

Church of the Harvest (ARP)
Order of Worship
Sunday, December 1, 2024

Theme: The Promise of Christmas

We Gather to Worship God

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

James, Heidi, Titus, Noelle and Helena Parker

* CALL TO WORSHIP Romans 13:11-12
God calls us into His presence to connect with Him in worship.

Leader: You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

People: For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.

Leader: Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

People: Come, let us worship God.

* OPENING PRAYER
We respond to God's gracious invitation by asking Him to empower and receive our worship

* SONG OF PRAISE HG 231
God's people have always worshiped Him in song, and we join our voices with theirs to give Him praise as our Creator and Redeemer.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As we come into God's presence, we see ourselves as we are and at his invitation, we confess our sins individually and together.

(Unison) Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our

refusal to forgive. 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 respond as we should. 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.(Silent Confession) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDONING GRACE Psalm 85:9-13
God declares that all who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are completely forgiven from the guilt and shame of all their sins.

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps. In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come. Thanks be to God!

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS
In gratitude to God, we give back a portion of what he has entrusted to us for the work of His kingdom.

* DOXOLOGY
We celebrate what God has done, giving Him all the credit for it.

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE
We express our hearts to God on behalf of God's people for grace and mercy especially for the hurting, needy, and broken.

(Unison) **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.**

We Hear God's Word

SONG OF PREPARATION HG 238

We worship God in song as we prepare our hearts to hear His Word.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 3:15 (ESV)
The early church treasured the communal reading of Scripture. Rooted in this tradition we publicly read a portion of His Word.

MESSAGE Rev. Ken Bush
God has ordained the preaching of the Bible to be the chief means of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

"The First Promise of Christmas"

We Respond to God's Call

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Our World Belongs to God*
We affirm our faith about what we have heard from His Word by reciting from Scripture or one of the confessions of His church.

God remembered his promise to reconcile the world to himself; he has come among us in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word made flesh. He is the long-awaited Savior, fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Spirit of God and born of the virgin Mary.

SONG OF COMMUNION REFLECTION HG 216
We reflect on the meaning of the Lord's Table in song

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

LORD'S SUPPER

We welcome all baptized Christians who trust in Jesus for salvation and who are members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel to take the Lord's Supper with us.

The tinted cups in the center are grape juice and the clear cups around the outside contain Port wine.

Announcements

* SONG OF RESPONSE

HG 224

We respond to God in song as we prepare our hearts to go out into the world on His behalf.

Joy to the World

We Depart to Serve God

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

We depart with and challenge and a final “good word” as reminders of the grace given to us in the Gospel.

* THREE-FOLD AMEN

* Please Stand.

Tithes and Offerings: If you have tithes and offerings that you wish to give to the Lord as a part of your worship, please place them in the basket located on the Welcome Table.



Fellowship Meal: Mark your calendars. Our December Fellowship Meal is scheduled for December 8th after the service.

Website: churchoftheharvestarp.org



We appreciate that you took the time to visit and join us for worship.

Reflections on Genesis 3:15

The First Promise of Christmas

Because God is in control, nothing could prevent the birth of that promised head-crusher of the serpent, Jesus of Nazareth. Because God is in control, nothing could prevent the perfect life that He lived. Because God is in control, nothing could prevent His triumph on the cross, when He bruised the serpent’s head. And because God is in control, nothing can prevent the coming age when the serpent is totally defeated and God’s great reversal is complete.

The baby in the manger at Christmas is the “he” of Genesis 3:15. We can rest in the reality that Jesus was, is, and always will be in control. We can remember that He will one day gather all who are His own and usher us into a new Eden. We can enjoy looking forward to the day when He will give to each of His people the privilege of enjoying eternal life with no sin, no sorrow, no sickness, no bitterness, no family divisions, no political wrangling—just never-ending beauty as we enjoy perfect communion with our Creator.

– Alistair Begg, *Let Earth Receive Her King*