

Where Advent Begins by Jan Richardson

Round Hill Community Church
November 28, 2021

ORDER OF SERVICE
November 28, 2021 — First Sunday of Advent

A Time for Centering: We use this time to make the transition between “getting here” and “being here.” Take these few minutes of quiet time to get in touch with the calm places, the still, deep places in you; the spirit. Relax your body, quiet the inner dialogue of your mind. Focus on feeling, on being. Be receptive to your center - your reservoir of inner peace, strength, love. Be aware of being with others. Feel the spirit of community.

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

W. Wold

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Comfort, Comfort You My People

L. Borgeois

*Comfort, comfort you my people, tell of peace, thus says our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load.*

*Speak you to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

All: The time of pregnant expectation of new life.

Leader: Now is the season of hope unfolding.

All: The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.

Leader: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

All: May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior! Rejoice! God comes to bring the birthday of life and hope.

OPENING PRAYER

God our deliverer, whose approaching birth still shakes the foundations of our world, may we so wait for your coming with eagerness and hope that we embrace without terror the labor pangs of the new age, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

*The congregation is invited to stand

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, forever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN 119** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verses 1 and 3

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Ed and Susan Horstmann

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promises I have made.

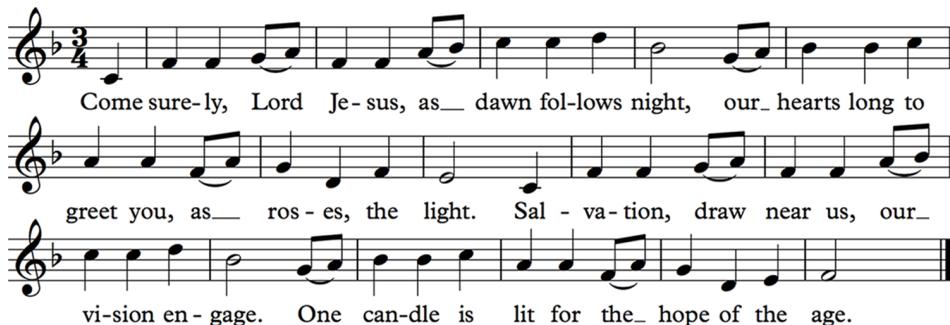
All: **To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls: in you, O God, we trust.**

Leader: The one who is coming will show us the path of steadfast love and faithfulness.

All: **Teach us your ways, O God of our salvation. We light this candle in the sure hope that God's promises endure.**

HYMN

One Candle is Lit



Come sure-ly, Lord Je-sus, as_ dawn fol-lows night, our_ hearts long to
greet you, as_ ros-es, the light. Sal - va-tion, draw near us, our_
vi-sion en - gage. One can-dle is lit for the_ hope of the age.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

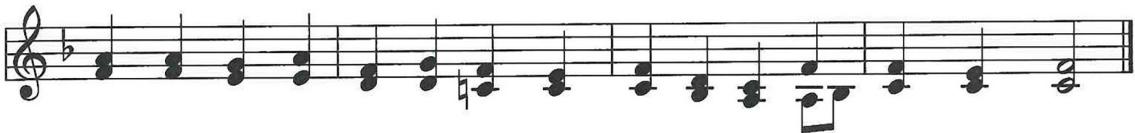
Cameron Mitchell Chiamonte

Son of Melissa and Lawrence Chiamonte
and
Godchild of Christina Chiamonte

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise, verses 1 and 2



1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap - tized with the Spir-it's sign;
2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in-deed!
3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.
4 Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 13:24-27, 32-37

New Revised Standard Version

“But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the

earth to the ends of heaven.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

MEDITATION

The Blessed Intruder

The Rev. Dr. Ed Horstmann

INVITATION TO OFFERING

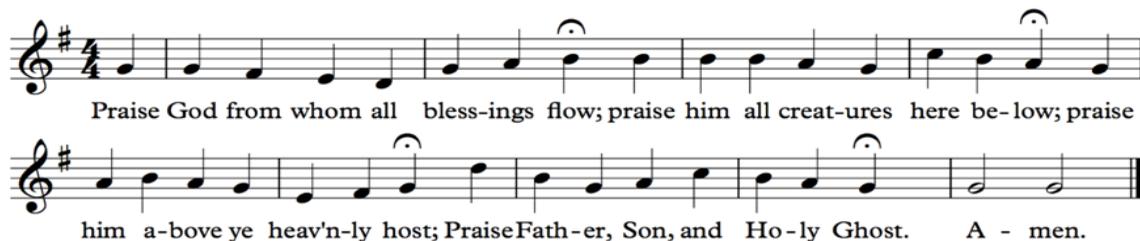
OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*

arr. M. Schweizer

*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 flower 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.*

***Doxology** (*Please wear your masks while singing hymns*)



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him all creat-ures here be-low; praise
him a-bove ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fath-er, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A - men.

***Hymn**

My Country Tis of Thee (verse 4)
(Please wear your masks while singing hymns)

Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing; long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by thy might, Great God, our King.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Remembrance

Leader: O God of majesty and mercy, we bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. You have set us in the world to love and serve you, and to live in peace with your whole creation. We remember your covenant with our ancestors in the faith, the prophets you sent to call us back to your way, and how, in the fullness of time, out of your great love for the world, you sent your beloved son to be one of us, to redeem us, to heal us, and to form us anew to be your people in the world.

Prayer of Consecration

Leader: Gracious God, may the bread we break and the cup we bless become for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be united with all your people in every time and place.

Prayers of the People

Communion Anthem

Ave Maria

C. Gounod

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus [Christ].
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Leader: Jesus, on the night when he was delivered over to death, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said: "This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me."

Congregation partakes of the bread of life together.

Leader: In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me."

Congregation partakes of the cup of hope together.

All: God of grace and compassion, remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ. As you raised Jesus from death and call us with him from death to life, may we bear witness to your resurrection power, alive and at large in our world.

CHURCH PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father, shed forth thy blessed spirit upon all our lives. Make each one of us an instrument in thy hands for good. Purify our hearts, strengthen our minds and bodies, fill us with Christian love. Let no pride, no self-conceit, no rivalry, no ill will ever spring up among us. Make us earnest and true, wise and prudent, giving no just cause for offense; and may thy holy peace rest upon us this day and every day throughout the coming week, sweetening our trials, cheering us in our work, and keeping us faithful to the end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Comfort, Comfort You My People

L. Borgeois

*Hark, the herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near,
bidding us to make repentance since the reign of God is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down to greeting.*

POSTLUDE

Comfort, Comfort

W. Wold

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO ...

Today at 5 p.m., Advent Family Workshop — Join us in the Community House to celebrate the start of the Advent season!

- Make an Advent wreath for your family to bring home
- Decorate ornaments
- Fireside storytime
- Hot Cocoa Bar
- Caroling and tree lighting
- RHCC Children's Ministry's baked goods sale

Admission is \$25/group and groups can be family units, friends, work colleagues, neighbors; ALL are welcome! If you don't have your own "group" we'll be happy to find one for

you! All proceeds from this event will help us meet our goal to “Fill the Ark” for Heifer International. See details below.

Gift Ark for Heifer International — This Advent season, RHCC is endeavoring to raise \$5000 for a “Gift Ark” through Heifer International. A Gift Ark includes a pair of water buffalo, cows, sheep, and goats, as well as bees, chicks, rabbits, and more. It can provide entire communities with milk, eggs, honey, and wool, boosting both nutrition and income. These animals will become life-changing gifts for families around the world.

In the spirit of giving, we encourage all our members and friends to consider supporting transformational change from the ground up by making a donation of any size in honor or in memory of someone dear, or just because it feels good to inspire change, create opportunity, and provide hope for those in need.

Proceeds from today’s Advent Workshop will be allocated towards the Gift Ark. We will have an “Ark Tree” set up in the Parlor beginning next Sunday, December 5. The Ark Tree will take the place of our traditional Angel Tree; anyone interested in supporting the Gift Ark can remove a tag from the tree with the animal of their choice and bring or send a check to the Church office.

Sunday, December 12 at 10 a.m., Christmas Pageant — We are pleased to announce that the annual Christmas Pageant will be back in the Sanctuary this year! The Children’s Ministry team is in the early phases of planning a production that will be both memorable and safe for everyone. If your child(-ren) or grandchild(-ren) would like to participate, please email Tania Priatka or Lizzie Cid at children@roundhillcommunitychurch.org.



Senior Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Edward G. Horstmann
Interim Pastoral Associate: The Rev. Shannon White
Director of Music: Leslie Smith
Children’s Ministry: Tania Priatka and Lizzie Cid
Round Hill Community Church
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