Prelude:  
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming  
Variations on “Es ist ein Ros”  
Michael Bedford, James Woodman

Welcome and Announcements  
(be sure to gather communion elements)  
Rev. Sue and Rev. Judy

Introit  
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen  
GOD REST YE MERRY

Advent Wreath Lighting and Call to Worship  
Bolduc Family  
Leader:  
Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ. Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace. God has a peaceful dream for the world, and we dream it too.

PEOPLE:  
We dream of a peaceful world full of wolves and leopards and lions eating and sleeping and dancing with lambs, kids, and calves.

Leader:  
We dream of a peaceful world where nations come together, where war is a memory, and we eat at one table. We light this candle in Peace.

PEOPLE:  
On this day, we remember the Lord of All, who brings peace which surpasses all understanding.

*Opening Hymn  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
P #110  
*Scroll down to page 5

Prayer of Confession, (unison)  
Frances  
Holy God, you sent John into the wilderness to baptize and proclaim good news. We confess that we are in need of baptism once again as we continue to stray from Your guiding hand. As we repent, baptize us once again with the fire of Your Spirit so that we may find peace. Then we can truly be people of peace for others. Amen.

Words of Assurance  
Rev. Proctor

The Lord’s Prayer  
Hailey and Sonia  
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
Anthem  
*O Come O Come Emmanuel*  
(VENI EMMANUEL arr. McKinley)  
*(Children and Youth are invited to remain in worship today)*

Prayers of the People  
Rev. Remick

Prayer Response:  
*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*  
CAROL

Call to Offering  
Rev. Proctor

The Offertory  
*A Virgin Unspotted*  
William Billings

Scripture Lesson:  
(Using the Message translation, pew Bible pages 778 & 834)  
Frances

Communion Meditation:  
*Prepare for Peace*  
Rev. Remick

*Communion Hymn:  
*The Baptist Shouts on Jordan’s Shore (v. 1 & 3)*  
NCH#115

Sacrament of Holy Communion:  
(all are welcome to receive)

Invitation  
Rev. Remick and Rev. Proctor

Prayer of Consecration and Words of Institution

Gift of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*):  
Rev. Proctor

Bountiful God, we give you thanks for this time at Your table. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth in courage and peace to be the Saints You are encouraging us to be. Amen.

*Closing Hymn:  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vs. 1, 3 & 4)  
NCH #133

*Benediction*  
Rev. Remick

Postlude  
*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*  
Peter Stearns

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Our continued thanks to Trey Simmons for his tech support and to Chris Dunn for Streaming.

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First Church in Wenham is an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ.

We are committed to loving God and loving each other as God loves us, freely and unconditionally.

We welcome people of all gender identities and sexual orientations,
races and ethnicities, mental and physical abilities, marital and socio-economic status,
into the full life, ministry and leadership of our faith community.

We are committed to the mission of Christ's teaching of all-encompassing love, peace and justice
for all creation, and reaching out to the community and the world in service, ministry, and care.
INVITATION to OFFERING

Did you know you can offer your pledge online?

It’s really easy. Just go to the church giving page at
https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/##/tithely/give-one-time/474314
You can use your credit card, debit card, or bank account. You can give one time this way, or
make it a recurring donation. There is a small transaction fee that you can cover, if you like.

Why not give it a try!

First Church in Wenham One Arbor St. Wenham MA 01984 978-468-4900
http://www.firstchurchwenham.org
Church Gratitude Connections

We are delighted to have you with us. May you experience Christ’s transforming love and the healing grace of the Spirit as we worship together.

Service Information. If you or a friend cannot join us in person on some Sundays, you can watch us on livestream by visiting our website, www.firstchurchwenham.org, click “Worship” then “Live Video Feed.” You can watch live on our Facebook page or YouTube channel. You can also watch services on HWCAM every Saturday at 9am and 5pm (Verizon channel 33 and Comcast channel 11) as well as on Ipswich and Beverly public TV. All videos of past services can be found on our website, under Worship and Videos (on Vimeo).

Opportunities for Giving - In this season of Giving, please consider giving to First Church. You can give online by visiting firstchurchwenham.org and clicking on the GIVE ❤️ link on the top right side of the page. Or, you can click the QR code below to open the Tithely Link. Or, you can drop off your offering in the basket at the back of the church as you exit the building.

Scan the QR by taking a photo of the image and follow the link.
Give, not because you must, but because you desire to see this community thrive.
Thank you!

Office Hours are Monday-Friday 9am-12:00pm – email is office.firstchurchwenham@verizon.net
Phone: 978-468-4900

If you would like to be on our mailing list, please contact the church office. We would look forward to welcoming you!

Church Staff:
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Rev. Judy Proctor, Associate Pastor for Family Life email: revjudyp@gmail.com
Rev. Ann Abernethy, Pastor Emerita Joseph W. Stroup, Organist
Abigail L. Frost, Choir Director

Website: firstchurchwenham.org/ Facebook page: facebook.com/firstchurchwenham/
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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, United Advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And far and nigh; To us the path of knowledge show, And heart and mind; Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; Fill till the Son of God appear, death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel! Amen.

2 O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by thine advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And far and nigh; To us the path of knowledge show, And heart and mind; Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; Fill till the Son of God appear, death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel! Amen.

3 O come, thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things, Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, United Advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And far and nigh; To us the path of knowledge show, And heart and mind; Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; Fill till the Son of God appear, death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel! Amen.

4 O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one, Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, United Advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And far and nigh; To us the path of knowledge show, And heart and mind; Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; Fill till the Son of God appear, death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel! Amen.
The Baptist Shouts on Jordan’s Shore

1 The Baptist shouts on Jordan’s shore, the
2 The earth and sky and sea now feel that
3 Clean up your hearts, lay down the way, for
4 Through you, O Jesus, you alone sal—

earth shakes with the mighty roar, Awake, let lazy
which their Author will reveal: The Child now leaping
God approaches day by day; Prepare for such a
variation, so lace, strength are known; Without your love we

sleep now flee: behold, the voice of prophecy!
in the womb as God does human form assume.
worthy heir, for such a guest your house prepare.
fade like grass, like wilted flowers our lives will pass.

5 Your hands extend, our pain embrace,

6 O One who comes to set us free,

lift up the prostrate, show your face;
though we in part your beauty know,
O blossoms forth, your splendor show.

O Child, to you our song will be,
With Father, Spirit mothering,
to you shall praise for ever ring!

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW L.M.
Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690

Charles Coffin, distinguished scholar and Latin author,
was rector of the University of Paris for a time. The hymn,
appearing here in a new translation, is from a breviary ordered
by the archbishop of Paris to replace ancient Latin hymns with
newer ones.

Charles Coffin, 1736
Trans. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

John 1:6–8, 19–28; Mark 1:7–8;
Luke 3:2–6, 15–18; Matt. 3:1–6, 11–12
O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

Yet in your dark streets shines forth the everlasting light,
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
No one discerns God's coming, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.
And praises sing, and voices ring with peace to all on earth.
Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Inspired by a visit to Bethlehem, Phillips Brooks, minister of Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia, wrote this hymn for the Sunday School's Christmas service. The tune was hastily sketched by the church organist in time for the service.

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.8.
Lewis H. Redner, 1888
Alternate tune: FOREST GREEN