

Sunday, November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit **“Once in Royal David’s City”** *New Century Hymnal #145*

**Soloist will sing 1st verse. Congregation will join in on verses 2-5*

Soloist:

*Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for a bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

Congregation:

2 Jesus came to earth from heaven,
who is God and Head of all,
Sheltered in a rustic stable,
cradles in a common stall:
With the poor and meek and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 And through all this wondrous childhood
Jesus honors and obeyed,
Loved and watched the tender mother
whose strong arms a cradle made.
So, like Jesus, we should be
serving God obediently.

4 Jesus is our childhood’s pattern,
daily like us lived and grew,
Jesus, little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles and comfort knew.
Jesus felt the pain of sadness,
and the joyous lift of gladness.

5 We at last shall meet our Savior,
fount of God's redeeming grace,
For that Child so dear and gentle,
reigns within a glorious place;
Leading all God's children on
to the heaven where saints have gone.

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Call to Worship

How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.

How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.

For in the story of Jesus we see revealed the transforming power of God

We are reminded anew of God's vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for all of creation.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn** ***"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs. 1 *New Century Hymnal#116*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Child of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

Text: LM with refrain; 'O' Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent.; Verses 1, 3-6, para. in Psalterium Canticum 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. Word alt. 1995, Pilgrim Press, The. Reprinted/Streamed with permission under One License #739919-A. All rights reserved.

A Story for All Ages The Legend of the Poinsettia

The Meaning of the Service

Anthem ***"Carol of the Advent" arr. by Phillip Dietterich***

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Significance of the Colors [PARAMENTS]

Hymn** ***"Toda La Tierra: All Earth Is Waiting" *New Century Hymnal#121*

1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows, the sowing of our God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,'
one whose name is 'God with us' our Saviour shall be;
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

3. Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for the God.
Who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

4. In lowly stable the Promised One appeared;
yet feel his presence throughout the earth today,

for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving Christ brings us liberty.

Contributors: Alberto Taulé (1972, alt.), tran. Gertrude C. Suppe (1987, alt.), harm. Skinner Chávez-melo (1988), tune: Alberto Taulé © 1972 The Pastoral Musicians. Eng. Trans © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, harm: © 1988 Skinner Chávez-melo. Reprinted/Streamed with permission under One License #739919-A. All rights reserved.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle – HOPE

Alan and Noreen Michener

God Will Send a Light to the Nations [ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES]

Scripture Isaiah 60:2-3

Ted Anson

Hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs. 2

New Century Hymnal#116

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
and help us in that way to go.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

A Time of Expectation

Advent is a time of expectation... And so we prepare the Advent candle and wreath and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs. 3

New Century Hymnal#116

3 O come, O come, O Adonai,
who came to all on Sinai high,
And from its peak a single law
proclaimed in majesty and awe.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

God Will Send a Righteous King [CEDAR]

Scripture Jeremiah 23: 5-6

Heather Detrick

Hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs. 4

New Century Hymnal#116

4 O come, O shoot of Jesse, free
your own from Satan’s tyranny,
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o’er the grave.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

The Prophet Declares a Child Will Be Born [EVERGREENS]

Scripture Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Jamie Pfeiffer

*** Carol “O Christmas Tree” vs. 3&4**

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 bids'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 Forth Servant Song [HOLLY]

Scripture Isaiah 53:1-6

Jan Gregory

Choir “The Holly and the Ivy” [HOLLY]

Harm: Edward L. Stuauff; Music: Traditional English © Public Domain

The Mystery of the Incarnation [CHRISTMAS TREE]

Scripture John 1:1-5, 9-14

Bonnie Bardot

Unison Blessing of the Christmas Tree

Loving God, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, whose path of justice and inclusivity lights a path for all who follow him. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Nativity *All children are invited to participate*

Hymn “Away In a Manger” Pilgrim Hymnal #137

**The Children will sing verse 1. Congregation will join in on singing 2.*

Children:

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay*

Congregation:

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Contributors: anonymous United States, 1885 Music: attrib. to James R. Murray, 1887 © Public Domain

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.

Call to Offering

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Offering plates are located in the back of the sanctuary, on-line donations at www.bwucc.org, or via the mail. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

**Doxology*

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

God, receive these gifts - and give us open hands. Fill our lives – and give us open hearts. Touch us with your word – and give us open minds. Bless this church – and give us open doors. Amen.

***Hymn “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus” New Century Hymnal #122**

1 Come, O long expected Jesus,
Born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Grant us our true liberty.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope to all the earth impart;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
Enter every longing heart.

3 Born all people to deliver,
Born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever,
Come, be known to us again.

4 By your own eternal Spirit
Come to claim us as your own;
By your all-sufficient merit,
Let us share your cross and crown.

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Benediction

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection—
For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.

**We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,
And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**

The good news of Advent is this:
Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

**We will welcome Christ into our hearts.
We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.
We will go forth from this place in hope.**

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