

Bulletin December 6, 2020

Park and Sanctuary Version

Call To Worship:

Leader: Come, open your hearts.

Congregation: Light the candles,

Leader: Sing the carols,

Congregation: Rest in the prayers.

Leader: Come, open your lives

Congregation: To the Light of the World,

Leader: To the songs of blessing,

Congregation: To the prayers of healing.

Leader: Watch, listen, feel.

Congregation: God is coming.

Leader: God is here.

All: Rejoice! Again, I say Rejoice!

Lighting of the 2nd Advent Candle

Symbols of Faith - A Blanket for Peace - (*Light 1 purple candle*)

Reader: (*holding up a baby blanket*): This is a blanket. It reminds us of baby Jesus!

Reader: Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's voice, her baby kicked. The Holy Spirit came upon Elizabeth. Then in a loud voice, she said: "God has blessed you more than any other woman! He has also blessed the child you will have."

Reader: Mary said: "With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad because of God my Savior. He cares for me, his humble servant. God All-Powerful has done great things for me, and his name is holy. He always shows mercy to everyone who worships him. The Lord will scatter those who are proud. He drags strong rulers from their thrones and puts humble people in places of power. God gives the hungry good things to eat and sends the rich away with nothing. He is always merciful to his people."

Reader: Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of **Peace**. The prophet Micah says that the whole earth will know God's true greatness because he will bring peace. (*Light 2nd purple candle*)

Reader: The blanket reminds us that Jesus was born into the world as an innocent baby, to a poor family, far from home. When we bring peace into this difficult world, we also bring Jesus.

Reader: Jesus was. Jesus is. Jesus will come again. Amen!

Hymn: "Love Divine All Loves Excelling"

**1. Love divine,
all loves excelling,
joy of heaven,
to earth come down;
fix in us thy
humble dwelling;
all thy faithful
mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art
all compassion,
pure, unbounded
love thou art;
visit us with
thy salvation;
enter every
trembling heart.**

**2. Breathe, O breathe
thy loving Spirit
into every
troubled breast!
Let us all
in thee inherit;**

**let us find that
second rest.
Take away
our bent to sinning;
Alpha and
Omega be;
end of faith,
as its beginning,
set our hearts
at liberty.**

**3. Come, Almighty
to deliver,
let us all
thy life receive;
suddenly return
and never,
nevermore thy
temples leave.
Thee we would be
always blessing,
serve thee as
thy hosts above,**

**pray and praise thee
without ceasing,
glory in thy
perfect love.**

**4. Finish, then,
thy new creation;
pure and spotless
let us be.
Let us see thy
great salvation
perfectly restored
in thee;
changed from glory
into glory,
till in heaven
we take our place,
till we cast our
crowns before thee,
lost in wonder,
love, and praise.**

Prayer of the Congregation:

O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy, you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. As we wait for Christmas, we know that Christ has already come into our world and lives, has already been born in us. We are renewed and restored. Go and share the good news of God's love and restoration. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?

All: No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Celebrations, Concerns & Lord's Prayer

Young Disciples Time

Tithes & Offerings

Doxology

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-17

The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear."

¹⁰ The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?"

¹¹ He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹² Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables:

"Though seeing, they do not see;

though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

"You will be ever hearing but never understanding;

you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

¹⁵ For this people's heart has become calloused;

they hardly hear with their ears,

and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,

hear with their ears,

understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them.'

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷ For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" p.196

**1. 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.**

**2. 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.**

Spoken Word

Sacrament of Holy Communion:

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen!**

Hymn: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

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

[Refrain]

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

[Refrain]

**3. O come, O come,
great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes
on Sinai’s height**

**in ancient times once
gave the law
in cloud and majesty
and awe.**

[Refrain]

**4. O come, thou Root
of Jesse’s tree,
an ensign of
thy people be;
before thee rulers
silent fall;
all peoples on thy
mercy call.**

[Refrain]

**5. O come, thou Key
of David, come,
and open wide our
heavenly home.
The captives from
their
prison free,
and conquer death’s
deep misery.**

[Refrain]

**6. O come, thou
Dayspring,
come and cheer
our spirits by thy
justice here;
disperse the gloomy
clouds of night,
and death’s dark
shadows
put to flight.**

[Refrain]

**7. O come, Desire of
nations bind
all peoples in
one heart and mind.
From dust thou
brought
us forth to life;
deliver us from
earthly strife.**

[Refrain]

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

Benediction