

# Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—December 4, 2022



## Prophets and Promises

### Proclaimed Peace

Second Sunday of Advent

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

inspired by Isaiah 11: 1-10 and Matthew 3:2  
written by Rev. Susan A. Blain

Leader: We dream God's dream,  
of a world at peace;  
Where enemies are reconciled,  
and children play in safety;  
Where the poor and powerless find justice.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus!**

Leader: We remember God's promise  
of a Ruler of Peace,  
Filled with the Spirit of God,  
of wisdom and understanding,  
Of counsel and might,  
of justice and faithfulness.

**People: Open our lives to the Peace you bring;  
let us turn to you, and get ready!**

#### HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
#211, UMH

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

[Refrain]

*Rejoice! Rejoice!*

*Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

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]

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]

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,  
An ensign of thy people be;  
Before thee rulers silent fall;  
All peoples of thy mercy call. [Refrain]

Text: 9<sup>th</sup> Cent. Latin, 4<sup>th</sup> St. Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986  
Music 15<sup>th</sup> cent French, Harmony by Thomas Helmore, 1854

#### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:1-3 (NRSV)

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup> 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.' "

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**



#### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

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## TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (9:40)

Dianna Sheely

## HYMN

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel*  
#204, UMH

## HYMN

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel*  
#204, UMH

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us,  
his name is called Emmanuel

Words & Music: Bob McGee (1976)  
© 1976 C.A. Music (div. of Christian Artists Corp.)

## PASTORAL PRAYER

written by Rev. Karla Miller

Ah, Holy One, in this season of Advent, we wait for you to break into our worlds, unexpectedly.

Help us to stay awake, to be aware, to hope against hope.

We pray for your peace in this world when You will settle things fairly between nations, and make things right between peoples.

We pray for your peace when all will turn their weapons into something useful but not for war.

We pray for you to show us how to simply be advocates for your peace and hope. Help us to know that what we do makes a difference.

We pray for the peace you bring within families.  
We pray for the peace you bring within ourselves.  
We pray for your peace to come for those who are ill; a peace that passes all understanding for those who are grieving; a peace of assurance for those who are struggling, those who are suffering; a peace of your presence for those who are lonely, and those who have been devastated by disaster.

Surprise us with the possibilities of how your vision of peace and hope might take root, and how we might live into this vision of justice and love for all of creation.

Enter into our world today and teach us to pray in peace-filled promises: **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us,  
his name is called Emmanuel

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© 1976 C.A. Music (div. of Christian Artists Corp.)

## GIVING

### \*RESPONSE:

#95, UMH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

## SCRIPTURE

Romans 15: 5-7, 12-13 (NRSV)

<sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God...

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,  
“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of God for the People of God...  
**Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

*A Welcome of Hope & Peace*  
Rev. David W. Brown

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

by Robin Knowles Wallace

**God of mercy, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have done things which we ought not to have done, and we have left undone things which we ought to have done. We have ignored the cries of those in need. Forgive us and set us free, that we may live into the hope and peace of your calling...**

*Silent Prayers may be offered*

**Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

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## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Thanks be to God: Jesus died for our sins.  
We are forgiven!  
Thanks be to God.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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The Lord be 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.**

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise,  
O God, for you have turned our grief into songs of joy,  
and clothed us in salvation and victory.

You planted the earth and all life, and called a people  
to be your light in the world. When they were taken  
weeping into exile, you promised through your  
prophets to bring them home to Zion, singing and  
laughing.

Salvation has come in your Messiah, Jesus,  
— the one whose coming light your servant, John,  
bore witness to. So we share in the praise of all of  
creation:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Filled with your Spirit, Jesus came proclaiming good  
news for the poor, healing for the broken hearted,  
and the day of freedom to all who are bound.  
He was killed by the proud and powerful, but with  
your wonderful power you raised him to life.  
In his presence we are filled with expectant hope and  
peace, and eager to embrace your eternal covenant.

Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it  
to his disciples to eat: "Take, eat, this is my body given  
for you." They watched as Jesus took the cup, blessed  
it and said, "Take, drink, this is my blood of the new  
covenant, poured out for you and for the whole world  
for the forgiveness of sins."

Remembering now, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ has risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this table of grace.  
May all who partake, know the reconciling love of  
Jesus Christ. May your church go forth from  
Communion to be one in Christ and one in witness to  
the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.  
Amen.

## SHARING THE GIFTS OF BREAD AND CUP

### HYMN

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

#218, UMH

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1849  
Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

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## BENEDICTION

based on 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

As you leave this worship, may God lavish love on you so that it fills your lives and overflows to everyone around you in everlasting peace. May you be infused with strength and righteousness, and filled with confidence to proclaim His kingdom.

Go in peace! In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.  
Amen

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*\*Stand as you are able*

*Liturgist at 8:20 – Carol Ney*

*Lighting the Advent Candle at 8:20 – Alan & Susan Stuart*

*Liturgist at 9:40 – Jay DeWitt*

*Lighting the Advent Candle at 9:40 – Douglas Earhart & Emilie*



*Gather for coffee and treats in the Atrium following the 9:40 service! Coffee Fellowship is hosted today by the Latte Ladies Bible study.*

*Special thanks to Steve Forbes for creating our new banner frame at the corner of Drake and Indian Hill Rd.*

*He also provided a bird house outside the pastor's office window that already has a new resident.*

**REGISTER YOUR  
ATTENDANCE**



**ONLINE  
GIVING**



**The Gingerbread Bash is a fun,  
hands-on way to celebrate  
Christmas together!**

Friday, December 9  
7:00-8:30pm in the Worship Center

You'll make a gingerbread nativity, play games, hear the Christmas story from the Bible, and discover that sometimes the most incredible gift comes in the most ordinary box.



*He is the Potter and we are His  
clay. He will mold us and make  
us so that we may be made into a  
flawless piece of work to fulfill His  
good, pleasing, and perfect will.*

## Women's Christmas Tea

***Bring your friends, your mother, and your daughters!***  
**Today at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall**

Gather to enjoy a fun afternoon filled with fellowship, music, Christmas goodies, and TEA!

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## Advent Candle Lighting

We are looking for couples / families / individuals to do a small reading and light the Advent candles during worship.

12/18 @ 8:20am

and

12/24 @ 5:00pm

<https://bit.ly/3gXxAb6>



## Armstrong Bell Choir

Sunday, December 11

during 9:40am worship in the Sanctuary

## Christmas Music Concert

Sunday, December 11

7:00pm in our Sanctuary

Free Concert presented by an outside group.

## River's Edge Brass Band

Sunday, December 18

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary



## Poinsettias

Poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary starting in mid-Advent. You may purchase a plant in honor of or in memory of loved ones. \$20 per plant. You may take your poinsettias home with you on the night of Christmas Eve. Orders are due by Sunday, December 11.

Online order form: <https://bit.ly/3UagA0d>; write a note on the back of your Connect Card; or mail a note to the church office: include your payment = \$20 per plant, and who you'd like a plant in memory or in honor of (attn: Joy, 5125 Drake Rd, 45243).



## EXTEND A Warm Welcome

You can help to make our Sunday morning guests and regular attendees feel welcome and answer questions. **Greeters are needed** to serve on a regular basis as your schedule permits. Greeters are posted at the Sanctuary and Atrium entrances from 9:25-9:45am. Contact Carol Pearce (513-271-9223) or the church office (513-561-4220) with questions.



## TABLE HOSTING

Host the Sunday morning Fellowship Time in the Atrium to celebrate a special occasion or just because! Have fun hosting by yourself, with your family, your Bible Study group, etc. You'll find detailed guidelines on the sign-up link: <https://bit.ly/3Ai8XN5>

- **SHOP** for fresh items or whatever you want to serve
- **PREPARE** items for serving
- **HELP WITH CLEAN UP**
- **SUBMIT** receipts. Budget: \$75.



## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

### FROM OUR MISSION PARTNER – INTER PARISH MINISTRY

As you have no doubt experienced on your trips to the grocery, the cost of food has risen sharply this year. It's an impact felt keenly by our clients, whose tight budgets are most vulnerable to price increases. As a result, we have seen an increase in families visiting our Newtown, Amelia and mobile food pantries. Nearly one-third of our clients are children ages 0-17.

*With the holidays approaching, please consider donating food and personal healthcare items for IPM's pantry. We have wooden collection bins in the Atrium and the Narthex.*