Sunday, November 22nd, 2026
Hanging of the Greens

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Extravagant Welcome **Keadyn Gackenheimer**

Introit ***"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*** *solo: Maggi Heilweil*

Call to Worship **Keadyn Gackenheimer**
The days are surely coming, says the Holy One, when justice and peace will embrace.
We watch and wait for the light of Christ to break through the shadows.
We come to prepare the way of the Lord.
In hope, peace, joy, and love, we ready our hearts and our world.
The light grows strong, and our joy deepens.
Come, Emmanuel, God with us, come!

Hymn** ***"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *(vs. 2-5)* *NCH* ***#116***
Text: LM with refrain; 'O' Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent.; Verses 1, 3-6, para. in Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; Verses 2, 7 tr. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt. Music: Chant, Mode I; Processionale, French, 15th cent.; arr. by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890. Public Domain.

Prayer for Illumination **Jen Burns**
Holy God, as we hang the greens and light the candles, open our eyes to see your presence in these simple things — branches of life, circles of hope, lights that pierce the darkness. May these symbols remind us that you dwell among us still, renewing the world through love made flesh in Jesus. Amen.

The Meaning of the Service

Anthem ***"The Yearning"*** *by Susan Bentall Boersma*

The Colors of Advent

Hymn** ***"Toda La Tierra: All Earth Is Waiting" *NCH* ***#121***
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The Meaning of the Evergreen
Scripture: Isaiah 40:3-5 **Bill Harvey**

Carol ***"O Christmas Tree"***
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are thy branches! (Repeat)
Not only green when summer's here
But in the coldest time of year.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are thy branches!

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How sturdy God hath made thee! (Repeat)
Thou bidds't us all place faithfully

Our trust in God, unchangingly!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How sturdy God hath made thee!
Ernst Anschütz, 1824 Public Domain

The Advent Wreath: Circles of Hope
Scripture: John 1:1-5 **Keadyn Gackenheimer**

Hymn ***"One Candle Is Lit"*** *vs. 1* *tune: Cradle Song*

Come surely Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

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The Christmas Tree: The Tree of Life
Scripture: Psalm 96:11-13 **Candy Smith**

Hymn** ***"Joy to the World" (vs. 1-2) *NCH* ***#132***
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The Nativity: The Story at the Heart of It All
Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 **Jen Burns**

Hymn ***"Away in the Manger"*** *Pilgrim* ***#137***
Contributors: anonymous United States, 1885 Music: attrib. to James R. Murray, 1887 © Public Domain

Holly and Ivy: Sings of Faith and Love

Hymn** ***"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" *NCH* ***#127***
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Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Story Time ~ The Poinsettia: The Flower of the Holy Night

Call to Offering

******Doxology* *Pilgrim Hymnal* ***#515*** **[alternative words]*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him [God], all creatures here below
Praise Him [God] above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father [Creator], Son [Christ], and Holy Ghost. Amen

Unison Prayer of Dedication
Holy and Loving God, as we bring greens, light, and symbols of your promise into this space, we also bring our gifts of gratitude. Bless all that we offer — beauty, generosity,

and hope — that these signs and gifts may shine with your love and bear fruit in lives transformed by grace. Amen.

The Lights: The Light of Christ
Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16 **Heather Detrick**

Unison Blessing of the Christmas Tree
Bless these lights, as we await the Light of Life, Holy One. May your light shine hope into our lives and in your world, and remind us of your living presence in all things.

Hymn** ***"Come, O Long-Expected Jesus" *NCH* ***#122***

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Benediction
Go forth with hope, for Christ's light is coming into the world.
Go forth with peace, for God's love will never end.
Go forth with joy, for the promise of Advent is near.
Go forth with love, for you are all Beloved Children of God.

Benediction Response **"Angels We Have Heard on High"** ***refrain***
Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o! (repeat)

Traditional French Carol. Public Domain.

Postlude

116 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Isa. 11:1–12; Exod. 19–20:17

Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, *1710*
Based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851, and others; alt.
St. 2, 7, transl. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.



6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spir-its by your ad-vent here;
Love stir with-in the womb of night,
and death's own shad-ows put to flight.
(Refrain)

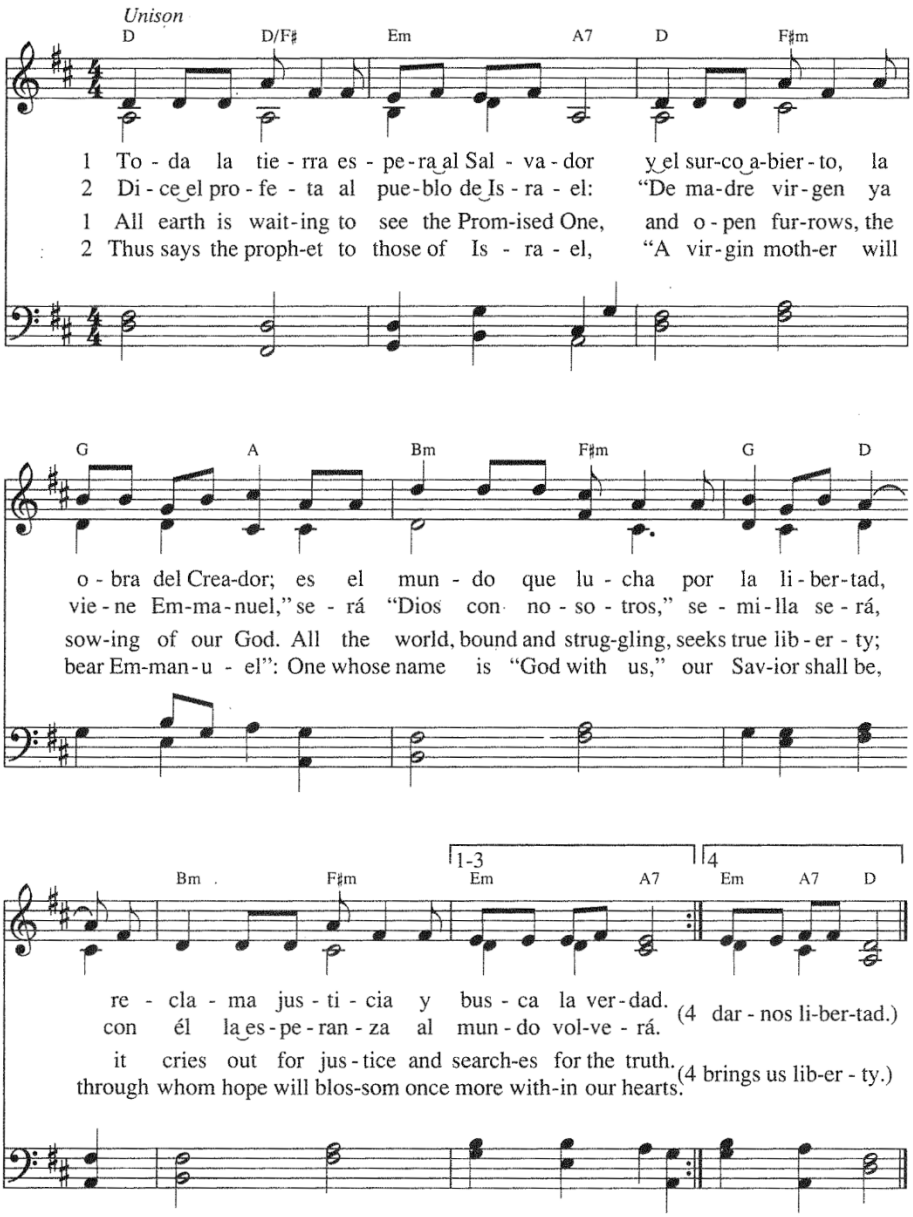
7 O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind
all peo-ples in one heart and mind;
Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;
fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.
(Refrain)

121

Toda la Tierra
(All Earth Is Waiting)

Isa. 40:3–5; Luke 3:4–6; Matt. 1:23

Alberto Taulé, 1972; alt.
Transl. Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987; alt.



3 Mon-tes y va-lles
ha-brá que pre-pa-rar;
nue-vos ca-mi-nos
te-ne-mos que tra-zar.
Dios es-tá ya muy cer-ca,
ve-nid-lo a en-con-trar,
y to-das las puer-tas
a-brid de par en par.

4 En un pe-se-bre
Je-sús a-pa-re-ció,
pe-ro en el mun-do
es-tá pre-sen-te hoy.
Vi-ve en-tre la gen-te,
con e-llas es-tá;
y vuel-ve de nue-vo
a dar-nos li-ber-tad.

3 Moun-tains and val-leys will
have to be made plain;
o-pen new high-ways,
new high-ways for our God,
Who is now com-ing closer,
so come all and see,
and o-pen the door-ways
as wide as wide can be.

4 In low-ly sta-ble
the Prom-ised One ap-peared,
yet feel that pres-ence
through-out the earth to-day,
For Christ lives in all Chris-tians
and is with us now;
a-gain, on ar-riv-ing
Christ brings us lib-er-ty.

Joy to the World! 132

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt. *Ps. 98:4–9; Luke 2:11–15*



Stanza 1 may be sung, "Joy to the world! the Sovereign comes: . . ."

Isaac Watts, an English Congregationalist, freely paraphrased Old Testament psalms to glorify Christ and here develops a hymn of advent and nativity from a psalm.

Tune: ANTIOCH C.M.
Lowell Mason, 1836

Away in a Manger

Anonymous

AWAY IN A MANGER 11.11.11.11.
Anonymous



127 Es ist ein' Ros entsprungen

(Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)

Isa. 11:1

German, 15th century; transl. Theodore Baker, 1894; alt.



Possibly dating from the fifteenth century, this anonymous hymn was first published in a Catholic hymnal in Germany, where the rose was held in special regard and was employed as a symbol for Mary or for Christ.

Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS 7.6.7.6.6.7.6.
Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, *Cologne, 1599*
Harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus 122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.



Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was one of the students known as "Methodists" at Oxford University. He wrote hymns for every occasion. This is from his small collection Hymns for the Nativity.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660–1716)
from Psalmodia Sacra, *Gotha, 1715*
Alternate tune: IN BABILONE