
The Worship of God

December 22, 2024 • 11:00 AM



Third Baptist Church

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Please use this opportunity to silence all cell phones and other noise-making devices.

** = Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

Lansin Lim Kimler

Sasha Johnson Manning: December

The culmination of her sequence (“A Year At Third”) of monthly tributes to Third Baptist Church, here is an extemporization upon that great hymn of Advent, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” Last week we heard how Sasha (b. 1963) included it in her instrumental “Christmas Rhapsody,” but here is a different interpretation of the melody.

Introit

Choir

arr. Martin Shaw: People, Look East

Born into a highly artistic family, Shaw (1875 – 1958) studied with Stanford at the Royal College of Music, and was subsequently much involved with the stage, including accompanying the celebrated dancer, Isadora Duncan. A lifelong Anglican – he played the organ at several London churches – as a composer Shaw was particularly drawn to religious music, and he was instrumental in founding societies dedicated to nurturing hymns. Here he borrowed a tune from the Besançon region of France to enliven words by Eleanor Farjeon, a member of a prominent British literary family.

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Welcome
(concluding)

Sharie Krueger

Leader: So, we invite you to greet one another either here, or online by reaching out in the Chat or through a text or email. And we will conclude this Welcome in our traditional way with the Doxology.

***Passing the Peace of Christ and Doxology #815**

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.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Smithers Family

*Hymn of Affirmation

O Come, Thou Wisdom

VENI EMMANUEL

In 1916 the great American minister and theologian Henry Sloane Coffin (1877 – 1953), added his own stanzas to the traditional sequence sung in Advent. We sing these words to the music in our hymnal at #245.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Poem

Dr. Tommy Simons

Malcolm Guite: O Emmanuel

In the days immediately preceding the Nativity, it is traditional to recite seven antiphons which begin with a different title for Jesus. The British poet Malcolm Guite (b. 1957) here combines them into a new, and final, sonnet for Advent.

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us
O long-sought With-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

Offertory Meditation

Brent Johnson

Eva-Maria Houben: Nun komm der Heiden Heiland

Martin Luther adapted his great hymn of Advent – “Now come, Savior of the Nations” – to the melody created by St. Ambrose for the Latin original. Here, the German composer Eva-Maria Houben (b. 1955) gives it her distinctive treatment, representative of the style she developed through her career as a performer and teacher (at Dortmund University).

Responsorial Psalm

Third Baptist Youth

Psalm 96:1-4, 11-13

Leader: Sing a new song to the Lord!

People: Sing to the Lord, all the world!

Leader: Sing to the Lord and praise him!

People: Proclaim every day the good news that he has saved us.

Leader: Proclaim his glory to the nations,

People: his mighty deeds to all peoples.

Leader: The Lord is great and is to be highly praised;

People: he is to be honored more than all the gods.

Leader: Be glad, earth and sky!

People: Roar, O sea, and every creature in you;

Leader: be glad, fields, and everything in you!

People: The trees in the woods will shout for joy

Leader: when the Lord comes to rule the earth.

People: He will rule the peoples of the world with justice and fairness.

Michael Praetorius: Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming (Hymn #255)

For all his prolific writing – he composed more than a thousand pieces for the church – and undoubted flair for polyphony and complex scoring, this simple chorale is Michael Praetorius's towering achievement, a melody so beloved that it is found in virtually every hymnal regardless of denomination. Michael spent most of his career in service to the dukes of Brunswick in Wolfenbüttel, but in 1609 he moved south to Dresden, where he worked for the Elector of Saxony.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming,
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
as men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it,
the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to men a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender,
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death He saves us
and lightens every load.

Scripture

Kaelyn Smithers

Genesis 1:1

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Dr. Tommy Simons

Journey to the Manger: In the Beginning God...

*Hymn of Invitation & Declaration

#241: Arise, Shine (sung twice)

ARISE SHINE

Based on Isaiah 60: 1, this praise song was written by the Californian musician, Steve Urspringer (b. 1953), in the early 1980s.

Arise, shine, for thy Light is come.
Arise, shine, for thy Light is come:
And the glory of the Lord is risen,
The glory of the Lord is come,
The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Benediction

Dr. Tommy Simons

Postlude

Lansin Lim Kimler

Dan Chadburn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Dan Chadburn (b. 1959) has enjoyed a very varied career, growing up in Oregon and studying initially at Pacific Lutheran University. Then, working in the Contemporary Christian genre of composition, he made several national tours as a performer before moving to Los Angeles, where he studied at UCLA and worked in the TV and movie industry. After some success in this field, he moved to England for graduate studies in electroacoustic composition at London's City University. He now lives in Washington, D.C., where he specializes in New Age composition: this arrangement of "Veni Emmanuel" he made in 2013 for his album, "Whispers the Falling Snow."

NOTE:

Please consider attending this afternoon's concert by the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus that features several members of our choir. At 3 pm in the historic church of All Saints, St. Peters, the Chorus, led by Philip Barnes, will present a selection of carols written expressly for them over the past three decades. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door.

Prayer List

Nursing care and rehab facilities

Juanita Wallis, Cape Albeon, Valley Park, MO

Margaret Warman, Delmar Gardens of Chesterfield, Chesterfield, MO

Prayer Requests

Harold Beasley

Karen Deitte

Robin Dietrich

Jersey Dukes

Nancy Furgerson

Laverne Graham

Alisa Guider

Judith Hawk

Glenn Jefferies

Peggy Hemphill

Rob Lamb

Anna Littlejohn

Erica Littlejohn

Mattie Littlejohn

Shelia McMunn

Bobby Murray

Declan Rutan

Sudha Sanjay

Myrna Shelton and Family

Charita Tyus

Please send updates, addition or edits to this list via email to Sally, Ella or Pastor Tommy (sallyoando@att.net, ebanks@third-baptist.org, tsimons@third-baptist.org)

If you're a visitor today, we want to meet you! Please fill out a visitor card and leave it in the offering plate or use the QR code below to connect with Third Baptist online.



Calendar for December 22 – 29

Sunday, December 22

- 9:30 AM Doughnut Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 AM Sunday School, Various
- 11:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary and online via Facebook and YouTube
- 12:00 PM Fellowship, Pillsbury Threshold

Tuesday, December 24

- 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary and online via Facebook and YouTube

Wednesday, December 25 – Friday, December 27

Christmas Holiday – Church Offices Closed

Sunday, December 29

- 9:30 AM Doughnut Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 AM Sunday School, Various
- 11:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary and online via Facebook and YouTube
- 11:00 AM Godly Play
- 12:00 PM Fellowship, Pillsbury Threshold

Pastoral and Music Staff

Dr. Tommy Simons, Pastor

Rev. Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

Dr. Philip Barnes, Director of Music

Brent Johnson, Organist

Lansin Lim Kimler, Pianist

