



RECLAIMING ADVENT

What is God calling you to do in reclaiming Advent's true purpose?

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THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

APPROACHED TO GOD

Before the service, meditate and speak to God. During the service let God speak to you. After the service talk to each other and the wider community about God.

KEYS

Words printed in ALL caps & bold are spoken or sung by everyone. At places marked †, you are invited to stand, as you are able.

Functionaries

On Piano

- Lindsay Lundquist

Singers

- Penny Kirk

Scripture Reading

- Carole Hawes

Minutes for Mission

- Joan Glanfield

Videographer & Editor

- Franklyn James



Order of Worship

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

▪ Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again. Rise up in our midst, and come and heal us and Restore our hope



▪ Hymn: **O Come, O Come, Emanuel VU #1**

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, O wisdom from oh high
Who orders all things mightily,
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go. (*Refrain*)

O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud, and majesty and awe. (*Refrain*)

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. (*Refrain*)

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery. (*Refrain*)

O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh,
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight. (*Refrain*)

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All people in one heart and mind,
O bid our sad divisions cease
and be for us the Prince of Peace. (*Refrain*)

WELCOME & NOTICES

THE LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE



Hope is the dream of a soul awake.” It is this deeper sense of knowing that brings a real sense of hope to our lives; that even though we live in constant uncertainty, we will not let our fears overtake us. This is the way of the One we follow, the light that calls us to live with hope for what could be.

We light this candle today for Hope. (candle is lit) May this light warm each heart that opens, and may hope be ours today.

HYMN: Hope shines like a solitary star MV #220

Hope shines as a solitary star.
Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the light of Lights
And illumine the pathway home.

JOYS & CONCERNS [Prayer Requests]

INVITATION TO WORSHIP [Based on Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19] †

One: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine.

One: God of hosts, stir up your might!

People: Reshape us, O God; let your face shine.

One: We bring all that we have and all that we are to this space and time.

People: Our tears, our laughter, our hope, our anxieties.

One: We bring it all to you this day.

People: Reclaim us, O God; let your face shine.

One: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may remember you and worship you this day.

HYMN: Creator God you gave us life MV #27 †

OPENING PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The prophet Isaiah speaks to people in pain, to people who feel far from God. We too, live in a hurting world and can only move forward in worship and our lives when we acknowledge that hurt. We call out to God and say what is sometimes hard to say.

One: O God, how we wish that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.

People: We feel as if we are fading like a leaf,

One: that our wrongs, like the wind, take us away.

People: There are many days when it feels as if you have hidden your face from us,

One: that we have all become unclean, and that the good we do does not matter.

People: But today you remind us that you are our God.

One: We are the clay, and you are our potter.

People: We are all the work of your hand.

One: Forgive us, O God. Reshape us, reclaim us.

People: Help us to remember you. Help us to remember that we are all your people.

Amen.

Engage-Time for silent contemplation

ASSURANCE [Based on 1 Corinthians 1:3-9]

Long ago, these words were given to a group of people who were divided, who had forgotten who they were and to whom they belonged.

These words were given as a reminder that despite our best efforts, God does not leave us. Hear these words and remember that we are children of God:

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind –

just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful; by God you were called into the fellowship of Jesus the Christ. Know that you are loved and be at peace.

ALL: Thank be to God! Amen

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- Christmas love letters from God
- **HYMN: One more step along the world I go [vs 1]² VU #639[†]**

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old thing to the new,
keep me traveling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me traveling along with you.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Isaiah 64:1-9
- Mark 13:34-37

THE REFLECTION

RESPONSE HYMN: All earth is waiting VU #5[†]

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,"
one whose name is "God with us" our Saviour shall be;
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.
In lowly stable the Promised One appeared;
yet feel his presence throughout the earth today,
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

People: You call us to be on the lookout, O God, for the ominous signs:

When concern for the environment is considered less important than profit; When returns to the shareholders are considered more important than care of the employees;
Where corruption in government is ignored or hidden; Where the powerless and despised are ignored and downtrodden.

People: We are your guardians, O God, and we stand ready to speak out and act.

People: You call us to be on the lookout, O God, for the ominous signs:

The older person finding it harder to cope with everyday tasks;
The troubled one who will not seek skilled help;
The young one who is defiant and disrespectful;
The despised ones who lack food or a safe place to live;
The struggling sick and bereaved persons in our own family or in our church family (we remember them silently or out loud.

People: We are your guardians, O God, and we stand ready to speak out and act.

People: You call us to be on the lookout, O God, for the ominous signs:

One: Persons who speak of welcome but do not act in a welcoming way;
Persons who find it difficult to look beyond this faith community and its building;
Persons whose worship is rooted in the way "it's always been done";
Persons who are willing to give to local needs but will not consider giving to mission work.

People: We are your guardians, O God, And we stand ready to speak out and act.

People: You call us to be on the lookout, O God, for the ominous signs in ourselves:

A reluctance to admit and learn from our mistakes;
An unwillingness to open our eyes to new realities at home or in church;
A narrow vision when it comes to helping those in need;
A lack of enthusiasm when it comes to supporting or helping those at risk in our community.

People: We will listen to your guardians, O God, when they call on us to speak out and act.

CLOSING HYMN: It only take a spark VU #289[†]

1It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its
glowing:
That's how it is with God's love,
Once you've experienced it:
You spread God's love to everyone
You want to pass it on

What a wondrous time is spring
when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start
their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
You want to sing it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found
on God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Peace be with you.

Righteousness be in you.

Comfort be among you.

Faithfulness be around you.

Go out into the world reminded of God's steadfastness revealing God's glory

Redefining this season of waiting into preparation for the dawn of God's holy light. **Amen**

PASSING THE PEACE

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THANK YOUS & CREDITS

Thank you for participated in today's worship, I pray you have been greatly blessed.

Remember, for those we are unable to connect with any reason; call to buoy up their spirits, and/or pray for them and entrust them to the care of the divine.

Due to physical distancing caused by the Corona Virus, COVID 19, all church activities that require physical contact are suspended until further notice.

Remember to prepare your Bread & Wine and join us of Sunday, December 6, 2020 – For our online Communion Service

Those of you who are on PAR and those who mailed in the gifts and offerings thank you. You can also e-transfer your gift and offerings to zionunitedarmstrongbc@gmail.com

We are always happy to hear your comments and queries. If you have a prayer request you may use the messenger tab here or email them to standrewsenderby@hotmail.com

Call to Worship & Prayers - Seasons of the Spirit™ SeasonsFUSION Advent Christmas 2020-2021 Copyright © Wood Lake Publishing Inc. 2020

Prayers of the people – Spark, David. (Pastoral prayer to share: Prayers for the people for each Sunday of the church year: Year B Revised Common Lectionary. 2011), pp, 26-27

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Liturgy for lighting the candle of “Hope” by Jim Hannah, Hanadl Music/jim.hannah@shaw.ca /778-215-9200

MUSIC CREDITS

O Come, O Come, Emanuel Voices United #1*

Words: from the Latin antiphons for Advent, ca. 9th century, trans.

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Creating God, your fingers trace Voices United #265

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One more step along the world I go Voices United #639

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Creator God you gave us life More Voices #27*

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Hope shines like a solitary star More Voices #220

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