



December 15, 2024
Sunday Gathering
The Third Sunday of Advent
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-PRELUDE-

"Joy in the Morning" – N. Sleeth
Brenda Gardiner

-ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-

We acknowledge that the place where we are gathered today is the ancient and ancestral homeland of more than twenty Indigenous tribes. We mourn the loss of their lives, livelihoods, homes, and cultures, and acknowledge the legacy of violence against them.

We acknowledge that the space where we worship today was established and built by those whose Black ancestors were also abused and mistreated - some even bought and sold as enslaved people right here in our city.

We acknowledge the women who've faced unfair treatment and misogyny throughout the ages and we acknowledge those who identify as LGBTQ or other who've been mistreated and misunderstood.

We acknowledge our role and responsibility as professed followers of Christ to stand for and alongside all of these and others who have been and continue to be oppressed.

-WELCOME-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Joy in the Morning"

THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY,
THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY,
FOR THE DAYLIGHT WILL DAWN WHEN THE DARKNESS IS GONE,
THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY.

THERE'LL BE PEACE AND CONTENTMENT EVERMORE,
THERE'LL BE PEACE AND CONTENTMENT EVERMORE,
EVERY HEART, EVERY VOICE ON THAT DAY WILL REJOICE,
THERE'LL BE PEACE AND CONTENTMENT EVERMORE.

-CALL TO WORSHIP-

Thank you, God, for the Hope you've shown us;
YOUR HOPE FAR EXCEEDS ANY EARTHLY HOPE.

Over and over again, we see your hope
reflected in the compassion and good deeds of others;
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE HOPE WE'VE KNOWN.

Help us, O God, to be your Hope in our world;
HELP US TO CARRY YOUR HOPE WITHIN US,
AND GIVE TO OTHERS IT AS IT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US.

AMEN!

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Joy in the Morning"

THERE'LL BE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS EVERYWHERE,
THERE'LL BE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS EVERYWHERE,
AND THE WAY OF THE LORD WILL THAT DAY BE RESTORED,
THERE'LL BE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS EVERYWHERE.

FOR THE DAYLIGHT WILL DAWN WHEN THE DARKNESS IS GONE,
THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY.

-GREETING ONE ANOTHER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL,
AND RANSOM CAPTIVE ISRAEL,
THAT MOURNS IN LONELY EXILE HERE,
UNTIL THE CHILD OF GOD APPEAR.

REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL
SHALL COME TO YOU, O ISRAEL!

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.

REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL
SHALL COME TO YOU, O ISRAEL!

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.

REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL
SHALL COME TO YOU, O ISRAEL!

-SCRIPTURE-

Luke 2: 25-38 (CEB)

²⁵ A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

²⁷ Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law.

²⁸ Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, ²⁹ "Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, ³⁰ because my eyes have seen your salvation. ³¹ You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. ³² It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel."

³³ His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. ³⁴ Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. ³⁷ She was now an 84-year old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁸ She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

-THE MESSAGE-

"Holding out for HOPE"

Pam Lee-Miller

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"God Comes to Us"

GOD COMES TO US ON WINTER NIGHT,
IN BABY'S BREATH, BY FIRELIGHT,
GOD COMES TO US ON A STAR.
GOD COMES TO US AMIDST OUR FEARS,
UNSPOKEN JOYS, UNENDING TEARS,
GOD COMES TO US WHERE WE ARE.

-SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Emmanuel"

EMMANUEL, EMMANUEL,
HIS NAME IS CALLED EMMANUEL.
GOD WITH US, REVEALED IN US,
HIS NAME IS CALLED EMMANUEL.

-COMMUNION-

"Manger Lullabies" – arr. D. Wyrzten

-OFFERING-

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM,
HOW STILL WE SEE YOU LIE!
ABOVE YOUR DEEP AND DREAMLESS SLEEP
THE SILENT STARS GO BY;
YET IN YOUR DARK STREETS SHINES FORTH
THE EVERLASTING LIGHT;
THE HOPES AND FEARS OF ALL THE YEARS
ARE MET IN YOU TONIGHT.

FOR CHRIST IS BORN OF MARY,
AND GATHERED ALL ABOVE,
WHILE MORTALS SLEEP, THE ANGELS KEEP
THEIR WATCH OF WONDERING LOVE.
O MORNING STARS, TOGETHER
PROCLAIM THE HOLY BIRTH!
AND PRAISES SING, AND VOICES RING
WITH PEACE TO ALL ON EARTH.

HOW SILENTLY, HOW SILENTLY,
THE WONDROUS GIFT IS GIVEN!
SO GOD IMPARTS TO HUMAN HEARTS
THE GLORIOUS LOVE OF HEAVEN.
NO ONE DISCERNS GOD'S COMING,

BUT IN THIS WORLD OF SIN,
WHERE YEARNING SOULS LONG TO BE WHOLE,
THE DEAR CHRIST ENTERS IN.

O HOLY CHILD OF BETHLEHEM,
DESCEND TO US, WE PRAY;
CAST OUT OUR SIN AND ENTER IN;
BE BORN IN US TODAY.

WE HEAR THE CHRISTMAS ANGELS
THE GREAT GLAD TIDINGS TELL;
O COME TO US, ABIDE WITH US,
OUR LORD EMMANUEL!

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Joy in the Morning"

THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY,
THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY,
FOR THE DAYLIGHT WILL DAWN WHEN THE DARKNESS IS GONE,
THERE'LL BE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS EVERYWHERE.

FOR THE DAYLIGHT WILL DAWN WHEN THE DARKNESS IS GONE,
THERE'LL BE JOY IN THE MORNING ON THAT DAY.