

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020 – 10:00 AM

Congregational responses are in **bold** type.

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

PRAISE

Call to Worship

Leader: The holy God will come to us, the long-expected one by prophet foretold.

All: The advent of the Lord draws near.

Leader: Yet it is in the unexpected that we may meet the Christ. In a moment of surprise, all may change. Let us be looking; let us be ready.

All: The advent of the Lord draws near.

Prayer of Invocation (Unison)

Marvelous God, we rejoice that you have not chosen to reside not only in houses of stone and wood, but also in the fragile tent of the human heart. We rejoice that you have chosen to be so close to us, revealing yourself in the compassion and wisdom of our fellow creatures. We rejoice that you have even created us, each of us, the least of the saints, in your image and invited us to be incarnations of your love.

Marvelous God, grant us the courage to risk carrying you within us, allowing you to transform us with your power. Grant us the courage to risk giving birth to your presence in the face of apathy and anger and anxiety. Grant us the courage to risk living as your companions in a world that denies your existence. Amen.

Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #116, vs 1 & 2

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Child of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
and help us in that way to go. [Refrain]

Lighting the Advent Candle

The Candle of Peace

Choir: The sun shall be no more your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon adorn the night.
But the Lord will be your glory, the lamp to light your way.
The Lord will be your everlasting light.

All: **Lift up your eyes and see the light surround you;**
With radiant hope, illuminate the night.
Lift up your voice and sing, let earth and heaven ring,
Lift up your eyes and see the everlasting light.

Responsive litany with music underscore

Leader: During Advent, God's light illuminates a weary world.
For any who have grown weary of waiting:

People: God speaks, "Peace, be still."

Leader: For any who are anxious about the worries of tomorrow:

People: God speaks, "Peace, be still."

Leader: For any whose lips have been silenced:

People: God speaks, "Peace, be still."

Candle Lighting: lighting the first purple candle and second purple candle

(music continues to play in the background)

Leader: This morning we light two candles. The **first candle** reminds us in a dark and weary world, our hope lies securely in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. The **second candle** radiates God's perfect peace to calm our restless souls. As we continue our journey, let us be encouraged with hope, comforted with peace, and guided in truth.

Congregational Sung Response

Unison Closing Prayer (please wait for music to end)

Gracious Lord, our souls long for the peace that only You can provide. We confess that, all too often, we only add to the discord, separation, and tension around us. Help us to feel Your peace in our lives and strive to reflect it more in our witness. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Words and Music by Joel Raney, text by Rev. Rich Davis, Senior Pastor, Emmanuel Reformed Church, Morrison, Illinois.)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11.1-6, 8-9

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² 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.

³ 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;

⁴ 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.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ 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.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They 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.

Message: *“The Peaceful Realm”* Pastor Don Francois

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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 heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Communion Prayer

Pastor: Let us gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited in to this holy mystery. Come.

People: We are ready!

Pastor: Jesus said: “I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.”

People: We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said,

People: “Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Pastor: In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said,

People: “Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread . . .

People: We participate in the Body of Christ.

Pastor: Through the cup of blessing . . .

People: We participate in the new life Christ gives.

Pastor: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready!

Sharing of the Elements

(We will, wherever we are worshipping from, hold the bread and receive it together and then hold the cup and again receive together. God's love and blessings know no boundaries.)

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ, and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to free prisoners, and to make the powerful care. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do your good news in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

Closing Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #116, vs 6 & 7

6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night,
and death's own shadows put to flight.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

7 O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]

Benediction

Postlude