



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, November 27, 2022)
First Sunday of Advent

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

FLOWERS: Given to the glory of God by Lillian and Jeff Rooks in memory of Walter Rooks.

Prelude: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL Arr. Hal Hopson
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Rachel Jelsma, Liturgist

Please remain seated and join me in our Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy:
We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

For the Lord will fulfill his promise to his people.

A righteous Branch will spring up from David;

and the Branch will execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Let us prepare for Christ's coming!

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Opening Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear:
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Call to Confession

(Liturgist)

Confident in the love and mercy of God, we are able to honestly name the condition of our souls. Let us confess our sins together, praying. . .

Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We confess that we become distracted, even weary, in following you. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of material goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world around us. Help us to watch for you more attentively. Awaken us to your surprising power and peace, so we do not miss how very near you are to us.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us so that we may be found alert and waiting when Christ comes again.

Thanks be to God, who is faithful and forgiving and has called us into the fellowship of Jesus, our brother. Gloria in excelsis deo! Amen.

Response: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Refrain:

"O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!"

Passing the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away but your Word will never pass away: your word stands forever. Make us attentive to your words this morning, that by the power of your Spirit we will prepare to welcome you anew into our hearts and lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading Matthew 24: 36-44

³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Be Ready!

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn after Sermon: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Call to offering

(Liturgist)

With gratitude and joy we bring the works of our hands and the gifts of our lives as an offering of praise to God. In addition to our online giving option, offering plates are available at the front and back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity of treasure, time, and heart. Please pray with me our prayer of dedication. . .

Prayer of Dedication

God of glory, we know that you are coming at an unexpected hour. We thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes in the fullness of glory. As we await and prepare for that day, strengthen our faith, increase our generosity, and embolden our testimony, we pray, for the sake of Christ and your kingdom. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The 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.

Closing Hymn: "People, Look East"

People look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People look east, and sing today: Love, the Guest is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch when night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together,
People look east and sing today: Love, the Star is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth, Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Benediction

Postlude: "SLEEPERS, WAKE!" A VOICE ASTOUNDS US Phillip Nicolai
Alleluia! Therefore we sing to greet our King; forever let our praises ring.

Today's Worship Participants:

*Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, Director of Music,
David Maley, pianist, Rachel Jelsma, liturgist and
Gabriel Frempong, technology team*