, justice,  
and peace that surpasses understanding  
to every place of suffering and hopelessness,  
including those we name now in our hearts. . . .

*silence is kept*

As this Advent season continues to unfold,  
challenge and strengthen us to be people of eager expectation  
and ministers of your peace.  
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**\*Carol** (assembly)

*The People Who Walked in Darkness*

*Glory to God #86*

**\*Blessing**

*Leader:* O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance  
of the birth of your only son, Jesus Christ:  
Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer,  
so we may with sure confidence behold him,  
when he shall come to be our judge;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

*People:* **To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.  
Amen.**

*Leader:* Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill,  
and make you partakers of the divine nature;  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

*People:* **Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*Sending Carol** (assembly)

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*Glory to God #133*

**Postlude**

*Trumpet Fanfare on "Adeste Fideles"*

J.F. Wade/arr. Sharon Elery Rogers

***Following worship, you are invited to a time of food and fellowship  
in the reception area downstairs.***

## Worship Notes

In 1918, the now famous Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve was first sung in King's College Chapel, Cambridge. Sixteen years later, the Dean of King's College, the Rev'd Eric Milner-White, composed a service based on the pre-reformation Advent Offices of the English Church. Its purpose was "...not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it." The readings of tonight's service serve to direct our hearts and minds in expectation of the coming Savior who shines light in the darkness.

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### Leaders in Worship

#### *Readers*

Steven Barbery  
Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian  
Rev. Dr. David Esterline  
Dr. Tucker Ferda  
Rev. Kendra Buckwalter Smith  
Joanne Spence  
Christin Thorpe  
Jerrell Williams  
Rebecca Young

#### *Choir*

Kenneth Crawford, Joshua Demi, Rev. Dr. Leanna Fuller, Janet Graham, Nancy Hammond, William Hammond, Rev. Dr. Angela Hancock, Dr. Edith Humphrey, Samantha Lowery, Anne Malone, Beth Michael, Shane Michael, Martin Neal, Michael Ondrick, Rebecca Reeder, Robin Sharp, Deborah Smith, Rev. Kendra Buckwalter Smith, Hattie Taylor, Tracey Riggle Young

#### *CCM/Gospel Ensemble*

Nancy DeStefano, Ciera (Cici) James, Mikayla Kovacik, Michael Ondrick, Rebecca Reeder, Daniel Schening

Special thanks to this year's Chapel Team - Ciera (Cici) James, Mikayla Kovacik, Rebecca Reeder, Robin Sharp, and Tommie-Nell Taylor;  
and to this year's Worship Program student employees - Joshua Demi and Michael Ondrick



Rev. Kendra Buckwalter Smith, *Director of the Worship Program*  
Michael P. Frank III, *Chapel Musician*  
Ciera (Cici) James, *Audio Visual Technician*