

### *Heralds of Christ*

*Heralds of Christ, who bear the King's commands,  
immortal tidings in your mortal hands,  
pass on and carry swift the news you bring;  
make straight, make straight the highway of the King.*

*Through desert ways, dark fen, and deep morass,  
through jungles, sluggish seas, and mountain pass,  
build now the road, and falter not, nor stay;  
prepare across the earth the King's highway.*

*Lord, give us faith and strength the road to build,  
to see the promise of the day fulfilled,  
when war shall be no more, and strife shall cease  
upon the highway of the Prince of Peace.*

### *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.*

*O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth!*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;  
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
o come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*



5025 Atlanta Highway, Alpharetta, GA 30004  
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Midway United Methodist Church  
Order of Worship

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021, 8:30 & 9:45 AM

Gathering Music

Lincoln Wood, pianist

Welcome

Rev. Amanda Lane

Prelude

Lincoln Wood

\*Call to Worship

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
**make straight in the desert a highway for our God."**

\*Opening Prayer

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer; one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

\*Hymn 567 *Heralds of Christ*

\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath Sam & Karen Hosier (8:30)  
Pam Bryson (9:45)

\*Hymn 211, vs. 2 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

\*Responsive Reading 208 Cantic of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who has come to set the chosen people free.

**The Lord has raised up for us  
a mighty Savior from the house of David.**

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us;  
**to show mercy to our forebears  
and to remember the holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father, Abraham:  
**To set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship without fear,  
holy and righteous in the Lord's sight,  
all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,  
**to give God's people knowledge and salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

\*Hymn 204 *Emmanuel, Emmanuel*  
*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.*

Pastoral and Lord's Prayer

Offering *In the Bleak Midwinter* Choir (8:30)  
piano solo (9:45)

\*Doxology 95  
*Praise God from whom all blessing flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Scripture Lesson Luke 3:1-6

Message "The Fear of Coming Home" Rev. Jennie Andone  
Series: Come Home for Christmas

Invitation, Confession, and Pardon

We cannot help prepare the way if we are caught up in sin. Let us  
confess all that separates us from the One who comes to make a home  
with us.

**Awesome God, we have disregarded your Word, failing to inquire  
after your will for us. We have ignored the needy, defended our  
advantages, and neglected our prayers. We have not appreciated  
or witnessed to your sustaining love. We value our prosperity more  
than the harmony you envision for your people. O God, we do not  
like ourselves this way. Deliver us, we pray. Amen.**

Remember your baptism! Feel again the refreshing waters that cleanse  
and make us whole. Anticipate the baptism of the Spirit, the unquench-  
able fire that burns away the chaff. Receive these gifts and bear fruit  
worthy of repentance.

The Great Thanksgiving 13

\*Hymn 230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

\*Benediction

\*Standing as able