

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

First Sunday of Advent

Digital Traditional Service

November 29, 2020



The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Veni Emmanuel

setting Flor Peeters

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING RESPONSE

#9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

OPENING HYMN

#1

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

1 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.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

3 Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,

Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, as we enter this season of Advent, we confess that we do not want to think about waiting and preparing. We struggle with the benefits of waiting in the best of times, and so much of our lives over the past eight months have been characterized by difficult waiting. We are so tempted to throw out the Advent practices waiting and preparing, and to run ahead and wrap the warmth of Christmas around us like a favorite old blanket. So we ask you to help us to wait, Lord; help us to see your glory not simply in the manger on Christmas Eve, but out here in the wilderness on your way. And help us to wait by joining in preparing your way in the wilderness, joining our voices in announcing the good news of your coming to us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:1-11

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

The Rev. J.C. Austin

“Preparing a Way in the Wilderness”

WE RESPOND

HYMN

#11

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILICH DIR GEBEN

1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My Hope, my heart's Delight!

O kindle, Lord most holy,
A lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.

2 Love caused Your incarnation,
Love brought You down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
That led you to embrace
In love all loves excelling
Our lost and fallen race.

3 A glorious crown You give me,
A treasure safe on high,
That will not fail nor leave me
As earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever
For You with praises new,
And from Your Name shall never
Withhold the honor due.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Of the Father's Love Begotten

Rebecca Erhardt, Soprano

DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM

*Response - #592

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him, above ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

*Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

#15

LLANGLOFFAN

1 Rejoice! Rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon He will draw nigh;
Up, watch with expectation,
At the midnight comes the cry.

2 See that your lamps are burning,
Replenish them with oil;
Look now for your salvation,
The end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting,
The gates wide open stand;
Arise, O heirs of glory,
The Bridegroom is at hand!

3 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Thou Sun so longed for,
Above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption,
And ever be with Thee!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

setting David N. Johnson