



**Covenant Church
Presbyterian Church in America
Fayetteville, Arkansas**

**CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
THE LORD'S DAY
December 3, 2023
10:30 a.m.**

Welcome & Announcements

The annual Christmas women's gathering this year will be Monday, December 4th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Please bring a finger food to share and if you would like, something to add to our silent auction. Money raised will be donated to the Mission to North America ESL Curriculum Project. We will meet in the church sanctuary this year! There will be food, singing, a devotion and a wonderful time of fellowship. This is a great opportunity to invite or bring a friend to this festive event!

Please join us for our Holiday Fellowship meal on December 10th.

Ladies, please join us in celebrating with Katie and Robert Welsch who welcomed their beautiful baby girl, Leigha Bea on September 21st. There will be a Baby Shower on December 16th at 2PM here at Covenant to celebrate this blessing. Please RSVP to Madison Taylor by December 10th.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for our annual Lessons & Carols Worship Service Sunday December 17th at 5:00 p.m.

Ladies, please see Jan House if you are interested in signing up to help in the nursery 1-2 times in the spring semester. You can also email the church office for more details.

† Call to Worship

Psalm 24:7-10

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory! *Selah*

† Invocation & Lord's Prayer

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.

† Hymn of Praise

#297 (TH#198)

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!"

Confession of Sin

Psalm 51:1-4

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 53:5-6

But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

† Hymn of Assurance

#293 (TH #194)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

† **Confession of Faith**

Westminster Larger Catechism, 159–160

Q. 159. How is the Word of God to be preached by those that are called thereunto?

A. They that are called to labor in the ministry of the word, are to preach sound doctrine, diligently, in season and out of season; plainly, not in the enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit, and of power; faithfully, making known the whole counsel of God; wisely, applying themselves to the necessities and capacities of the hearers; zealously, with fervent love to God and the souls of His people; sincerely, aiming at His glory, and their conversion, edification, and salvation.

Q. 160. What is required of those that hear the word preached?

A. It is required of those that hear the word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer items from Missionary Partner David Zadok:

- 1) For the release of hostages and missing.
- 2) Thursday another believer soldiers from a church in the North was killed- making the third believer since beginning of the war.
- 3) For Amitay A. from believing family who was severely injured in Gaza last week- both legs have been amputated, he is unconscious with severe infection, and danger to life his left eye.
- 4) for the evacuates from North and south and those from our congregation.
- 5) for end of war
- 6) and that both our people and Palestinians would recognize and acknowledge the Prince of peace.

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 12:9-12
Pew Bible page number 559

Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth. The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. My son, beware of

anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Jay Bruce

“The Words of the Shepherd”

Worship with Tithes & Offerings

† **Doxology**

“Doxology”

#567 (TH #731)

† Prayer of Dedication

† **Hymn of Preparation**

#292 (TH #193)

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

† **Closing Hymn**

#300 (TH #196)

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

† Benediction

SERMON OUTLINE
December 3, 2023
10:30 a.m.

Ecclesiastes 12:9-12
“The Words of the Shepherd”

Introduction

I. True (vv. 9–10)

II. Useful (v. 11)

III. Few (v. 12)

Conclusion

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!



1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold the
 2. A help - er just, he comes to thee, his char - iot
 3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
 4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is
 Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for



draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.
 hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.



5. Redeemer, come! I open wide
 my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
 Let me thy inner presence feel;
 thy grace and love in me reveal.

6. So come, my Sov'reign, enter in!
 Let new and nobler life begin!
 Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
 until the glorious crown be won.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

293

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on
 3. O come, thou rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
 4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy
 5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
 Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law
 • tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,
 draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

Refrain
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 • and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Latin antiphons, 12th cent.

Latin hymn, 1710

Tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961

VENI EMMANUEL L.M.ref.

Plainsong, 13th cent.

Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856

Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all

crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:

praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Thomas Ken, 1674

OLD HUNDREDTH L.M.
Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Unison

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard
 4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to
 in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to
 from the realms of end - less day, that the pow'rs of
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
 all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
 hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

300

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day - spring from on high, ap - pear;
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
 by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
 Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

St. 1, 4, Charles Wesley, 1744

St. 2 - 3, Mark E. Hunt, 1978

Text of stanzas 2 and 3 © 1978 InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.

Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1830