Service of Worship December 7, 2025 9:30am
Second Sunday of Advent

Gathering

The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted

PRELUDE "Symphonic Prelude" Claude T. Smith
GCPC Wind Ensemble

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCMENTS Rev. Karen Wright

LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY Thursday Morning Bible Study Group:
Represented by Cheryl Johnson,
Christine Hutchins, Teresa Ilten, and Jo Randolph

"While we are waiting, come.
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come."

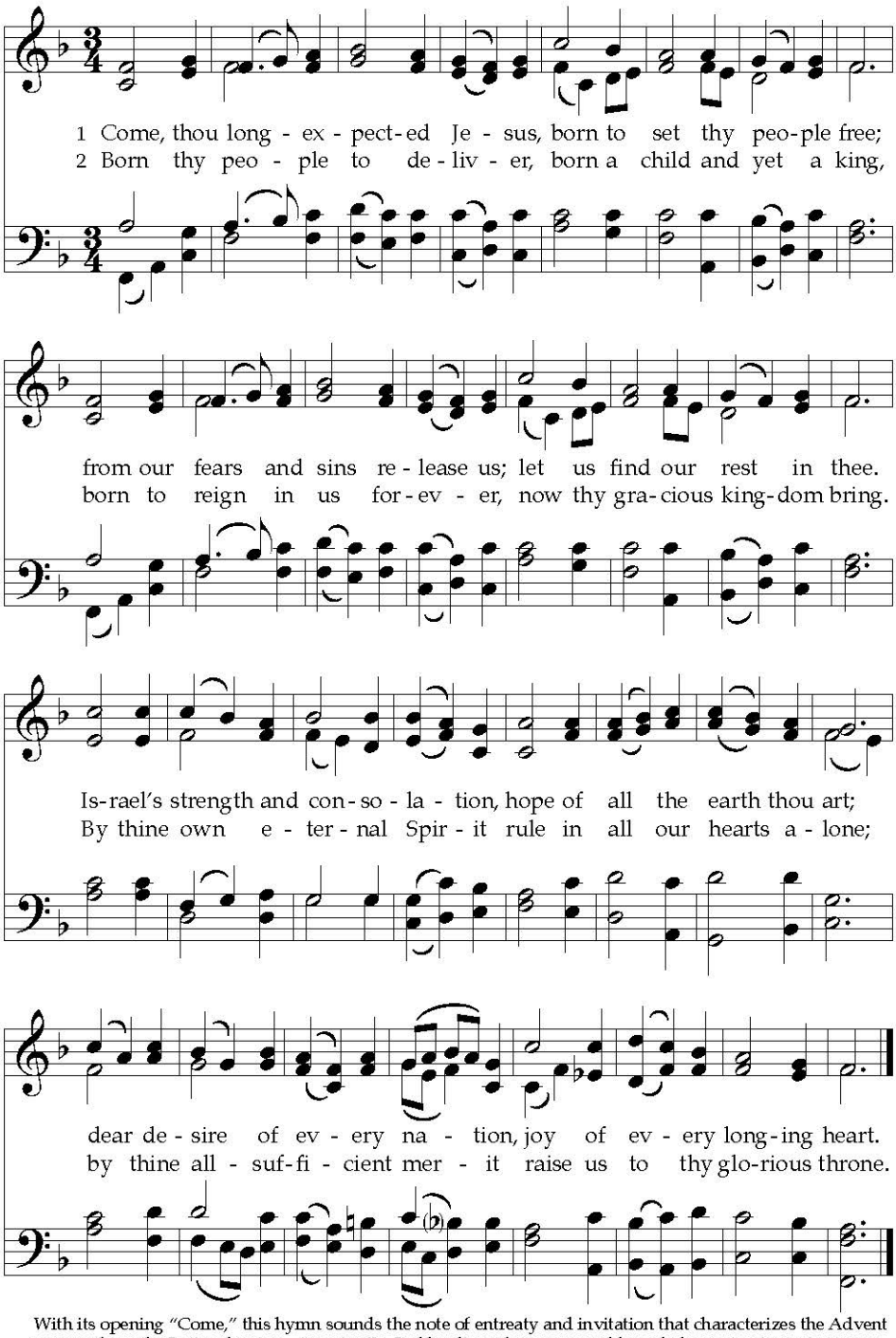
(repeat 3 times)

(After the candle is lit.)

All: Come, Lord Jesus. Make your home among us, and teach us the ways of peace.

*HYMN 82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)

CALL TO CONFESSION

In a world where we long for peace yet so often choose the easier path, the prophet Isaiah speaks a word of hope — a shoot from the stump of Jesse, a promise that new life grows where we thought life was over. Preparation begins with honesty—naming where we have fallen short and trusting in the mercy that meets us there. Let us turn toward God, who judges with righteousness and welcomes us with compassion. Let us confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new beginnings, You promise a world where justice is rooted, where wisdom and understanding guide every step, where peace shapes the lives of all your children. Yet we confess that we resist Your pruning. We cling to old ways: to habits that do not bear good fruit, to fears that overshadow faith, to the comfort of what we know rather than the courage to change.

When John calls us to repent, we shrink back from the refining fire. When Christ invites us into new life, we hesitate at the threshold. Forgive us, Holy One. Clear away whatever keeps us from You. Grow in us the fruits of Your Spirit, that we may welcome the One who is coming with open hearts and ready lives. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: A righteous branch springs forth — life where none was expected. The One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit comes not to condemn but to restore. In Christ, we are forgiven. In Christ, we are made new. In Christ, peace leads us forward.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE 110 "Love Has Come"
(verse 3)

Love has come and never will leave us.
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus with in and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you God on high!

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Noisy Offering

(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 11:1–10 Patrick O'Halloran

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
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.
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,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed 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.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They 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.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

ANTHEM "A Sussex Carol" Mark Grauer

GCPC Wind Ensemble

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 3:1–12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON “Consider Your Fruit” Rev. Karen Wright

*HYMN 505 ‘‘The Trumpets Sound, The Angels Sing” THE FEAST IS READY

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing 505

The Feast Is Ready

This celebratory gathering song is cast in a highly rhythmic praise and worship style and brings together many images associated with the eucharistic feast. Despite its new sound, its emphasis on communion as a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet is a very traditional theme.

TEXT and MUSIC: Graham Kendrick, 1989
Text and Music © 1989 Make Way Music (admin. Music Services)

THE FEAST IS READY
LM with refrain

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (**unison)** from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God; preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC arr. Luther Henderson

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

EncoreKC! Brass

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and 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 in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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 Words of Institution

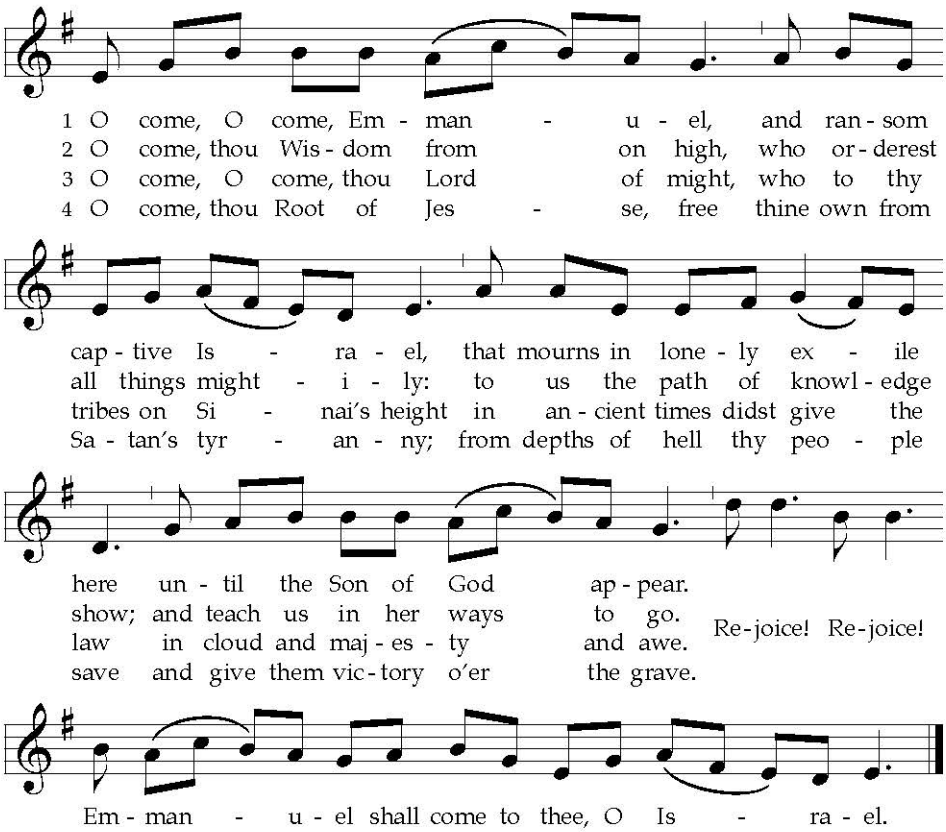
Music During Communion

Prayer After Communion

Sending

*HYMN 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 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.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)
Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)
Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)
Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)
Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)
Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)
Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with refrain

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION — Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE — Finale from "Rhapsody on Christmas Carols" — Claude T. Smith
GCPC Wind Ensemble

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

GCPC Wind Ensemble

Pam Smith Kelly, director
Flutes: Susan Culp | Katie Hearn
Clarinets: Bob Dover | Lauren Bond | Wanda Temm
Edwin Fukunaga
Saxophone: Miles McDonald
Horns: Jim Kelly | Wendy Kenemer |Ellin Schoenfeld
Bass Clarinets: Natalie Walker | Pat Setser
Trumpets: Erik Hulse | Kevin Schwartz | Beth Bohon
Trombones: David Roth | Chris Dixon
Baritones: Mike Hockley | Lara Schesser
Tuba: Trey Bures
Percussion: Jill Endaya-Allen | Chris Culp
Keith Langabee

EncoreKC! Brass

Erik Hulse, director
Erik Hulse, trumpet
Kevin Schwartz, trumpet
Beth Bohon, trumpet
Jim Kelly, horn
David England, trombone
Mike Hockley, euphonium

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