

## Introduction: The Angel Speaks to Joseph's Confusion

*Isaiah had a vivid and supernatural vision of God, where Seraphs hovered around the throne of God singing God's praises. In a simple act of touching Isaiah's lips with a hot coal, God purified him for the work of a prophet.*

## Order of Service

### Welcome & Invocation

#### Call to Worship

- L: This season of Advent confronts many of our emotions.  
C: **Sometimes we are confused, unsure of what is happening in our lives.**  
L: "Do not be afraid. The child is from the Holy Spirit."  
C: **God is with us.**  
L: The child shall be called Emmanuel  
C: **And we will all share tidings of comfort and joy.**

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- L: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.  
C: **Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn

**He Came Down (253)**

#### Prayer of the Day

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
C: **And also with you.**  
P: O God who brings comfort and joy, when the world baffles us with conflicting messages and puzzling events, speak to our confusion. Comfort us with the knowledge that you are with us in times of clarity and times of confusion. In Jesus' name we pray.  
C: **Amen**

### First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

- <sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;  
<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.  
<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him,  
and his dwelling shall be glorious.  
R: The word of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

Em Em7 D/C Em C D Em Em7

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Lord to whom shall we go? —

Am7 Bm7 Em Em7 Am7 Bm7 Em To 2nd Ending

3 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. 4 Al - le - lu - ia. —

5 1. 2. 6 Am7 Bm7 Em

Al - le - lu - ia. — Al - le - lu - ia. —

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## Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Pastor Nancy

## Hymn of the Day:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (257) vs 1-4

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Loving and forgiving God,

**C: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free — free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ✠ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

L: God of peace...

during these weeks of waiting and expecting, where people live in fear of the unknown,

**C: we pray for peace.**

L: God of comfort...  
 where people are confused about your will for their lives or for the world,  
**C: we pray for clarity.**  
 L: God of creation...  
 where people doubt your presence and your word,  
**C: we pray for trust.**  
 L: God of promise...  
 where people are curious, and await the future with hopeful anticipation,  
**C: we pray for wonder.**  
 L: Most of all, when the world longs for you,  
**C: we pray you help us respond with glad tidings of comfort and joy.**  
 L: We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our long-expected Savior.  
**C: Amen.**

#### Sharing of the Peace.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C: And also with you.**

#### Offering / Offering Prayer

L: Bless the offerings which we bring before your altar, and make them a pleasing sacrifice of gratitude for all you have done for us, and all that you have forgiven us, for the sake of Jesus our Lord.  
**C: Amen.**

#### Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.  
**C: And also with you.**  
 P: Lift up your hearts.  
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**  
 P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
 P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:  
**Holy, Holy, Holy**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Blest is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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#### Words of Institution

##### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
 now and forever. Amen.**

## Communion Song

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. \_\_\_

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. \_\_\_

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. \_\_\_

grant us peace, \_\_\_ grant us peace. \_\_\_

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## Prayer after Communion

**L:** Let us Pray. We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Blessing

**P:** The peace of God accompany your waiting, the light of ✝ Christ warm your hearts, and the joy of the Spirit fill you with hope.

**C: Amen.**

## Sending Song:

## Soon and Very Soon (439)

## Sending

**L:** Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Announcements

## He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;  
 he came down that we may have love;  
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.  
 he came down that we may have peace;  
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 3 No more dy - in' there,  
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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