

Midweek Advent Service
Wait Upon the Lord With Rejoicing
December 15, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Please note: This worship service is live streamed and recorded.

AS WE GATHER

This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.
(Isaiah 25:9)

PRELUDE

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”

setting by Paul Manz

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Please stand

OPENING HYMN

353 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

- 1 Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.

- 2 Jesus comes again in mercy
When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.

(continued on next page)

- 3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope to all the world is giv'n.
- 4 Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comforts us in failing years.

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INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Wait upon the Lord.

People: Be strong and courageous.

Pastor: Wait upon the Lord. That's what Elizabeth did.

People: She waited for a child.

Pastor: John the Baptist.

People: Then she said to Mary:

Pastor: When the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

People: Wait upon the Lord.

Pastor: Be strong and courageous.

People: Wait upon the Lord!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

People: **We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and sometimes with You. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray from Your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous, we ask You, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and keep us patiently waiting for the promised coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

You are invited to meditate on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater

Pastor: Believe and receive the good news! God sent His Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show His infinite love and forgiveness for all people. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of ✠ Christ who came and indeed, will come again.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: Wait upon the Lord.

People: **Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!**

KYRIE

"Forgive Us Lord"

Stephen M. Fearing

**Forgive us, Lord, for times when joy was lost,
and moments when we never thought to laugh,
For times when we obsess and despair,
And all forget your steadfast love and care.
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins
and help us live in joy that never ends.**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Be our strength every morning and our salvation in the night of despair. Show forth Your power and might, just as You did in the days of Mary and Elizabeth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit—God forever.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Samuel 2:1-3

¹ Then Hannah prayed and said:

"My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.

² "There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. ³ "Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"

Natalie Sleeth

*O Come, O come, Immanuel,
Come now to earth and with Thy people dwell,
The world awaits from heaven a holy sign,
O come and show to us the light divine.*

*O come, O come, Immanuel,
As age to age the prophets did foretell;
Redeemer, come to save us one and all,
Be born again in Bethlehem's manger stall.*

*For Thy coming we prepare, Wisdom from on high,
Gracious Spirit, Lord most fair: now to us draw nigh.*

*O come, O come, Immanuel,
And free Thy children, Israel,
Be now our hope, our comfort from above,
And bless us all with everlasting love.*

Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON HYMN

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

**ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. (Refrain)**

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. (Refrain)

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PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

"Once He Came in Blessing"

setting by Charles Callahan

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we wait for You.

People: More than watchmen wait for the morning--

Pastor: More than watchmen wait for the morning.

People: Lead us in Your truth and teach us.

Pastor: For You are the God of our salvation.

People: For You we wait all the day long.

Pastor: O God, inspire us to wait for You faithfully.

People: Serve You joyfully.

Pastor: And give to others generously.

People: Gracious Lord, grant healing for the sick.

Pastor: Courage for the fainthearted.

People: Hope for the discouraged.

Pastor: And great clarity for all in the valley of decision.

People: Amen.

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May God give us the faith of Abraham, the hope of Isaiah, the joy of Elizabeth, and the gratitude of Zechariah. God will make us strong and courageous.

People: As we wait upon the Lord! Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

333 Once He Came in Blessing

- 1 Once He came in blessing,
All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us;
Hope and freedom gave us.

- 2 Now He gently leads us;
With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven,
Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish
Souls that they may flourish.

(continued on next page)

3 **Soon will come that hour**
When with mighty power
 Christ will come in splendor
 And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing
Joy beyond comparing.

4 **Come, then, O Lord Jesus,**
From our sins release us.
 Keep our hearts believing,
 That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You
Till in heav'n we bless You.

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POSTLUDE

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

setting by Austin C. Lovelace

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher: Adam Rouse
Liturgist: Theodore Laesch
Singer: Lynda Christian
Organist & Accompanist: Ryan Meyer