

Journey to Bethlehem



Calvary Presbyterian Church 2021 Advent Series

Online Worship Resource (Sunday, November 28, 2021)

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 Arranged Hal Hopson
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Call to Worship

Rachel Jelsma, Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in our Advent Call to Worship:

O come, O come, Immanuel.

Lift our eyes from lists and commitments to see your presence among us.

O come, O come, Immanuel.

Fill each heart with carols of joy, songs of gladness.

O come, O come, Immanuel.

Give peace in places of conflict, fill each table with food, shelter all from winter cold.

O come, O come, Immanuel.

Bring healing to bodies and souls hurt by abuse, by addictions, or by bitter words.

O come, O come, Immanuel.

Shower us with forgiveness and blessing, hope and laughter. Let your love surround us.

O come, O come, Immanuel.

Make us crazy enough to sing in the midst of troubles, to hope in the midst of doubts, and to light candles in the midst of darkness. O come, O come, Immanuel!

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)

Jesus said, do not let your hearts be weighed down by the sins and worries of this life, but watch and pray for the grace of God. With confidence in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

God-with-us, even in Advent, we are not prepared for your coming. We confess that you can seem far away, hidden, when we need you near. In our doubt, brokenness, and fear, we fail to draw close to you. Instead, we lash out against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your light shine in our hearts, opening us to your life-changing presence among us.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and brothers, the good news is this: the light of Christ shines in our darkness, bringing light and life to all.

By the mercy of Christ, all our sins are forgiven. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Response: Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

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

Holy God, giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed, illumine our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. Amen.

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will

be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

Special Music: "Canticle of the Turning" (Refrain)

"My heart shall sing of the day you bring, Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn."

Sermon: The Journey to Bethlehem: Mary of Nazareth Rev. Michelle Fincher

Middle Hymn: "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

At this time of year, the abundance of some and the needs of so many stand in marked contrast. As we offer our tithes and gifts, may our generosity bless the Lord and meet the needs of our neighbors. Please pray with me our Prayer of Dedication. . .

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, teach us to give thanks in all circumstances, for you are always with us. Thank you for the privilege of sharing what we have with others, of giving ourselves away in love, and of receiving the gifts that others share with us. With our whole being, body, mind, soul and spirit, we rejoice in you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a -singing;
His humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness;
The thunder of his anthem rolls to shatter all hatred and violence.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless;
The rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love our endless story;
May God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

Benediction

Postlude: (#349) **"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us** Philipp 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, guitar,
David Maley, piano, Rachel Jelsma, liturgist, and
Jon Jelsma, technology team