

# SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

10:00 A.M.

## PRELUDE:

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** *O come, O come, Emmanuel #56*

*1. O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

*2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.*

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

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

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Reader: This morning we light the first candle on our Advent Wreath, the candle of Prophecy and Hope: The prophet Isaiah predicts that hope will come in the form of a child: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. A shoot shall come out of the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord”.

*4. 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; Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel*

WELCOME: Pastor Beverly Collinsworth

Priest: Blessed be God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Everyone: And Blessed be his Kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

Priest: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Everyone: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

*Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,*

*You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father, Amen.*

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Let us Pray:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

People: **Amen**

**LESSONS:** *Please be seated for the readings of the lessons.*

1<sup>st</sup> LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down so that the mountains would quake at your presence as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: Here ends the reading from the book of Isaiah.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalms: **Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**

*Let us read it responsively by full verse.*

Reader: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**Response: *In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.***

Reader: Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**Response: *O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?***

Reader: You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**Response: *You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.***

Reader: Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**Response: *Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.***

Reader: And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

**Response:** *Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

Reader: Here ends the reading of Psalm 80

**Response:** **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE:** Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 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. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: Here ends our reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthians.

**Response:** **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL HYMN:** *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers #68*

*1. Rejoice! Rejoice believers, and let your lights appear! The evening is advancing, and the darker night is near. The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh; up, watch with expectation! At the midnight comes the cry.*

*2. See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil; look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil. The marriage-feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand; rise up, ye heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!*

*3. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere!*

*With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!*

Priest: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Priest/Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

**Response: Glory to you Lord Christ.**

**Mark 13:24-37**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Priest: The Gospel of our Lord.

**Everyone: Praise to You Lord Christ.**

**MESSAGE:**

**MESSAGE RESPONSE: CARSON**

**NICENE CREED**

Priest: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**Everyone: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

LEM/Deacon: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Reader: Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy

Response: *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy

Response: *Hear our prayer.*



Reader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy

Response: *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy

Response: *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy

Response: *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy

Response: *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially: **Diane, Maria, Nana Jo, Patricia K., Scott, Fr. John, Alec, Roseann, David, Michael, Steve, Sue, Eliza, Tim, Linda and Donna:**

Response: **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Reader: We pray for the men and women serving in our armed forces, especially: **Fr. Tony, Mitchell, Michael, Ethan, Emily, Chris and Chelsey, the 200<sup>th</sup> Red Horse Squadron and the 983<sup>rd</sup>, Army Combat Engineer Battalion.**

**Response: Protect, guide and comfort them and bring them home safely when their work is done.**

**Reader: In the communion of St. Thomas and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.**

**Response: To thee, O Lord our God.**

**LEM/Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and one another:**

**Everyone: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

**Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.***

**OFFERTORY: CARSON**

**Music:** *While the Table is Set*

**COMMUNION:**

**Priest: The Lord be with you.**

**People: And also, with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Priest: Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Priest: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

***Everyone: We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;***

**Priest:** And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Thomas and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Priest: Alleluia, Christ our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Priest: The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Priest: Let us pray with those who are unable to receive the Eucharist with us this morning:

**EVERYONE: Dear Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament, but since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, I ask that you come spiritually into my heart. Unite me with you and never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

**Priest: Let us all pray for peace in our world.**

**EVERYONE: Lord, Healer of the Nations, from the noise of war and the drumbeat of vengeance, give us undiminished determination to wage peace. Out of brokenness, violence, and destruction let us plant seeds of hope.**

**Out of chaos, confusion, and hatred, let us build bridges of love. Out of distrust, disunity, and distance, let us walk together in harmony. Heal our divisions, make us whole, and bring us peace. Amen.**

**Priest: St. Thomas practices open communion which means that all baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's Table.**

**Communion can be received either by drinking from the Chalice or by intinction. Either way is acceptable.**

**Priest: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.**

**LEM/Deacon: The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.**

**MUSIC: (*sing during communion*)**

*1. As we gather at your Table, as we listen to your Word, help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.*

*2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.*

*3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that Feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.*

*There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.*

Priest: Let us Pray:

**Everyone: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us spiritually with the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.**

**Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**People: Amen**

Priest: May the Lord bless you and keep you, May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, May the Lord look upon you with favor and bring you peace.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** *Hail To The Lord's Anointed #616*

*1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son! Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free; to take away transgression, and rule in equity.*

*2. He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong, to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light, who souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.*

*3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth, and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth; before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go; and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.*

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

**POSTLUDE: CARSON**

LEM/Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THANKS: Pastor Beverly Collinsworth

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**