

Second Sunday in Advent
December 4, 2022



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FRESNO
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent,
Guest Preaching

Second Sunday in Advent

December 4, 2022

“Calm and Bright: Peace”

Prelude “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” - arr. Rodriguez Scott Horton, piano

“Variations on Veni Emmanuel” - L. Dengler

Welcome Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent

Threshold Introit “One Candle Is Lit” (Cradle Song Away in the Manger) Congregation and Chancel Choir

***Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace***

Lighting the Second Candle - PEACE Dan, Melissa, Wyatt, and Elsa Stephensen

L: Fire burns. It hurts. It can destroy. Fire also gives warmth and light. The coming of Christ is both a day of judgment and a day of promise.

ALL: ***Two candles, flickering brightly, help us remember that the coming of Christ has many meanings.***

L: “Mercy and justice will meet; hope and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.”

[The first two candles are lit.]

L: Two candles; see them glow brightly, so that all may know how an honest yearning for peace can show us a way in making our darkness bright as God’s day.

ALL: ***Fill us here, Holy Presence, with your Peace and light, to make the world so calm and bright.***

***Hymn** “Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old” #108, pew hymnal

Unison Advent Collect Peter Wall and Elsa Stephensen, Liturgists

Come, Lord, Jesus- our choicest gift, our dearest guest: Let not our hearts be crowded rooms that have no space for you, but a quiet home of prayer and praise; where the cares of life are put aside and wide, sweet spaces are left for you as we prepare to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child embracing the earth with glory and being for us a vital Peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem

“A Shoot Shall Come Forth” - R. Horn

Chancel Choir

Children’s Time for Discovery Colors of Advent – **Brown**

***Draw the circle wide; draw it wider still. Let this be our song-
no one stands alone standing side by side, draw the circle wide.***

Gordon Light, ©1994 Common Cup Company

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- When invited, all in the sanctuary may bring forward your strip of brown cloth to place in the manger-

Today’s Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 11:1-11 and Matthew 25:34-40

Communion (*Ours is a table open to anyone seeking communion in Christ and/or with one another*)

The Invitation & Lord’s Prayer (*debts/debtors*) :: The Blessing :: The Sharing

Unison Thanksgiving

***Holy and Abiding Presence of God, by the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Life, you
make us one body. Bind us together by your Spirit that we might live into your hopes
for us, a community centered in the Peace of Christ and rich in compassion,
commitment, courage, and care. Amen.***

*Hymn

“O Day of God Draw Near ”

#611, pew hymnal

Prompting

“Seeking the Face of Christ in Christmas Peace”

Rev. Dr. Broadbent

Sung Invitation to Prayer

***Lord, listen to your children praying;
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying:
send us love, send us power, send us grace.***

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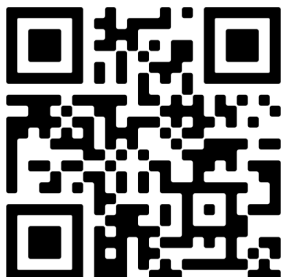
Church at Prayer

(Prayers of Concern, Pastoral Prayer)

Rev. Dr. Broadbent

Invitation to Offering

Peter Wall, Liturgist



Here at the Big Red Church, everyone counts, and every gift counts!

- ⇒ *There are two donation boxes and giving envelopes for your gifts in the Narthex (the area where an usher handed you an Order of Worship).*
- ⇒ *You can also give through the Givelify App by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera.*
- ⇒ *BigRedChurch.org/Giving/ has more instructions, links, and information about giving to the church. Thank you for supporting and joining in the ministry of this church.*

Chancel Choir

We Go Out to Love and Serve the World

This Week at Big Red

Monday December 5

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Tuesday, December 6

♦

Wednesday December 7

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1
- ♦ 6:00pm: Handbell rehearsal - Music Room
- ♦ 7:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday December 8

♦

Friday December 9

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

Saturday December 10

♦

Sunday December 11

- ♦ 09:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 03:00pm: Celebration of Christmas Concert—Sanctuary

Today is the day, ADVENT FAMILY TIME!



Please join us for

Advent Family TIME

Big Red Church
December 4, 2022
Fellowship Hall
following worship

There will be crafts
and carols and
refreshments



Next Sunday is going to be as musical fun



A Celebration of Christmas

*Sunday, December 11th
3:00 p.m.*

*Featuring the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir
& Musicians of First Congregational Church*

First Congregational Church of Fresno

"The Big Red Church"

2131 N. Van Ness Boulevard
Fresno, CA 93704

559.227.8489

Free Concert - Free-will offering will benefit the Casavant Pipe Organ Fund

First Congregational Church of Fresno

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA 93704 | (559) 227-8489

Office Hours: Monday – Friday

9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Guest Preaching

Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent

Music Director/Organist

Scott Horton

Caretaker/ Event Coordinator

Pat Morales

Accountant

Penny Leas Peterson

Office Administrator

Kymberly Lindsey

Office@bigredchurch.org

Custodian

Gregory Chavarria

Technicians

Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

Assisting in Today's Service

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Peter Wall & Elsa Stephensen

Advent Candle Lighters: Dan, Melissa, Wyatt & Elsa Stephensen

Ushers: Bruce Owdom, Bob McParland & Sue Karibian

Technician: Brad Jenkins

Coffee Hour: Congregation

FCCF Open and Affirming Statement

We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, race, age and gender.

As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation. We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.

Isa. 11:6-9; 55:10-13

Joy F. Patterson, 1982; rev. 1993

Am7 Bm7 Em sus4 Em Em

1 I - sa - iah the proph-et has
 2 The moun-tains and hills shall break
 3 Yet na - tions still prey on the
 4 God, bring to fru - i - tion your

D Em Em Am G Bm Em

writ-ten of old how God's new cre - a - tion shall come. In - stead of the
 forth in - to song, the peo - ples be led forth in peace; The earth shall be
 meek of the world, and con - flict turns par-ent from child. Your peo - ple de -
 will for the earth, that no one shall hurt or de - stroy, That wis - dom and

Bm7 C Em/G D

thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the
 filled with the knowl-edge of God as the wa - ters cov - er the
 spoil all the sweet-ness of earth; the brier and the thorn tree grow
 jus - tice shall reign in the land and your peo - ple shall go forth in

C D Em Am7 Bm7 Em

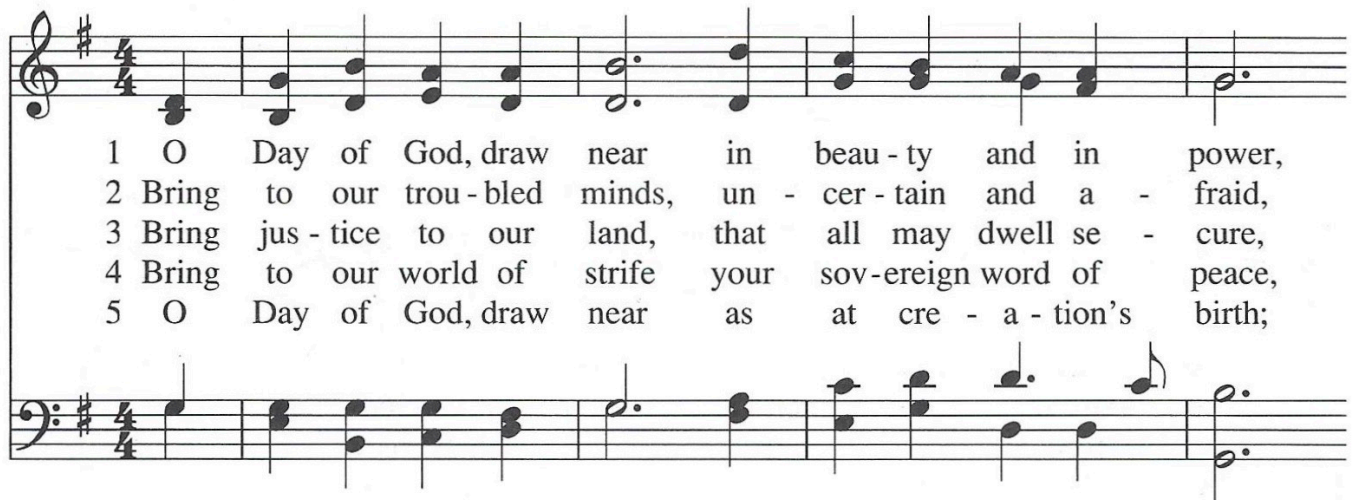
lamb, the lamb, the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
 sea, the sea, as the wa - ters cov - er the sea.
 wild, grow wild, the brier and the thorn tree grow wild.
 joy, in joy, your peo - ple shall go forth in joy.

O Day of God, Draw Near

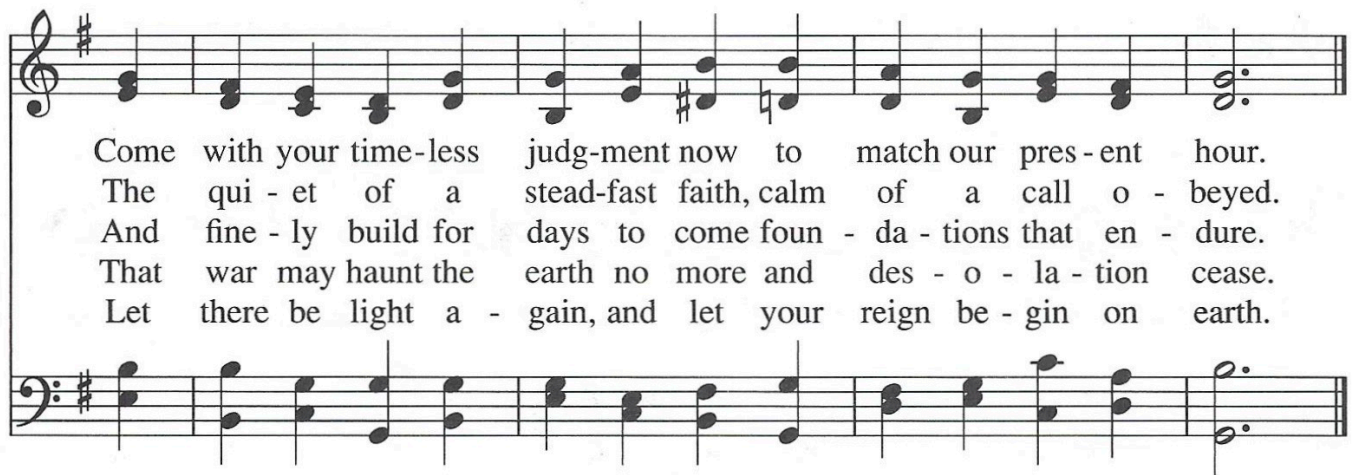
611

R. B. Y. Scott, 1937; alt.

Ps. 105:7; 2 Pet. 3:8-15



1 O Day of God, draw near in beau - ty and in power,
2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid,
3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure,
4 Bring to our world of strife your sov - ereign word of peace,
5 O Day of God, draw near as at cre - a - tion's birth;



Come with your time-less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.
The qui - et of a stead-fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
And fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
That war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
Let there be light a - gain, and let your reign be - gin on earth.

R. B. Y. Scott was a theologian, Old Testament scholar, and social reformer who taught at McGill University, Montreal, and at Princeton University. A minister in the United Church of Canada, he wrote this text in 1937 for the Fellowship for a Christian Social Order.

Tune: ST. MICHAEL S.M.
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551
Adapt. William Crotch, 1836

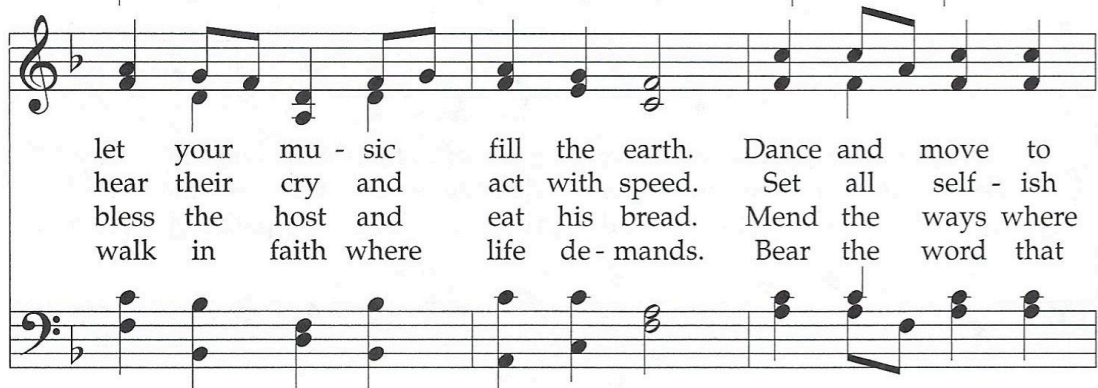
136 Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming



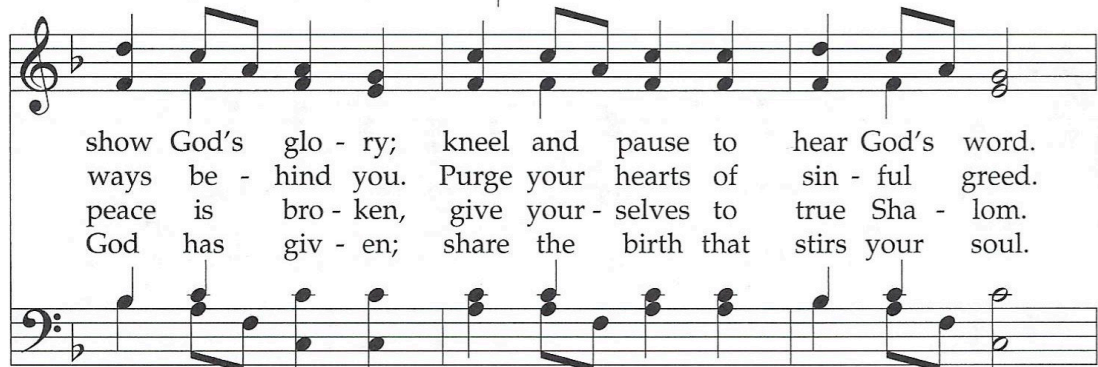
1. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, draw-ing near in
 2. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, call-ing you to
 3. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, he will rise up
 4. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, hope for peace is



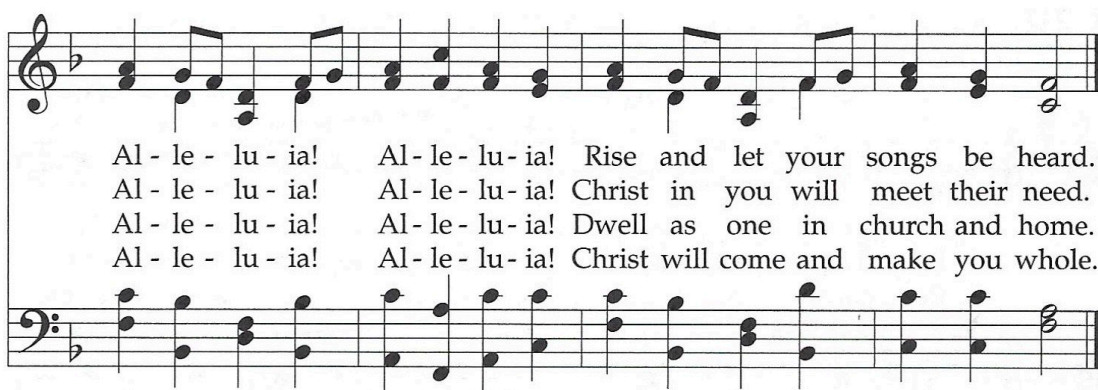
ho - ly birth. Ring the bells and sound the trum-pets,
 serve in deed. See the ones who hurt and suf - fer,
 from the dead. Lift the cup, of sin for - giv - en;
 now at hand. Let there be no hes - i - ta - tion,



let your mu - sic fill the earth. Dance and move to
 hear their cry and act with speed. Set all self - ish
 bless the host and eat his bread. Mend the ways where
 walk in faith where life de-mands. Bear the word that



show God's glo - ry; kneel and pause to hear God's word.
 ways be - hind you. Purge your hearts of sin - ful greed.
 peace is bro - ken, give your - selves to true Sha - lom.
 God has giv - en; share the birth that stirs your soul.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and let your songs be heard.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ in you will meet their need.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dwell as one in church and home.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ will come and make you whole.