



## **We Approach God**

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\*Hymn of Praise

“O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful”

#119

**O thou joyful, O thou wonderful grace revealing Christmastide!**

**Jesus came to win us from all sin within us:**

**Glorify the holy child!**

**O thou joyful, O thou wonderful love revealing Christmastide!**

**Loud hosannas singing and all praises bringing:**

**Glorify the holy child!**

**O thou joyful, O thou wonderful peace revealing Christmastide!**

**Darkness disappearing, God’s own light now nearing:**

**Glorify the holy child!**

Children’s Blessing

Kayely Rich

Gift of Music

“Light the Advent Candle”  
(Ruth Elaine Schram)

Sanctuary Choir

*Here are the words for those who would like to follow along:*

As we light the Advent candle with the light of hope burning bright,

Faithfully we wait for his coming; faithfully it shines through the night.

In our humble hearts a fire burns as well; hear the prayer these flames would tell. (2x)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

Hear the humble prayer these flames would tell: Come, O come, Emmanuel.

Confession of Sin

Richard Hovey

Assurance of Pardon

## **We Listen to God**

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\*Hymn of Approach

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

#118

**Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!**

**O ye heights of heav'n adore him, angel hosts his praises sing,  
Pow'rs, dominions bow before him, and extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore!**

**Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore!**

Scripture Reader

Carmen Orthner

Epistle lesson: Romans 13:11-14

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 50:1-6

Leader: The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**All: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

Leader: Our God comes and does not keep silence, before God is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around.

**All: God calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:**

Leader: “Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

**All: The heavens declare God’s righteousness, for God is the judge.**

**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.**

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21:1-13

Sermon

“The Soul’s Black Market”

Joel Russell-MacLean

## **We Celebrate**

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\*Hymn of Preparation

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#92

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav’n, to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.  
Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev’ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev’ry troubled breast.  
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav’n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise!**

**All: Richard, God called you to be our pastor: to preach and to teach the Gospel, to baptize and to lead the Lord's Supper, to visit and to pray. You have comforted us, encouraged us, and strengthened us. We have been changed for the better through your ministry.**

Richard: People of First Baptist, the Lord called me to serve in this place. Now God has seen fit to lead me on. I am thankful for the time God has given us together. Forgive me for the mistakes I have made and for the times I have fallen short as your minister.

**All: We forgive you. We ask for your forgiveness for our mistakes and for the times we fell short in our communion with you.**

Richard: Thank you for the love and support you have shown me and my family while I have ministered among you. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I transition to what is ahead, I carry with me all that I have learned among you. The Holy Spirit brought us together, and my life has been changed.

**All: We are grateful for your service among us. Your influence on our faith and lives will continue. We release you to what God has in store for you.**

Richard: I release you from turning to me as your pastor. I trust all the good we accomplished together for God's glory will endure. I will pray for you and for your ministers. May God continue to bless this ministry and this place to belong.

**All: The Lord be with you.**

Richard: And also with you.

Prayer for Richard Hovey

Prayers of the People

Joel Russell-MacLean

The Lord's Prayer

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Our Gifts and Offerings

Joel Russell-MacLean

Gift of Music

“I Worship You”  
(Cindy Berry)

Sanctuary Choir

*Here are the words for those who would like to follow along:*

Here am I, holy Lord, seeking now your face,  
Thankful for Your grace, as I worship you.

Here am I, holy Lord, in this quiet hour.

By your Spirit's pow'r, cleanse my heart anew.

O Lamb of God, the One that I adore,

I long to sing your praise forevermore.

I worship you with songs of praise; in you alone my heart rejoices

Accept this offering of love. O God above, I worship you.

Search my heart; know my thoughts,

Lead me in your ways, as I seek to praise and magnify your name.

Mighty King, Lord of all, I stand in awe of you.

Faithful just and true, you're evermore the same.

O Righteous One, who knows my heart and mind,

In you alone a blessed peace I find as...

I worship you with songs of praise; in you alone my heart rejoices

Accept this offering of love. O God above, I worship you. (2x)

O God above, I worship you.

\*Hymn for Departing

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#123, v.1

**O come, O come, Immanuel, 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.**

\*Benediction

Joel Russell-MacLean

Music for Departing

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts  
(Saint-Saens, from his Christmas Oratorio)

Mark Anderson

For those of you on Zoom, after the Music for Departing, a few smaller breakout groups will be formed. There is no obligation to stay if you need to be going. If you wish to take part, simply remain on Zoom to be invited to a group and hear how others are doing.