

Come, O Light Divine

Temple Baptist Church, December 15, 1996

PRELUDE

UNISON PRAYER

SILENT PREPARATION

Holy Infant,
Son of God,
Love's pure Light,
Come, O Light Divine.
Amen.

Wondering

"Where are you, God?"
Psalm 22

Wilt thou not visit me?

*The plant beside me feels thy gentle dew,
And every blade of grass I see*

From thy deep earth its quickening moisture drew.

1. All

Come, Thou Almighty King
Help us Thy name to sing
Help us to praise
Creator glorious
O'er all victorious
Come, and reign over us
Ancient of Days

2. All

Come, Thou Incarnate Word
Gird on Thy mighty sword
Our prayer attend
Come, and Thy people bless
And give Thy word success
Spirit of holiness
On us descend

3. Choir

Come, Holy Comforter
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour
Thou who almighty art
Now rule in every heart
And ne'er from us depart
Spirit of pow'r

4. All

To Thee, great Liberty, Eternal praises be Hence, evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty May we in glory see, And to eternity Love and adore!

Inviting

"I need you."
Mark 5

Wilt thou not visit me?

*Thy morning calls on me with cheering tone;
And every hill and tree*

Lend but one voice--the voice of thee alone.

Thus says the Lord of hosts

"Put me to the proof
and see if I do not open
the windows of the sky
and pour a blessing on you
as long as there is need."

The Lord sent word for Malachi
to say that windows of the sky
would open to pour blessing out
as long as there was need,

The glory of the Lord shown round
some simple shepherds on the ground
The windows opened Christ was born
because of earth's great need

O Christ, make all our windows bright
to show God's glory in earth's night
and through our windows
share your love
as long as there is need

UNISON PRAYER

Lord of hosts,
because of earth's great need,
through our windows
share your love.
Come, O Light Divine.
Amen.

Preparing

*"Help me be strong."
I Corinthians 10*

*Come, for I need thy love,
More than the flower the dew or grass the rain;
Come, gently as thy holy dove;
And let me in thy sight rejoice to live again.*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing earthly minded
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth
Our full homage to demand

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away

King of kings, yet born of Mary
As of old on earth He stood
Lord of lords, in human vesture
In the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food

At his feet the six-winged Seraph
Cherubim, with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry
Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Lord most high!

UNISON PRAYER
Light of light,
Descend to us,
That the darkness clears away.
Come, O Light Divine.
Amen.

Watching

*"I feel God watching now."
John 17*

*I will not hide from them
When thy storms come, though fierce may be their wrath,
But bow with leafy stem,
And strengthened follow on thy chosen path.*

1. Choir
Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find out rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear Desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

2. All
Breathe, O breathe thy loving spirit
Into every troubled breast
Let us all in thee inherit
Let us find thy promised rest
Take away the love of sinning
Alpha and Omega be
End of faith, as its beginning
Set our hearts at liberty

3. All
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 every trembling heart

Receiving

*"Do you know the miracles and wonders of the night sky?"
Luke 2*

O sheep in meadow raise your head
To see the Lord in infant bed
Make soft and warm the places cold
Enfold the Child in the manger

Alleluia, everybody sing
To the Lord on high and Savior King
Alleluia, everybody cheer
For Lord on high is a Baby here

Noel, my Jesus

O child go singing through the earth
O sister, brother, praise the birth
With heart and eyes behold the Child
So mild within the manger

O lamb go skipping in the night
With the star and angels your delight
O shepherd run with nimble feet
To greet the One in the manger

We greet You in the manger!

Rejoicing

Make we joy now in this feast
in quo Christus natus est
Eya, eya, eya, eya!
A Patre unigenitus
through a maiden is come to us
Sing we of him and say, "welcome, welcome
Veni Redemptor genitum."
For he is born, for he is born, O joy!

1. All

It came upon a midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all
From heav'n's all-gracious King"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

2. All

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

3. Choir

And ye, beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

4. All

For lo, the days are hast'ning on
By prophet seen of old
When, with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its heavenly splendors fling
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing

ADVENT CANDLES

OFFERING

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to all

I thought how, as the day had come
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to all

And in despair I bowed my head
"There is no peace on earth," I said
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to all."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep
"God is not dead nor doth God sleep
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, good will to all"

Believing

“With all my heart I tell you: love casts out fear.”

Matthew 24

Thee will I love, my strength, my tower
Thee will I love, my joy, my crown
Thee will I love with all my power
In all thy works, and Thee alone
Thee will I love till the pure fire
Fills all my soul with chaste desire

O keep me watchful, humble, pure
And from Thee never let me stray
Uphold me when I am unsure
And keep me faithful in Thy way
Grant all my powers, with all their might
In Thy sole glory may unite

Thee will I love, my life, my Lord
Thee will I love, my truest friend
Thee will I praise forevermore
And never shall Thy kindness end
I thank Thee, whose enliv'ning voice
Bids my freed heart in Thee rejoice

Thee will I love, my joy, my light
Thee will I love, my God and Lord
Thee will I love in darkest night
And not for hope of high reward
Thee shall I love, O light divine
So long as life, O God, is mine

UNISON PRAYER
My God and Lord,
My truest friend,
Keep me watchful, humble, pure,
And never let me stray;
Thee will I love, O Light Divine,
So long as life is mine.
Amen.

*“Remember, the spirit or breath of God is your parent. There is but one Spirit which all may breathe.
God’s spirit is our life. And there are many messengers.”*

UNISON PRAYER

Come, O Light Divine.
Visit me and set me free,
That my spirit may love with yours
In heavenly peace.
Amen.

*Yes, thou wilt visit me:
Nor plant nor tree thine eye delights so well,
As, when from sin set free,
My spirit loves with thine in peace to dwell.*

All

Lead on O King Eternal Till sin’s fierce war shall cease
And holiness shall whisper The sweet Amen of peace
For not with swords loud clashing Nor roll of stirring drums
With deeds of love and mercy The heav’nly kingdom comes

POSTLUDE

The Temple Baptist Choir

Christine Hazel, Conductor
Hila Dipman, Accompanist

Soprano
Bibi Brokering
Susan Fors
Sally Kuehn

Alto
Cheryl Winch

Tenor
Ben Dipman
Tim Korsmo
Rick Prescottt

Bass
Brett Dipman
Chad Dipman
Jim Slater

Readers
Rev. Michael Carey
Kate Ketcham

Flute
Anne Marie Mast

Oboe
Laura Nortwen

The readings for this service were excerpted from “I’m Thinking of You” written by Herbert Brokering and edited by Bibi Brokering.

Musical Selections (in order of appearance)

“The Prayer” Text: Jones Very (1813-1880); Music: Lowell Prescottt; © 1996, Lowell Prescottt, All rights reserved

“Windows of Blessing” Text: Tom Manton; Music: Jane Marshall; © MCMXCHII The Sacred Music Press, All rights reserved.

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Traditional; Arrangement: Lowell Prescottt; © 1996 Lowell Prescottt, All rights reserved.

“Noel, My Jesus” Text: Herbert Brokering; Music: Robert Wetzler; © 1986 A.M.S.I. All rights reserved.

“Make We Joy” Edwin Fissinger; © 1978 Walton Music Corporation, All rights reserved.

“I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day” Text: H. W. Longfellow (1807-1882); Music: Michael Larkin; © 1996 MorningStar Music Publishers, All rights reserved.

“Thee Will I Love” Text: Johann Scheffler, 1657; Music: Kenneth Jennings; © Kenneth Jennings, All rights reserved.