



FOR THOSE
WHO ARE DEPRESSED,
WE ASK YOU
TO SHOWER UPON THEM
THE LIGHT OF HOPE.
+ MAYA ANGELOU

Ginter Park Presbyterian Church

November 28, 2021

11:00 am

+ indicates you are invited to stand

GATHERING

The act of assembling in Jesus' name bears witness to the Church's identity and mission as Christ's body in the world. Gather your thoughts and feelings. Entrust yourself to God's saving grace.

Prelude From Partita on "Savior of the Nations, Come" Hugo Distler

Greetings and Announcements

Introit Doug Brown

There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and the stars. Redemption is drawing near. Luke 21:25a, 28b

+ Lighting the Advent Candle [adapted from litanies by the SALT Project and manyvoices.org]

One: When I look around, I see shadows of hunger.
Particularly in this time of pandemic, so many neighbors, nearby and around the world,
will go to bed hungry tonight.
When I look around, I see shadows of injustice, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer —
and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight.
In the face of hunger, we light a candle of hope.
In the face of injustice, in the face of despair, we light a candle of hope.
May the light from this candle say to all that God's hope is coming on earth as it already is in heaven.

**All: In the face of all that seems insurmountable in this world,
we will stand firmly in this season of Advent,
opening ourselves to the presence of the God who comes in Jesus Christ.
We commit ourselves to work with eager anticipation for the coming reign of God.
May the light of God's hope shine through us and brighten our world.**

+ Hymn 102 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Prayer of Confession

Kenyan traditional

Leader: All:

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort and joy. — joy.

**All: God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way
and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.**

Silent prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

+ Gloria (*Hymn 113, "Angels We Have Heard on High," refrain*)

WORD

Where the scriptures are read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ, the living Word, is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit also evokes our response. Through singing, affirmation, and prayer, with the help of God's Spirit, we discern Jesus Christ, receive Christ's grace, and resolve to follow Christ's way.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Psalm 25:1-10

After VENI EMMANUEL

(word) (word)

One: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;

**All: do not let my enemies exult over me.
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;**

One: let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

All: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

One: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

All: according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord;

One: therefore the Lord instructs sinners in the way.

The Lord leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble the way.

All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.

Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Human One coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then Jesus told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Human One."

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

James Elisha Taneti

+ Hymn 357 *The Days Are Surely Coming*

+ Affirmation of Faith

[from *The Confession of Belhar*]

One: We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,

All: the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

One: We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church

All: as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;

One: Therefore, we believe that unity is a gift to the Church of Jesus Christ.

All: Therefore we believe that unity is an obligation for the Church of Jesus Christ.

One: that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force,

yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought

All: a reality which the people of God must continually be built up to attain

One: that this unity must become visible so the world may know

All: that anything which threatens this unity

may have no place in the church and must be resisted

One: that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways

All: in that we love one another

One: that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another

All: that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another

One: that we share one faith and have one God

**All: that we are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup,
confess one name**

One: that we work for one cause, and share one hope

**All: that we together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth
of the love of Christ**

One: that we together know and bear one another's burdens,
and upbuild one another and comfort one another

All: that we together serve God in this world.

**To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.**

+ Somos Uno



We are one in Christ Je- sus, all one bod-y, all one spi rit, all to-geth er.
So-mos u-no en Cris-to, so-mos u- no, so-mos u- no, u-no só- lo.

geth er. We share one God, one might-y Lord, one a-bid-ing faith, one bind-ing
só- lo.

love, one sin - gle bap - tism, one Ho - ly

Com-for - ter, the Ho - ly Spi - rit, u - nit - ing all.

Prayers of the People

"Prayer" by Maya Angelou

EUCCHARIST

Though we are not sharing the bread and cup today, we remember with thanksgiving (eukharistia) the grace (kharis) with which Jesus welcomes us to sit at his table, eat what will satisfy our deepest hungers, and feed others as we've been fed. We offer ourselves in response to Christ's wonderful offering of love.

Offering

Everyone is invited to place tithes, offerings, or any communications to the Pastor or staff in the designated wall boxes beside each door at the back of the Sanctuary.

Monetary gifts and pledges to GPPC may also be given online: <https://www.ginterparkpc.org/giving>.

Anthem

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

arr. Richard Marlow

*Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.*

*Every eye shall now behold him robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing shall the true Messiah see.*

*Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!*

All are invited to sing the final verse with the choir:

Yea, A - men! let all a - dore thee, High on thine e -
Sa - vior take the pow'r and glo - ry: Claim the king - dom
ter - nal throne; O come quick - ly! O come quick - ly!
for thine own:
O come quick - ly! Al - le - lu - ia! Come, Lord, come!

+ Doxology (Hymn 607)

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**

SENDING

Our worship and service do not end with the postlude; we go forth to love and serve God in our daily lives.

+ Hymn 384 *Soon and Very Soon*

+ Advent Blessing

One: God of the watching ones, the waiting ones, the slow and suffering ones,
the angels in heaven, the child in the womb,

**All: give us your benediction, your good word for our souls,
that we may rest and rise in the kindness of your company. Amen.**

+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

+ Postlude

O Heiland, reiß die Himmel auf

Ernst Pepping

ABOUT WORSHIP

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY TODAY are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert Knox, our son, brother, husband and father, by his family.

WORSHIP LEADERS: Our guest preacher is Jame Elisha Taneti, Director of the Syngman Rhee Global Mission Center for Christian Education and Assistant Professor of World Christianity at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Our director of music is Doug Brown. Today's lector is Ardyth Lohuis. Our pastor Carla Pratt Keyes and intern Mary Moore Driggers are liturgists. Managing the Facebook Livestream is Alfred Walker. Andre Estep is our Sexton. Scott Carswell will follow church procedures in moving your offerings from the boxes at the back of the Sanctuary to the offices of GPPC.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available in the Narthex. Please see today's greeter or an usher.

PLEASE TAKE THE PAPER BULLETIN YOU HAVE USED home for reference and/or recycling. Thank you!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS about events in the life of GPPC are available through a weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to be added to the distribution, please contact Karen Mitscherlich at ginterparkpc@gmail.com.

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