



Riverside
Congregational Church

November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent

Prayer of Invocation

Creating God, we give you thanks for this day, for the breath of life in our bodies, and for the ability to gather here as your faithful followers. During this time, may our prayers be honest and heart-felt. May we support and encourage one another. May our words be kind and compassionate. May we be inspired by your Holy Spirit to do good deeds, and to love without question or boundaries. And may we glorify you with our whole being. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen!

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel (#155)

*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!*



“O Come, O Come Emmanuel (#155)

*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.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!*



“O Come, O Come Emmanuel (#155)

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who order all things, far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and cause us in her ways to go.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!*



“O Come, O Come Emmanuel (#155)

*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.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!*



Prayer of Confession

O God of wholeness,

Let us not be put to shame.

Some of us live with shame everyday

In our bodies

In our hearts

In our self-images, self-esteem, and self-regard.

Have mercy.

Others of us have afflicted our siblings with shame

By our racism

By our ableism

By our sexism, heterosexism, and cissexism.

Have mercy.

Prayer of Confession

You instruct both sinners and the upright in your ways, Sovereign one.
Teach us, that some of us may be free,
and some of us may learn to be free of fault. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Salvation belongs to you, O God. Forgive us our sin. Renew us, refresh us and help us rebuild our lives so that they are reflections of your love for all people. We pray in the name of the Almighty One. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Christ offers peace to all who will accept it. Share the love of God and encourage one another with hope as you greet one another in faith:

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Many And also with you!

Luke 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Luke 21:25-36

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Luke 21:25-36

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”



Sermon:
“What is your Home?”
Rev. Bob Nolan

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (#153)

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.
Israel’s Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.



“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (#153)

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.





Pastoral Prayer
Rev. Bob Nolan

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power, and the glory;
Forever and ever. Amen!

Call To Offering

The earth distresses. Nations are confused. The power structures we've grown accustomed to are being shaken. And we will not be shaken. We will look up. And be children of the God of Mercy. Let us give of what we have accordingly.

“Give Thanks” (#359)

Give thanks, with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son
And now let the weak say, “I am strong,”
let the poor say, “I am rich,”
because of what the Lord had done for us
Give thanks!



“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” (#176)

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates:
 behold, the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near,
 The Saviour of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart:
 make it a temple set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.



“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” (#176)

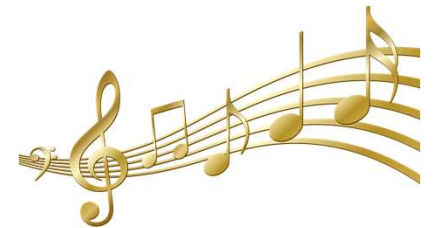
Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to you: here, Lord, abide!

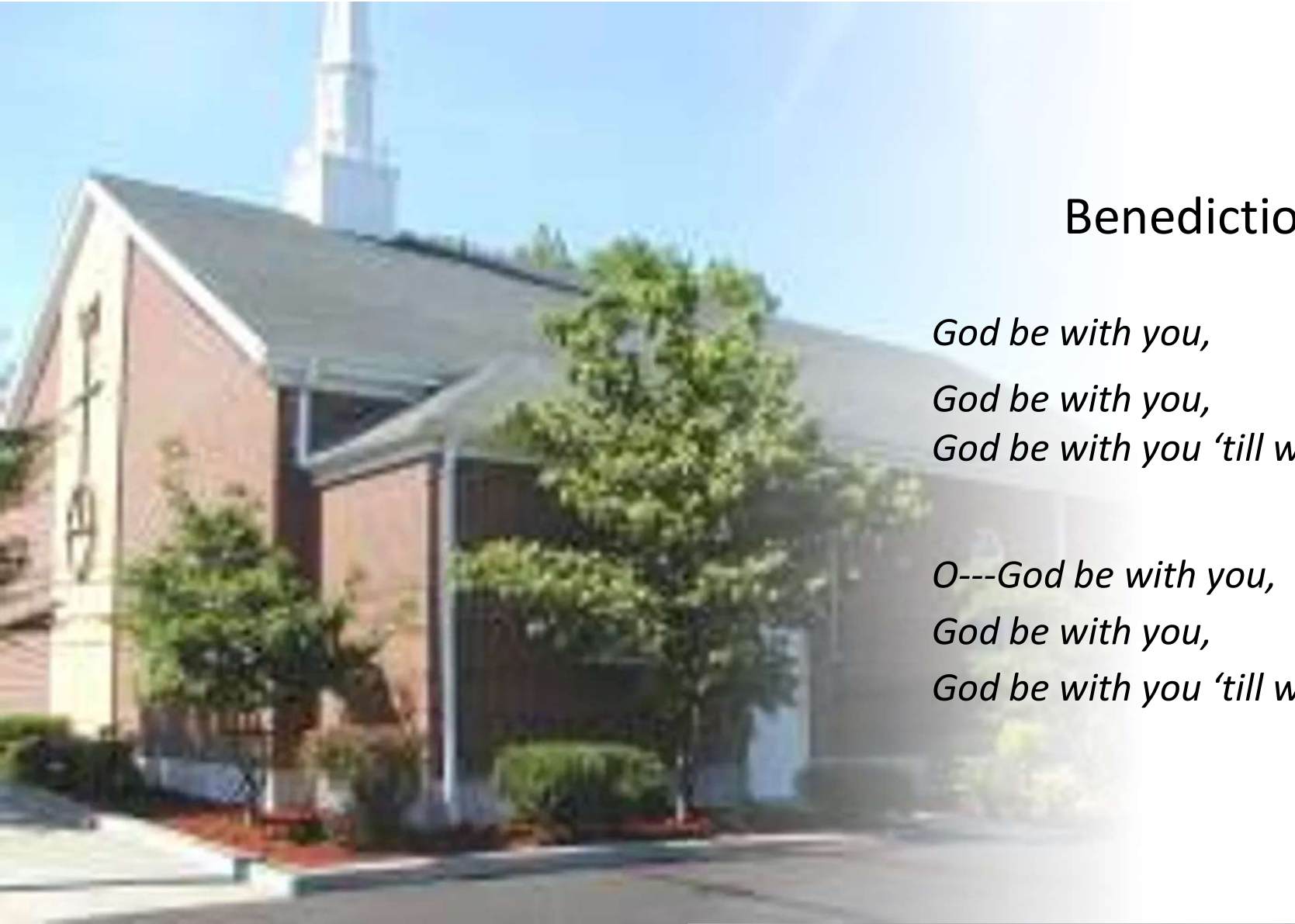
Let me your inner presence feel:
your grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!

Let new and nobler life begin!

Your Holy Spirit guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.





Benediction

God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you 'till we meet again

O---God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you 'till we meet again