



GATHERING

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” and “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Rebecca Owens

Welcome

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

Introit

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

15th Century German

*Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse’s lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*** Hymn 106**

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*1 Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.*

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.

*2 He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.*

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.

*3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior’s rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.*

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Natalie Reed

God of today and God of tomorrow, you say,
"Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Our lives are too messy."

You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams.
There's room for you here."

But we say, "It's too risky to hope."

You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers.
There's room for you here."

But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."

God of today and God of tomorrow,
we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.

Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.

Help us remember, today and tomorrow,
There's room for every story. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Grace

From generation to generation, this is the good news of the gospel.
In Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found, and welcomed.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

* Sung Response

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

* The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you.

WORD

Children's Time

Robert Newman

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

arr. Hal H. Hopson

*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.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.
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.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Second Reading

Matthew 1:1-17

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“There’s Room for Every Story”

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

* Hymn No. 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Verses 1, 4, 5, 7)

VENI EMMANUEL

*1 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.*

*4 O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*7 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.*

* Affirmation of Faith

We trust in a God who promised to Abraham, who wrestled with Jacob, who walked with Ruth, who spoke with Moses, who grieved with Bathsheba, who danced with David, who dreamed with Joseph, and who hoped like Mary. We trust in a God who has been loving, inviting, transforming, and challenging us from generation to generation. And we trust that same God is here with us now, saying, “Come on in; there’s room for you here.” Amen.

* Offering

* Doxology

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

EUCCHARIST

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

SENDING

*** Hymn No. 105**

"People, Look East"

BESANCON

*1 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.*

*2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

*3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.*

*4 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.*

*5 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**

***Benediction Response**

"Veni Emmanuel"

***Postlude**

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Benjamin Culli