



ADVENT

A Season of Expectation

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE

December 1, 2021

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.*

WELCOME

Rev. John White

OPENING SENTENCES

Rev. John White

Leader: Our soul waits for the Lord;

People: *God is our help and shield.*

Leader: Our heart is glad in the Lord, because we trust in God's holy name.

People: *Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us even as we hope in you.*

PRELUDE

Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Held

Dr. Terry McRoberts

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Pauley + Reynolds Families

Leader: Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way.

People: *Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Leader: In darkness we lose direction. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going.

People: *Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Leader: A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again.

People: *Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Leader: Throughout our Advent journey, may this light shine brightly as the days grow shorter, so that we will be ready for the Light of Christ to shine upon us on Christmas morning.

People: *Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

***HYMN: 90** *Wait for the Lord (Psalm 27)*

WAIT FOR THE LORD

BIDDING PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Leader: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

People: *Lift our eyes from earth to see the wonders of the heavens.*

Leader: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

People: *Fill each heart with carols of joy, songs of gladness.*

Leader: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

People: *Bring peace to earth, shelter to the homeless, and food to the hungry.*

Leader: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

People: *Bring healing to the sick, the abused, and the hurting.*

Leader: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

People: *Show us with forgiveness and blessing, hope and laughter. Let your love clothe*

us as dew on the morning grass.

Leader: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

People: *Give us hope that we might sing in the midst of sorrow, believe in the midst of doubt, and light candles in the midst of darkness. In your Holy Name we pray. Amen.*

***HYMN: 88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (4 verses)*

VENI EMMANUEL

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10 (page 640-641)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

MOMENT FOR MEDITATION

***HYMN: 129** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN'ROS'

SECOND READING

Mark 1:1-8 (page 34)

Rev. John White

MOMENT FOR MEDITATION

ANTHEM

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Dr. Terry McRoberts

arr. by Uehlein

THIRD READING

Luke 1:26-33 (page 56-57)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

MOMENT FOR MEDITATION

EVENING PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. John White

(With Hymn 347, Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

Congregation sings stanza 1

Leader: You were born to set us free:
we pray for the people all around us,
tangled, trapped, and bound by our own sins and fears
and the cumulative sins and fears of humanity, piling ever deeper.
We pray especially for those in special need of care today.
Let us find our rest in you.

People: *Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Congregation sings stanza 2

Leader: You are the hope of all the earth:
we pray for a world where things so often feel hopeless
where peoples dearly desire wholeness only you can provide.
We pray especially for people in conflict and danger,
for those who lay down their lives,
and for those who lead us.
Send your joy to every loving heart.

People: *Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

**Congregation standing, if able*

Congregation sings stanza 3

Leader: You are born to deliver us and to reign in us:
we pray for your Holy Church, called to bring in your reign.
Reign in us forever, and help us to live out the justice of your promised Kingdom.

People: *Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Congregation sings stanza 4

Leader: We offer these prayers in your name, at your throne,
where you reign with your Father and the eternal Spirit.
Raise us there, so we may join the saints and angels in praising you,
even as we join together to pray as you have taught us:

People: *Our Father, who art in heaven...*

ADVENT REFLECTION

Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise

Rev. Courtney Bowen

***WORDS OF FAITH**

Rev. John White

Leader: During this Advent season, we give thanks to God for the most precious gift of Jesus Christ.

People: *Christ is our peace, our light, and our never-ending source of wisdom and love.*

Leader: With joy, we look forward to the birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem!

People: *With hope, we anticipate the second coming of the Messiah, whose reign will be forever and ever!*

Leader: With love, we seek to build up the body of Christ, caring for our neighbors and the needy.

People: *With thanksgiving, we celebrate the life-giving presence of God's Holy Spirit in our lives each day. The Christ Child has come to us and is coming again soon. Come, Lord Jesus!*

***HYMN: 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

HYFRYDOL

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

(We request that you remain seated until after the Postlude, and ask that you use the Postlude as a time to reflect upon the scripture that was read in today's service.)

POSTLUDE

Berceuse on Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Dr. Terry McRoberts

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