

# Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—December 11, 2022



## Prophets and Promises

### Deep Everlasting Joy

Third Sunday of Advent

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Leader: It may seem naive,  
in a world of grief and pain,  
to choose to live in joy;

**People: Joy to the world!  
The Lord is come!**

Leader: It may seem foolish,  
in a world where is power often corrupt,  
to sing and dance to a different tune;

**People: Joy to the world!  
The Lord is come!**

Leader: But you have come, Jesus,  
to bring joy into our grief,  
light into our darkness,  
singing into our mourning;  
and to believe and embrace the joy you  
offer.

#### HYMN

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

#220, UMH

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:

Refrain:

*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: [Refrain]

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]

Saints, before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear;  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear: (Refrain)

Text: James Montgomery (1816)

Music Henry T. Smart (1867)

#### SCRIPTURE

Psalms 146: 5-9 (NRSV)

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

<sup>8</sup> the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (9:40)** Dianna Sheely

**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

based on Psalm 133, John 20:24-29— written by Paul Sauer

Holy Spirit, help your fractured church and world to be of one heart and soul, that our proclamation will resonate with great power, and great grace may be upon us all.

Set our minds on heavenly things.  
**Fill us with your joy.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you prayed that we would be one. Help us receive you like Aaron, rejoicing with precious oil upon his head. Help us receive you like morning dew upon the mountains, valleys and prairies. Help us rely upon your precious promise of life forevermore.

Set our minds on heavenly things.  
**Fill us with your joy.**

Word of Life, eternal life, make our joy complete with the God of light, in whom there is no darkness at all. Break through as the sun rising in the dawn upon the unexpected places of chaos and pain.

Set our minds on heavenly things.  
**Fill us with your joy.**

Heavenly God, forgiver of our every sin, help us look to Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, as our advocate and redeemer, not only for ourselves, but for your whole world.

Set our minds on heavenly things.  
**Fill us with your joy.**

Lord Jesus Christ, when we behave like Thomas, letting ourselves be filled with doubt, give us strength to constantly return, with our doubt, until we confess “My Lord and My God” on the day of your visitation.

Set our minds on heavenly things.  
**Fill us with your joy.**

We bring before you people we know with special needs...burdens too heavy to bear alone, disease that will not be healed on this earth, and afflictions that can be healed by your precious touch... *Silent prayers*

Set our minds on heavenly things.  
**Fill us with your joy.**

Help us listen closely to your Word, and teach us to pray in joy-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.**

**HYMN** *Emmanuel, Emmanuel*  
#204, UMH

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## 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.

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## SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:1, 8-10 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

## MESSAGE

*Deep Everlasting Joy*  
Rev. David W. Brown

## HYMN

*Joy to the World*  
#246, UMH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts 1719

Music: Arr. From G.F. Handel, 1741 by Lowell Mason, 1848

## BENEDICTION

based on Hebrews 13:8

The grace of Christ Jesus  
who is the same today, yesterday and forever,  
will lead you to the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
and then take you on to the joy  
which will prepare you for the greater glory. Amen!

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*\*Stand as you are able*

*Liturgist at 8:20 – Greg Bailie*

*Lighting the Advent Candle at 8:20 – Carol, Tom and Anne Adams*

*Liturgist at 9:40 – Shelley Bamberger*

*Lighting the Advent Candle at 9:40 – Shelley Bamberger and Jane Florer, representing our Choir Family*

*Armstrong Bell Choir at 9:40 – directed by Chester Imhausen*

*Prelude: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel -arr C. Dobrinski*

*Offertory: Infant Holy -arr P. Hurlbutt*



*Gather for coffee and treats in the Atrium following the 9:40 service!*

REGISTER YOUR  
ATTENDANCE



ONLINE  
GIVING



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## 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 TODAY.

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).



## 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



## Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 24  
5:00pm & 8:00pm  
in the Sanctuary  
11:00pm in the Old Chapel

*Come experience the night when promises made by prophets behold the wonder of a new born King. All services will be filled with carols and candlelight as we share in the celebration of the birth of Christ.*

The 5pm & 8pm services will be livestreamed on our website.  
Childcare provided for ages 3 and under at 5pm & 8pm.



**December 25 and January 1**  
10:00am only  
in the Sanctuary

No Childcare or Children's Classes on Christmas Day.

Childcare provided for ages 3 and under on New Year's Day.



## EXTEND A Warm Welcome

You can help to make our Sunday morning guests and regular attenders 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.

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## 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.



## 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.*