Service of Worship  November 28, 2021  9:30am
The First Sunday of Advent

Gathering

PRELUDE  “Savior of the Nations, Come”  J.S. Bach
Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS  Rev. Sue Trigger

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)  adapted from Lamentations 3:21–25

ONE: Friends, this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

ALL: God’s mercies never come to an end.
ONE: They are new every morning.

ALL: Great is God’s faithfulness.
ONE: The lord is my portion.

ALL: Therefore, I will hope in God.
ONE: The Lord is good to those who wait for God, to the soul that seeks God. Let us worship God together.

*HYMN 88  “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  VENI EMMANUEL
Stanzas 1, 6, and 7
JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
4 O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge tribes on Sinai’s height in ancient times didst give the Satan’s tyranny; from depths of hell thy people here until the Son of God appear. show; and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel save and give them victory over the grave. Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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. 18: O Lord of might (3) Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

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: Plain song; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMANUEL
LM with refrain
PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Great and glorious God, through Jesus the Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared, and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age — worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways. We choose to walk in darkness, unwilling to see the evil your light exposes. Cleanse us and free us; break the yoke we choose to carry through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you and all others!

Equipping

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7 (CEB) (Video)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.
ANTHEM (Video)  “Ani Ma’amín”  Traditional Jewish  
(I Believe)  
Chancel & Exaltation Singers II – Patrick O’Halloran, director  
Donna Heer, violin – Celia Nicholas, clarinet  
Ky Townsend, cello – Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney, string bass  
Barbara Douglas, Kathy Williams, Lara Schesser, Cindy Schendel,  
Kathy Bures, Rebecca Prater, Kylie Sutherland, Andrew Alka, Jake Cummings,  
Ellin Schoenfeld, Mike Hockley, Chris, Alka, Mac Fechtling, & Bob Dover, singers  
(Translation from the Hebrew Language)  
I believe, with a complete belief in the coming of the Messiah.  
Even though he may tarry, even so, I believe.

GOSPEL LESSON  
Mark 1:1–8 (CEB)  
The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”  
John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words  
Thanks be to God!

SERMON  
“Hear Hope”  
Rev. Sue Trigger

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sending

*HYMN 91  “Come, Come Emmanuel”  
COME, COME EMMANUEL  
Sing 3 times, 1-Unison, 2 & 3-Parts
**Come, Come Emmanuel**

This Advent refrain centers on the name of Jesus meaning “God with us” (Matthew 1:23, quoting Isaiah 7:14). Intended for repeated congregational singing, it can be expanded by the addition of stanzas sung by a soloist or choir, or it can serve effectively as a prayer response.

Text and Music: James L. Chepponis, 1995
Composed by: Gordon Young, 1995

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**CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE (Seated)**

“Cortège”

Linda Dover, organist

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**GOD’S PEACE TO YOU**

*If convenient/able, please stand.

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