





## MEDITATIONS

The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Hope is nocturnal  
It comes from the light  
But does not belong there  
Preferring the darkness  
To shape brightness  
For it has no purpose

Where hearts will believe  
Happily what they see  
So it makes a home  
In the deep Shadows  
Where it waits to be found  
By those who need it most

- David Gate

[T]he philosophers remind one of a small child who sticks his fingers in his ears and shouts, 'I can't hear you,' in the face of mortality.

- Franz Rosenzweig

## Readings for the coming week

*These readings are provided as a personal, family, or group worship resource. Use them along with your worship guide as resources for readings, prayers and hymns. Set in the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a schedule of daily Bible readings in accord with the Church year, these scripture readings are designed around a three-year cycle that will take you through the Old Testament once, the New Testament twice, and the Psalms frequently.*

|                       | Psalm               | Old Testament    | New Testament          |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Monday, December 15th | Psalm 42            | Isaiah 29:17-24  | Acts 5:12-16           |
| Tuesday, the 16th     | Psalm 42            | Ezekiel 47:1-12  | Jude 1:17-25           |
| Wednesday, the 17th   | Psalm 42            | Zechariah 8:1-17 | Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34 |
| Thursday, the 18th    | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | 2 Samuel 7:1-17  | Galatians 3:23-29      |
| Friday, the 19th      | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | 2 Samuel 7:18-22 | Galatians 4:1-7        |
| Saturday, the 20th    | Psalm 80:1-7, 7-19  | 2 Samuel 7:23-29 | John 3:31-36           |

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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. Nursery staff are well-trained, have 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. Across from the church office is a room for nursing mothers.

### *Children's Worship*

Children's 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.

*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 - *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***

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

Born Thy people to deliver  
Born a child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring

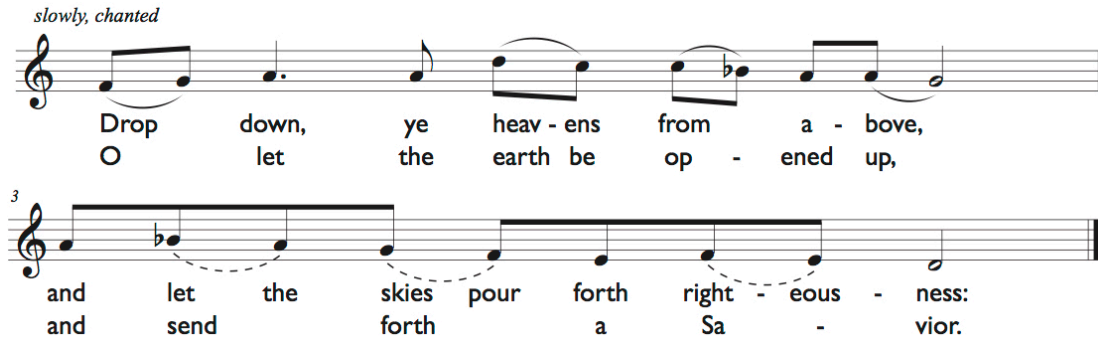
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

We are waiting  
We are waiting  
We are waiting for You  
[4x]

By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

We are waiting  
We are waiting  
We are waiting for You  
We are waiting  
We are waiting  
We are waiting for You

## Confession Hymn - Advent Prose



## 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!**

## Passing of the Peace

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

# Hymns of Praise and Adoration

## ***Come Light Our Hearts***

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait  
Truly our hope is in You  
Truly our hope is in You

O Lord of life, our only hope  
Your radiance shines  
On all who look to You in the dark  
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait  
Truly our hope is in You  
Truly our hope is in You

O Joy above all other loves  
In you we find more than enough  
We come as we are, O heal and restore  
Come light our hearts  
[Repeat]

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait  
Truly our hope is in You  
Truly our hope is in You  
Truly our hope is in You

## **O Come, O Come *Emmanuel***

O Come, O come, Emmanuel  
O Come, O come, Emmanuel  
O Come, O come, Emmanuel  
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 Dayspring, 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, O come, Emmanuel  
O Come, O come, Emmanuel  
O Come, O come, Emmanuel





## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Living Our Faith

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 95:7b-11; page 591*

### 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 35:3-7; page 707*

The Word of the Lord:

**Thanks be to God.**

### New Testament Reading

*2 Corinthians 13; page 1153*

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 11:2-6; page 969*

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

## Sermon

Rev. Peter Rowan - *He Will Come*

## 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*

## 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.**

○ 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.**

○ 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.**

○ 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.**

○ 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.**

○ 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 God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

*John 3:16*



## **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

Holy are you, God of Jesse, for the branch of our salvation is rooted in you. To Abraham you promised to raise up a people bound to you in love, and though the household of David you brought life greater than our imagining in a child of grace, Jesus our Lord. Though we deny your love for ourselves and seek to limit the reach of your mercy to others, you beckon us to repentance, open our eyes to new life, and embrace us to join your family of faith. In your Son's death we see the depth of our sin; yet in his resurrection we see the extent of your grace. You bless us beyond reckoning, for you welcome us into the company of prophets and apostles and saints on earth and in heaven, with whom forever we sing your praise.

#### Sanctus

*Holy, most holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might  
Heaven and earth are filled, filled with your holy light  
O blessed is the one, the one who comes, comes in the name of God  
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna  
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

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us.

**Therefore, let us keep the feast!**

## 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 - Soon and Very Soon**

Soon and very soon we are going to see the king  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the king  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the king  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are going to see the king

No more crying there, we are going to see the king  
No more crying there we are going to see the king  
No more crying there we are going to see the king  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are going to see the king

No more dying there we are going to see the king  
No more dying there we are going to see the king  
No more dying there we are going to see the king  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are going to see the king

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are going to see the king  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are going to see the king

## **Dismissal**

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

**In the name of Christ. Amen**



## ATTRIBUTIONS

### **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

Words by Charles Wesley (1744)

Music by Rowland H. Prichard (1811)

### **Advent Prose**

RORATE CAELI,

Based on Isaiah 45:8

### **Come Light Our Hearts**

Words and music by Sandra McCracken

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### **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

Words: 12th century Latin hymn, Transl. by  
John Mason Neale (1851)

TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL 13th Century,  
Arr. Thomas Helmore (1854)

### **Soon And Very Soon**

Words and Music by Andrae Crouch

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Music Corp.

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### **Chimes Choir Music:**

### **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

Words by Charles Wesley, 1739

Music by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

### **O Come All Ye Faithful**

Words by Frederick Oakeley, 1841

Music by John Francis Wade, 1786

### **Away In A Manger**

Words by Martin Luther and John Thomas  
McFarl

Music by James Ramsey Murray

### **O Come O Come Emmanuel**

Words: 12th century Latin hymn, Transl. by  
John Mason Neale (1851)

TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL 13th Century,  
Arr. Thomas Helmore (1854)

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**Bulletin Cover Art:** Jonathan Bean





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Children Leading Worship Today**

The children of our congregation are singing and reading scripture today! We hope you enjoy this special worship service.

### **Senior Saints' Lunch Gathering December 17**

If you are a senior saint, please come join us for lunch, a devotional and a time of hymn singing at the church on Wednesday, December 17th from 12-2 pm. Please bring \$10 to contribute to a soup and sandwich lunch.

### **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!

### **Christmas Poinsettias**

Once again the church is offering 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](mailto:office@secondcitychurch.org)) to place an order.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

### **Expression of Thanks**

My sincere thanks for the cards sent to me and the prayers expressed on the passing of my wonderful and loving companion, Nevin White.

I truly appreciate those who were able to attend his "Celebration of Life" memorial service.

The Lord took him peacefully and I am at peace knowing Nevin is now resting in His loving arms.

Blessings,  
Virginia (Ginny) Anderson

### **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](mailto:office@secondcitychurch.org). Thank you!



## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Prayer Requests

**Please continue to pray for the following people:**

Virginia Anderson

Darwin Leshner

Sophia James, USAF

Elizabeth James

Dottie Roden

Christine Zubrod Perrin

Jon Yawger

Greg Nies

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Contact us

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Dave Tanis  
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