



DECEMBER 8, 2024

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude
Welcome

WE PRAISE & THANK GOD

Call to Worship – #87 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1&3)*

Advent Liturgy

O Come All You Unfaithful

Confession of Sin

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Acts 10:43

#118 *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne (verses 1, 2, 4 & 5)*

Offertory – *Unto Us*

Sacrament of Baptism

Prayers of the People

The Constables

Paul Reader

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:12-17

Message

Rev. Keith Fink

Waiting with Isaiah

Isaiah 9:1-7

WE DEPART TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

Kids Choir participants are dismissed at this time

#92 *Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come*

Benediction

Postlude

2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT

UNISON: O Come, O Come Emanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here.
Until the Son of God appear.
O Come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
And drive away the shades of night
And pierce the clouds and bring us light.

Leader: Isaiah reminds us of the beauty of the coming Savior: “And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6b).”

Lighter: We light this candle on the Second Sunday in Advent to remember and celebrate that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!

UNISON: “In Him was life, and that life was the light of Men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world (John 1: 4, 5, 9).”

Baptism in the EPC

Today we will baptize Ayla Carr, Jude Carr and Leah Shackleton.

What we *do not* believe about infant baptism:

- 1) We do not believe it confers salvation.
- 2) We do not believe it is the same thing as dedication

What we *do* believe about baptism:

- 1) We believe it is ordained by Jesus.
- 2) We believe it is a sign and a seal of the Covenant of Grace for believers and their children. As a sign it proclaims God's forgiveness and our redemption in Jesus Christ. As a seal, God marks us as adopted children of our heavenly Father.
- 3) We believe that the power in baptism does not reside in those being baptized, nor in the person administering baptism but rather in the work of God.

What we understand about those belonging to Jesus:

We understand that followers of Jesus from different faith traditions appeal to Scripture to defend their opinions about those to whom baptism should be applied, and the mode of baptism. It would not be fair to say that those who baptize infants disregard the scriptures and rely only on human tradition. We see that God applied the Old Testament covenant sign to infant males (Gen. 17:11). We see how Peter on the day of Pentecost spoke to those who believed saying: "For the promise is for you and for your children... (Acts 2:39)."

Baptism Questions

To the parents

- 1) Do you acknowledge *Ayla, Jude and Leab*'s need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- 2) Do you claim God's covenant promises and benefits for *Ayla, Jude and Leab* and by faith do you look to the Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of your child as you do your own?
- 3) Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and do you promise by relying on God's power and grace through the Holy Spirit to live an exemplary life before your child?
- 4) Do you commit yourself to pray with and for your child, to teach your child the Scriptures and the great articles of our faith Jesus Christ?
- 5) Do you promise to use every means provided by God, including faithful participation in the life of the Church, to bring your child up in the loving discipline of the Lord?

To the congregation

- 1) Do you, the members of this congregation, acting for yourselves and on behalf of the whole Body of Christ, assume responsibility with these parents for the spiritual nurture of this child?
- 2) Do you commit yourself to set a godly example before this child, to provide as far as you are able, all that is necessary to the end that this child may one day confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Waiting with Isaiah
Isaiah 9:1-7

Question: For what, or for whom are we waiting?

I. For One Who Brings Light into our Darkness of Gloom (1-2)
~ see Mt. 4:12-17

II. For One Who Brings Celebration, Liberation, and Pacification (3-5)

III. For a Child Born to Us - Bringing Peace without End (6-7)

Point to Ponder: This child born to us is the King to end all kings. He will undo all that is wrong with this world; he will take away all the gloom to which we have grown accustomed. Why would we be waiting for anyone else?

Next Week: Next Sunday morning we will continue our sermon series *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* by considering **Jeremiah 23:1-6** 'Waiting with Jeremiah.'

