

**Wait Upon The Lord With Rejoicing**  
**Wednesday Evening**  
**Advent Worship**  
**December 15, 2021 7:00 p.m.**

***Order of Service***

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

**Invocation and Call to Worship**

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

C **Amen.**

P Wait upon the Lord.

C **Be strong and courageous.**

P Wait upon the Lord. That's what Elizabeth did.

C **She waited for a child.**

P John the Baptist.

C **Then she said to Mary:**

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

C **Wait upon the Lord.**

P Be strong and courageous.

C **Wait upon the Lord!**

**Hymn: Angels From the Realms of Glory**

**Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:**

**Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C 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.*

P 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.

**C Amen.**

P Wait upon the Lord.

**C Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!**

Kyrie

P Lord, have mercy.

**C Give us patience.**

P Christ, have mercy.

**C Give us patience and peace.**

P Lord, have mercy.

**C Give us patience and peace for the living of these days.**

Hymn verse: **Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**

**Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.**

**Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.**

Responsive reading-The Magnificat (lead by two groups and the congregation)

**C: Sing the greatness of the Lord!**

L1: My soul rejoices,

L2: My spirit voices-

**C: Sing the greatness of the Lord!**

L1: For God my Savior

L2: Has shown me favor-

**C: Sing the greatness of the Lord!**

L1: With praise and blessing, Join in confessing

L2: God who is solely Mighty and Holy-

**C: O Sing the greatness of the Lord!**

L1: His mercy surely Shall rest securely

L2: On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him-

**C: O Sing the greatness of the Lord!**

L1: His arm now baring,

L2: His strength declaring-

**C: Sing the greatness of the Lord!**

L1: The proud He scatters,

L2: Their rule He shatters-

**C: Sing the greatness of the Lord!**

L1: Oppression halted; The meek exalted.

L2: Full are the hungry; Empty the wealthy-

**C: O Sing the greatness of the Lord!**

L1: Here is the token; All that was spoken

L2: To Abr'ham's offspring, God is fulfilling-

**C: O Sing the greatness of the Lord!**

**All: Glory be the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen**

Old Testament Reading ... 1 Samuel 2:1-3

**And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the Lord; my horn is exalted in the Lord. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your**

salvation. There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

Epistle Reading ... Romans 12:11-18

**Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.**

Gospel Acclamation

**P Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**C Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. Hallelujah!**

Gospel Reading ... Luke 1:39-45

**In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."**

Sermon Hymn: **O come, O come, Emmanuel**

**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, Thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

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

Sermon

Prayers

P Heavenly Father, we wait for you.

**C More than watchmen wait for the morning—**

P More than watchmen wait for the morning.

**C Lead us in your truth and teach us**

P For you are the God of our salvation.

**C For you we wait all the day long.**

P O God, inspire us to wait for you faithfully.

**C Serve you joyfully.**

P And give to others generously.

**C Gracious Lord, grant healing for the sick.**

P Courage for the fainthearted.

**C Hope for the discouraged.**

P And great clarity for all in the valley of decision.

**C Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P 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.

**C As we wait upon the Lord! Amen.**

Closing Hymn: **Once he came in blessing**

**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.**

**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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