

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—December 18, 2022



Prophets and Promises

Presence of Love

Fourth Sunday of Advent

CALL TO WORSHIP

inspired by Isaiah 35: 1-10

Leader: Today there is good news for us to behold!
Those who feared that they were worth little to God have found blessing.

People: **Love is drawing near!**

Leader: For in the mercy and love of God,
the blind shall see, the lame shall walk without pain, those who could not hear shall be blessed with hearing.

People: **Love is drawing near!**

Leader: God's mercy and love is poured out for our parched souls. Behold! The Lord's compassion is with God's people.

People: **Love is drawing near!**

HYMN

Love Came Down at Christmas

#242, UMH

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus,
but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token;
love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and all men,
love for plea and gift and sign.

Text: Christina G. Rossetti (1885)

Music David Evans (1927, alt.)

Harm. by permission of Oxford University Press

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 103:15-18 (NRSV)

¹⁵ As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;

¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,

¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.



LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (9:40)

Dianna Sheely

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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)
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when your Kingdom will come in all its glory and suffering and pain and sickness and oppression and death will be overcome forever.

In your presence of love hear us as we pray: **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.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

written by Christine Sine

Holy God, God with us,
Into our troubles and weaknesses,
Into the barren places of our souls, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

Into the war torn and the refugee,
Into those who live in conflict, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

Into the homeless and the unemployed,
Into those who feel abandoned, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

Into the sick and the disabled,
Into those with COVID and with cancer, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

Into the poor and the starving,
Into those who are oppressed or abused, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

Into the lives of loved ones,
Into those from whom we are estranged, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

Into our joys and celebrations,
Into our work and our achievements, Come Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.

O Christ we long for your coming. Hasten that day when those who seek you in every nation will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south and sit at table in Your Kingdom. Hasten the day

HYMN

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#204, UMH

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God with us, revealed in us,
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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.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NRSV)

⁴ but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

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

MESSAGE

Presence that Speaks of Love
Rev. David W. Brown

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HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
#240, UMH

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new born King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th’ incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new born King!”

Text: Charles Wesley (1739) & George Whitefield (1753)
Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1840) & William H. Cummings (1856)

BENEDICTION

based on Isaiah 35:1-4

Say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, and do not fear,
for your God is coming to save you.”

So, go with confidence into the days ahead.
And may the love of God,
the grace of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit,
be among you and within you. Amen.

**Stand as you are able*

Liturgist at 8:20 – Mark Paluta

Lighting the Advent Candle at 8:20 – Carol Ney

Liturgist at 9:40 – Jay DeWitt

*Lighting the Advent Candle at 9:40 – Chris, Jenn, Scott and
Drew Hamilton*

*Offertory at 9:40 – In Winter’s Night -arr. Forserg
Cello Soloist, Doug Bruestle*



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

REGISTER YOUR
ATTENDANCE



ONLINE
GIVING



River's Edge Brass Band
TONIGHT @ 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.

Armstrong Chapel Worship Resource—December 18, 2022



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.



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.



Ally Breakfast
Saturday, January 14
from 8-10am
in the Fellowship Hall

Armstrong **MEN**
Disciples! Bold. Brave. Fearless.

For the men of Armstrong who have a heart for discipleship!

Start off the new year by getting to know each other better at this 2-hour pancake breakfast event. Bring ideas to help plan 2023 activities and ministry. Come pray together, laugh together, and share!

Breakfast is free—RSVPs appreciated <https://bit.ly/3HfplwT>.



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.