

Contemporary Worship

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

GATHERING MUSIC

Come, Emmanuel – Twila Paris

*Come and speak to us, come and renew us,
Come and live through us, Emmanuel.
Grace to implore us, ever before us,
Come and restore us, Emmanuel.*

*Come, Emmanuel; come, Emmanuel.
Come, Emmanuel; come, Emmanuel.*

*Once mercy found us, still you astound us,
Hold and surround us, Emmanuel.
Living inside us, faithful to guide us,
Cover and hide us, Emmanuel.*

*Love that begins us, pardons and wins us.
Come and reign in us, Emmanuel.
Come and speak to us, fill and renew us,
Come and reign in us, Emmanuel.*

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER *

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

ADVENT READING *

Isaiah 7:10-16

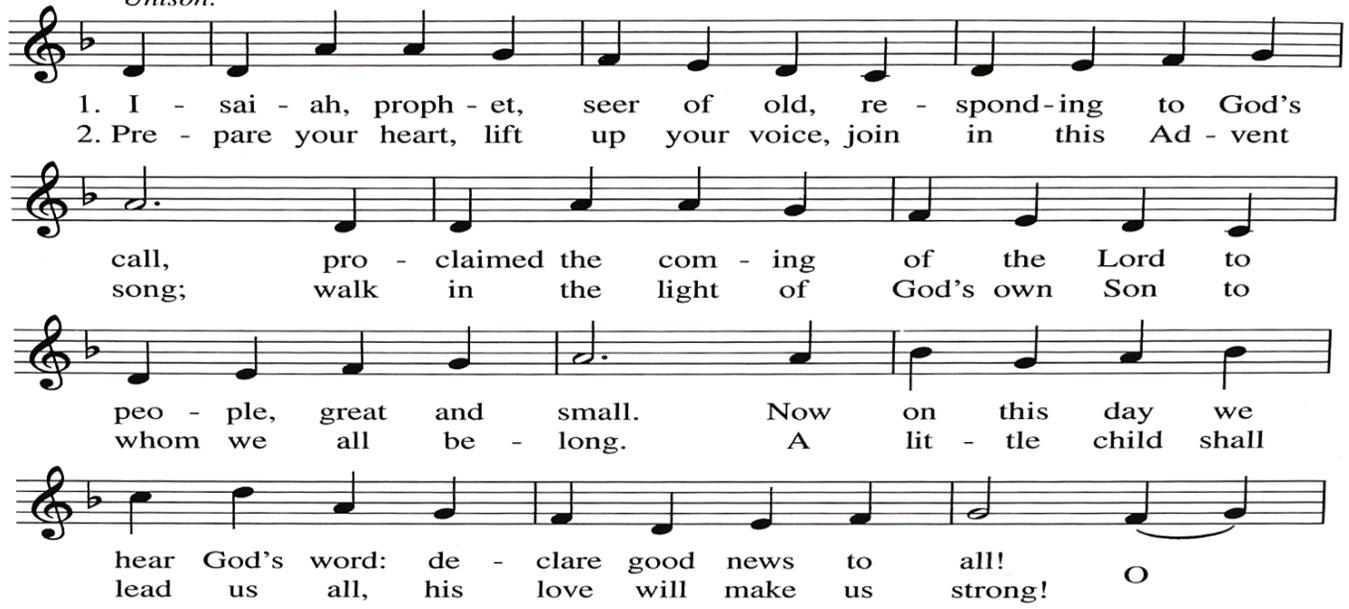
An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Unison:



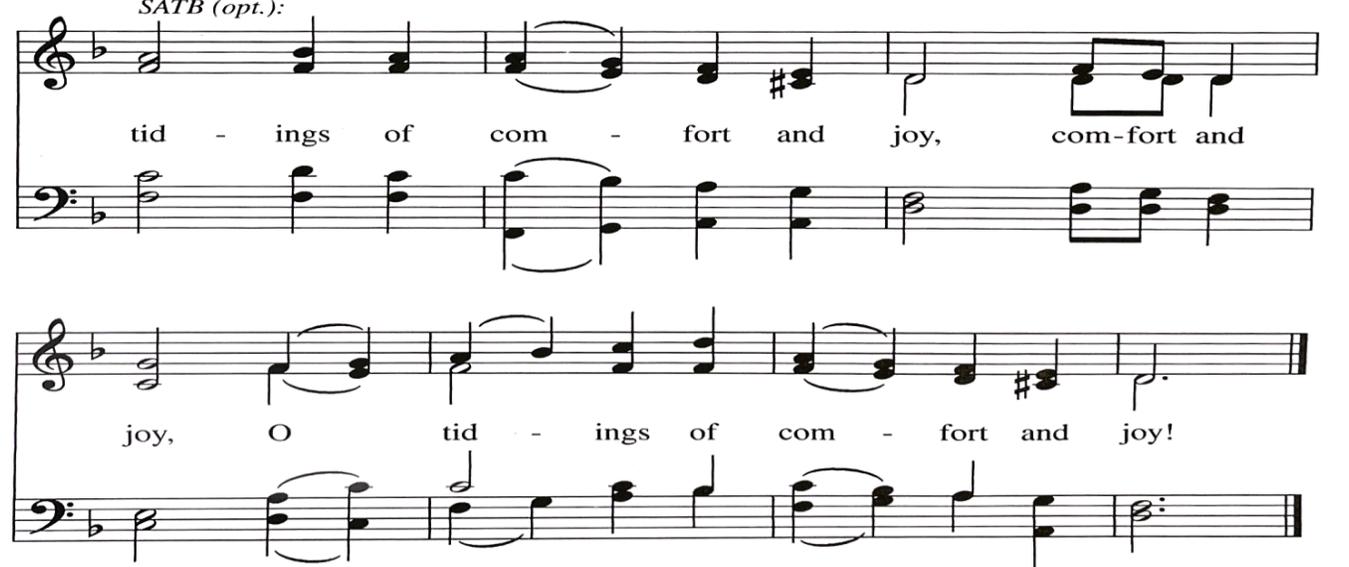
1. I - sai - ah, proph - et, seer of old, re - spond - ing to God's
2. Pre - pare your heart, lift up your voice, join in this Ad - vent

call, pro - claimed the com - ing of the Lord to
song; walk in the light of God's own Son to

peo - ple, great and small. Now on this day we
whom we all be - long. A lit - tle child shall

hear God's word: de - clare good news to all!
lead us all, his love will make us strong! O

SATB (opt.):



tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and

joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Verses: Michael Burkhardt, and copyright © 2020 Birnamwood.
Refrain: Traditional English carol (PD).
Tune: *GOD REST YE*, Traditional English carol (PD).

GOSPEL LESSON *

Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the first chapter.

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

¹⁸Now 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. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG *

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

Chorus: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Verse 2: 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...*chorus*

Verse 3: O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go...*chorus*

Verse 4: O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace...*chorus*

Words: latin hymn. Verses 1 & 2 translated by John Neale. Verses 3 & 4 by Henry S. Coffin.
Music adapted from plainsong by Thomas Helmore, Arr. Don Chapman
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PRAYERS *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in "God, in your mercy,"

Assembly: hear our prayer.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "...in Jesus' name we pray."

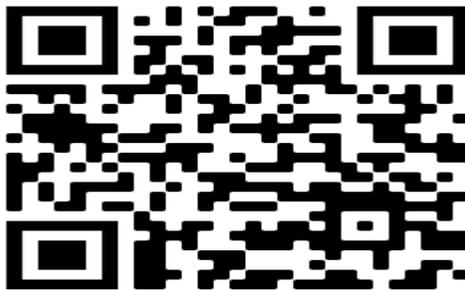
Assembly: Amen.

OFFERING

What Child Is This/Child of the Poor
Jeff Feick, Dave Gruenberg, Laura Smith

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be used to give our tithes and offering.



*What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping.*

*Helpless and hungry, lowly, afraid. Wrapped in the chill of mid-winter.
Comes now, among us, born into poverty's embrace, new life for the world.*

*Who is this who lives with the lowly?
Sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ revealed to the world in the eyes of a child, a child of the poor.*

*Who is this stranger here in our midst? Looking for shelter among us?
Who is the outcast, who do we see amidst the poor, the children of God?*

*This, this is Christ the King, who shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, Son of Mary.*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come peasant, King, to own Him.
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.*

*So, bring all the thirsty, all who seek peace.
Bring those with nothing to offer.
Strengthen the feeble. Say to the frightened heart, fear not.*

CONFESSION *

Leader: Lord of love,

Assembly: we confess we sometimes find your love daunting.
You called Joseph to honor his love for Mary,
even when custom called him to break his engagement.
We confess custom has a hold on us, too,
and challenging expectations for love's sake makes us nervous.
You call us to love our neighbor,
but we resist your call if our neighbors annoy us.
You call us to love our enemies, too,
but that seems impossible in these contentious times.
Forgive us for loving only in the safest situations.
Dare us to love as Jesus loved so he will be born again in us.
Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

*Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.*

*You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the
receptacles at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and
dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.*

Paper bags for the disposal of cups and packaging are available on the communion rail.

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
 The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

Jesus, Name Above All Names

Jesus, name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

*"Jesus Name Above All Names" words and music by Naida Hearn
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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING *

Leader: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
 and keep you in his grace.

Assembly: **Amen.**

BLESSING *

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Assembly: **Amen.**

SONG *

Jesus Messiah

Verse 1: He became sin, who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness.
He humbled himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing. Love so amazing.

Chorus: Jesus Messiah, name above all names
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

Verse 2: His body the bread, His blood the wine,
Broken and poured out all for love.
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing. Love so amazing...*chorus*

Bridge: All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You.
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world.

*"Jesus Messiah" words and music by Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves
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DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
Rejoice, for God is always with us and doing great things.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Tim Iseringhausen, Lead Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Praise Team

FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The pink poinsettias are given by the Altar Guild in honor of Mary,
who rejoiced and was obedient when told she would be the mother of Jesus.*

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