

Rock Creek Fellowship
Worship
December 2, 2018
10:30 AM

Prelude Song

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

1. 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 every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
2. 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..

Call to Worship

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. This is the candle of HOPE. With all God's people in every land, we use this light to remember that our Savior, Jesus Christ, is the Light of the World who keeps our lamps burning so we may endure patiently as we await His healing return and with it, the renewal of all things. May our hearts burn with hopeful expectation for the coming of the Light of the World into all the darkness we experience. As God spoke through the prophet Isaiah: "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." —Isaiah 9:2

Let us pray:

Keep and preserve us, O Lord, while we wait in hope, between the time of your first coming to live and die in our place and your second coming to make all things new. Lord lift up our brothers and sisters serving you with Food for the Hungry in Lima, Peru and Hope for the Inner City here in Chattanooga. May they continue to answer the call of reconciliation, encouraging one another and seeking you daily. May our lives be characterized by a serious seeking after you and an affectionate walking with you, every day of our lives; that when you come, we may be found not hiding our talents, nor serving ourselves, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished, but waiting and longing for our Lord, our glorious King, for ever and ever.

Amen **Prayer adapted from a 17th century Richard Baxter prayer

Worship in Song

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on Earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succour speedy, to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in His sight
3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope like flowers, spring in His path to birth;
Before Him on the mountains shall peace the herald go;
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.
4. To Him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end;
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever, His name to us is Love

Worship with Tithes and Offering

"Isaiah 11"

1. A green shoot will sprout up from Jesse, the roots will grow a budding branch. A wolf will dwell with a gentle lamb. They'll leap and play in the green, green grass.
2. A little child will lead them, A little child will lead them, The lion and the

lamb lie down together, A little child will lead them.

3. A green shoot will sprout up from Jesse, a banner of love like a melody. Singing "Come back children, come back, hurry." Singing over you, singing over me.
4. The good, good King will lead them, The good, good King will lead them. The spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him. The good, good King will lead us. The good, good King will lead us. The lion and the lamb lie down together. The good, good King will lead us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Join in prayer for FH Peru and Hope for Chattanooga

Kathryn Briggs

Welcoming One Another

"Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, as it is now, and evermore shall be:
World without end. Amen.

Announcements

Scripture Reading

Lisa Brown

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 3:17-19

The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received. ² How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? ³ Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. ⁴ Therefore the law is paralyzed and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted. ¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. ¹⁹ The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights. For the director of music. On my stringed instruments.

Reader: The grass withers and the flowers fall

All: **But the Word of our God stands forever**

Romans 17:7-13

⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹ and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name." ¹⁰ Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹ And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him." ¹² And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope." ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

Hopes and Fears: "Wrangling for Hope During the Long Wait"

Pastor Eric

Prayer of Confession

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

**From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for
him.**

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
**But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we
transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our
righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.**

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

**There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the
hand of our iniquity.**

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember our iniquity forever.

**Restore us, we pray, through the coming of our Lord Jesus, in whom we
place our hope and trust. Amen.** —based on Isaiah 64:1-9,

(offer silent prayers of confession)

Assurance of Pardon:

The Lord's Supper

*On behalf of our Savior, Rock Creek Fellowship warmly welcomes all
baptized Christians to receive the Lord's Supper. Since this is a meal for
increasing our faith, enhancing our allegiance, and participating more
deeply in the life of Christ, we'd ordinarily expect those who participate to
be looking to Christ for their renewal and salvation, to trust and follow him,
and to be a member of a church that is seeking to esteem and embody
Christ in its worship and ways.*

"Come O Redeemer Come"

1. Father, enthroned on high—Holy, holy! Ancient eternal Light—hear our prayer.

Refrain: Come, O Redeemer, come; grant us mercy.
Come, O Redeemer, come; grant us peace.

2. Lord, save us from the dark of our striving, faithless, troubled hearts
weighed down. **Refrain**

3. Look now upon our need; Lord, be with us.
Heal us and make us free from our sin. **Refrain**

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

1. Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

2. O ye heights of heaven adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King!
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert sing, evermore and evermore!

3. Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant with high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

"Who is this so Weak and Helpless"

1. Who is this, so weak and helpless,
Child of lowly Hebrew maid,
Rudely in a stable sheltered,
Coldly in a manger laid?
'Tis the Lord of all creation,
Who this wondrous path has trod;
He is Lord from everlasting,
And to everlasting God.

2. Who is this, a Man of Sorrows
Walking sadly life's hard way
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping
Over sin and Satan's sway?
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior,
Who above the starry sky
Is for us a place preparing,
Where no tear can dim the eye.

3. Who is this? Behold him shedding
Drops of blood upon the ground!
Who is this, despised, rejected,
Mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
'Tis our God, Who gifts and graces
On His church is pouring down;
Who shall smite in holy vengeance
All His foes beneath His throne

4. Who is this that hangs there dying
While the rude world scoffs and scorns,
Numbered with the malefactors,
Torn with nails, and crowned with thorns?
'Tis our God Who lives forever
'Mid the shining ones on high,
In the glorious golden city,
Reigning everlastingly.

****Additional Communion songs found on Insert****

Closing Hymn

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Chorus: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. O come, O come,
thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes,
on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

3. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
4. O come, thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
5. O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Benediction

DURHAM ROAD NURSERY SCHEDULE

This Week	Next Week
0 - 1 Hannah Forman/ Brad Assaraf	Alice Lancaster/Brittany Lloyd
2 - 3 Caroline McKissick/James Stephenson	Bob and Ellie Bruhn
4 - 5 Anna Spencer/Grace DeGraaf	Asa and Rachael Porter

CHRISTMAS AT ROCK CREEK

Dec. 9 Youth Christmas Party at Pole Barn

Dec. 9 Deadline for Hope for Chattanooga donations

Dec. 9 Last day of children's Sunday School at Durham

Dec. 12 Hymn Sing at the Pole Barn

Dec. 16 Christmas Pageants at Lula and Durham

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

*No childcare at the Christmas Eve service.

Welcome Visitors: We are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us this Lord's Day.

New Here? We welcome you to Rock Creek! Nursery is available for ages 0-5 during the worship service in the children's wing beside the Sanctuary. If you prefer to be with your nursing and/or crying child, please use the cry room located behind the Sanctuary. You are also more than welcome to keep your children in the service with you.

In order to get to know folks in our RCF community, we encourage you to be a part of Sunday School and Community Groups.. Sunday School meets each week at 9:30 am. Community Groups meet throughout the week. Check out our website, www.rockcreekfellowship.org, for more info about both.

Elders (* indicates elder attends Lula Lake)

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Rock Creek Fellowship

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION.

"Sacrifice is God's chosen means of righting what's wrong in the world."

-Eugene Peterson

"The Word leads us to Christ by the ear: the Sacraments lead us to Christ by the eye and by the mouth and by the hand. But it is to the same Christ we are led. We do not get a better Christ in the Sacrament. But we may get Christ better by taking it."

-Robert Bruce, 16th Century Scottish Pastor

*"And let me make it quite clear that when Christians say the Christ-life is in them, they do not mean simply something mental or moral. When they speak of being 'in Christ' or of Christ being 'in them', this is not simply a way of saying that they are thinking about Christ or copying Him. **They mean that Christ is actually operating through them; that the whole mass of Christians are the physical organism through which Christ acts- that we are His fingers and muscles, the cells of His body. And perhaps that explains one or two things. It explains why this new life is spread not only by purely mental acts like belief, but by bodily acts like baptism and Holy Communion...God never meant man to be a purely spiritual creature. That is why He uses material things like bread and wine to put the new life into us."***

-CS Lewis