



Waiting for Glory
December 7, 2024
The Second Sunday of Advent



MEDITATIONS

Our longings remind us of the essential human fact that we are talked and touched into life, and that a human race struggling to do all its talking and touching for itself faces a paralyzing unhappiness and anxiety.

- Rowan Williams, *A Ray of Darkness*

The Christian future hope is the Advent hope. At Jesus' final appearing, his second coming, he will put into operation for the entire cosmos that Lordship which is already his by right.

- NT Wright, *For All The Saints*

Advent teaches us to wait with attentive faith instead of anxiety, and with expectant hope instead of hurry.

- Scott Sauls

Radio stations refuse to play "waiting" songs because they depress rather than uplift, grocery stores play the holiday hits *ad infinitum*, and our congregations emphatically clamor for the "traditional" carols, because, they say: "This is what we've always done." Except that we haven't. In the view of the gospel writers, waiting is not an interruption to our spiritual lives or a problem to be efficiently solved. Waiting is what fundamentally marks the identity of the Christian. In waiting we remember who God is: the God who takes his time.

- David Taylor

Readings for the coming week

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
Monday, December 8th	Psalm 21	Isaiah 24:1-16a	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Tuesday, the 9th	Psalm 21	Isaiah 41:14-20	Romans 15:14-21
Wednesday, the 10th	Psalm 21	Genesis 15:1-18	Matthew 12:33-37
Thursday, the 11th	Psalm 146:5-10	Ruth 1:6-18	2 Peter 3:1-10
Friday, the 12th	Psalm 146:5-10	Ruth 4:13-17	2 Peter 3:11-18
Saturday, the 13th	Psalm 146:5-10	1 Samuel 2:1-8	Luke 3:1-18

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WELCOME

Second City Church is a community that exists to worship the Triune God and to celebrate, in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Harrisburg.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We hope this guide will help you participate in our service. If you have any questions about our worship, faith, or how you can be a part of our mission to serve God and neighbor in Harrisburg, be sure to talk to our pastor. If you would like to indicate your presence to us, please fill out the form on the back page of this bulletin and place it in the offering plate or give it to a greeter.

For Parents:

Children of all ages are welcome to remain with us as we worship. We like the noise; it helps us remember we are alive. The following services are available for you and your children to get the most out of your time of worship:

Infant & Toddler Care

Infant and toddler care is available on the first floor of the east wing of our building. Ask one of our greeters if you need help locating this room. Nursery staff are well-trained, have undergone required background checks, and will maintain a safe environment for your child(ren). Ask the nursery workers for a copy of our policies for more information.

Children & Worship

Children & Worship is for children ages preschool through 2nd grade and meets in a worship space below the sanctuary during the sermon. This time is designed to prepare them for more fully participating in our liturgy when they are older. They are dismissed during the announcements and return during the offertory. New families are welcome to tour the space before or after a service if desired. This week's lesson is *Advent*.

Please note that our services are live-streamed.



LITURGY OF PREPARATION

Words of Welcome

Lighting the Advent Candle

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world;
the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by the paths they have not known

I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light,

the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I will do and I will not forsake them.

Isaiah 42:16

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Call to Worship

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for
our God.

Isaiah 40:3

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in his Word I hope.

My soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

and with him is plenteous redemption.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

based on Psalm 130:5-7

Surely the Lord is coming soon.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:20

Gathering Hymn - Messiah

O come! O come Messiah!
O come! Our Alleluia!
O sing! O sing Hosanna!
O come! Messiah come!

Comfort and joy, Alpha, Omega He
Sorrow and toil, no longer rulers be

O come! O come Messiah!
O come! Our Alleluia!
O sing! O sing Hosanna!
O come! Messiah come!

Comfort and joy, Alpha, Omega He
Sorrow and toil, no longer rulers be

O come! O come Messiah!
O come! Our Alleluia!
O sing! O sing Hosanna!
O come! Messiah come!
O come! Messiah come!
O come! Messiah come!

Confession Hymn - Advent Prose

slowly, chanted

Drop down, ye heav - ens from a - bove,
O let the earth be op - ened up,

3
and and let send the skies pour forth right - eous - ness:
and send forth a Sa - vior.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Lord Christ, you have called us to be holy as you are holy, to be light as you are light, yet we often pursue our own ways and the ways of darkness. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question.

In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to follow you as we should, to imitate your beauty, your goodness, your holiness.

Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness & Peace

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

- Luke 1:78-79

People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our peace. In Christ, we are made right with God.

Thanks be to God!

Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended to
heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed

Baptism of Haijun Chen

Do you receive Haijun as your family in Christ, and do you promise to give the gifts God has given to you all to encourage him as he follows Jesus?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Haijun, now before you in your care?

We will.

Affirmations of the Congregation

We will surround Haijun with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his trust of God, and be found faithful in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Passing of the Peace

[Invitation for congregation to share a sign of peace with one another]

Hymns of Praise and Adoration

Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord

My spirit rejoices in God

My soul magnifies the Lord

My spirit rejoices in God

For He who is mighty

Has done great things for me

Holy holy

Holy holy

Holy holy

Is His name

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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 thee, O Israel

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
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

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
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Living Our Faith

Blessing Our Children

Jesus called the children to him and said,

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,

for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

December Memory Verse

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Matthew 1:23

Psalm Reading

Psalm 72:1-7; page 573

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:6-10; page 683

The Word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 12 page 1152

The Word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:
Glory to you, O Lord!

Matthew 3:11-12; page 961

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Rev. Peter Rowan - *Waiting for Glory*

Offering of Prayers of the People

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Adonai, ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai: Come with outstretched arm to save us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the peoples, before you earthly rulers will keep silent and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Key of David, scepter over the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open: Come to set free the prisoners who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Ruler of the nations, monarch for whom the people long, you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity: Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Immanuel, our sovereign and lawgiver, desire of the nations and Savior of all: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Come, Lord Jesus.

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing, to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

Offering of Gifts

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45

Friends and members of Second City Church support the extension of God's Kingdom with gifts of bread, wine, talents and resources. Guests are not expected to contribute. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering pedestals in the back as you leave, or can be made electronically by either scanning this QR code or at our website secondcitychurch.org.



Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*



LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Invitation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Praise God for His Mighty Acts

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

*Holy, holy holy Lord God of power and might
Heaven and earth, Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he, blessing is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest*

Praise for Christ's Sacrifice

Calling on the Holy Spirit and Lord's Prayer

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us:

**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, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Invitation to the Table

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

- John 1:29, Revelation 19:9

Sharing Holy Communion

Second City Church welcomes all baptized Christians who have made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ in a Christian church to join us in this sacrament. Non-communicants can come forward and ask for a blessing. If you need to receive communion in your seat, ask a fellow worshiper to let the communion servers know. If you are unable to receive wine, you will find a chalice containing non-alcoholic grape juice at the station the pastor is serving. The communion bread is gluten-free.

Closing Prayer

**Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Benediction

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn - The Reign of Mercy

Oh may our world at last be just
And hilltops echo with Your peace
A harvest come from barren dust
The reign of mercy never cease
He comes as rain, upon the grass
High heaven's Son to Earth descends
Not as the seasons that will pass
But with a light that never ends

Oh come to Him and find your rest
Who saw the poor and came as One
Who hears the cries of the oppressed
And rules 'till all oppression's done
Someday, He'll come to reign as king
And we will see His justice done
Our souls will magnify and sing!
The Christ whose Kingdom now is come

And all the mighty and the strong
Will bow before Him on that day!
The silenced fill the world with song
The poor and lowly He will raise
And all our bitterness and tears
Our violence and our endless wars
Will end at last when He draws near
Come soon, come soon, Oh Christ our Lord!
Come soon, come soon, Oh Christ our Lord!

Dismissal

As we await our coming Savior,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen



ATTRIBUTIONS

O Come, Messiah Come

Words and Music by Isaac Wardell
Arrangement by Isaac Wardell and Mason Neely

Arrangement by Bifrost Arts
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Advent Prose

RORATE CAELI, Based on Isaiah 45:8

Magnificat

Words by Mary, Mother of Jesus
Music by Flo Paris Oakes
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O Come O Come Emmanuel

Arranged by Thomas Helmore
Translated by John Mason Neale
TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL

Sanctus

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Advent Song

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The Reign of Mercy

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vespers Service Tonight at 6 pm

We invite you to contemplate Advent and this time of waiting at our next Vespers service. We gather in song to celebrate the "almost, not yet, already" aspect of the season as we prepare for the joy of Christmas and, ultimately, Christ's return.

Children Singing December 14

This year, instead of having a separate children's Christmas program, the kids of our congregation will be singing and reading scripture on December 14. Don't miss this special worship service!

Christmas Choir Singing December 21 and 28

Once again Second City has assembled a Christmas choir! The choir is scheduled to participate in the Sunday morning worship services immediately preceding and following Christmas.

Christmas Eve Worship Service at 6 pm

Join us for our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service at 6 pm on Tuesday, December 24. Feel free to invite your family, friends, and neighbors!



ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Christmas Poinsettias

Once again the church is selling poinsettias during the Advent season for \$8 per plant. You can mail an order form to the church office, or contact the office by phone or email (717-232-0604 / office@secondcitychurch.org) to place an order.

Benevolence Team Reminder

The Benevolence Team exists to help meet needs inside and outside of our church community. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the team if you need help with groceries or other needs.

New Church Directory

If you haven't already, please remember to update your information by filling out the back page of a church bulletin or by emailing your contact information to office@secondcitychurch.org. Thank you!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for the following people:

Family and friends of Nevin White

Virginia Anderson

Darwin Leshner

Sophia James, USAF

Elizabeth James

Dottie Roden

Christine Zubrod Perrin

Jon Yawger

Chuck Bagley and Bagley/Gazsi families



SOCIAL MEDIA

Please consider liking, following and subscribing to our social media! Also, when you see, read or watch something you like, share it with your friends. It's a helpful way to let others know we are here!

Facebook



Instagram



YouTube



Your contact information

If you are our guest and would like to indicate your presence with us, or if you'd like to make us aware of a change in your contact information, fill out this form and place it in the offering plate.

- ☐ Visitor
- ☐ Regular Attendee
- ☐ Member

Name(s):

Address (please include city and zip):

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Prayer
Requests: _____

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