



December 15, 2024 – Livestream
Third Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darren Cushman Wood

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Cultivating Hope

Peter Chen

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. H. Schnaffer

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid;

**People: for the Sovereign God is my strength and my song,
and the Lord has become my salvation."**

Leader: Sing praise to the Lord, because God has done great things.

People: Let all the world know what the Lord has done.

*OPENING HYMN #211

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

v.1, 3, 5, 7

***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 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 Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free, and conquer death's deep misery. [Refrain]***

***O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. [Refrain]***

OPENING PRAYER

**Stir up your power, O Lord,
and with great might come among us.
Because we are hindered by our sins,
let your abundant grace and mercy free us,
that we may bear the fruit of repentance
and receive the joy of salvation;
through Jesus Christ, to whom,**

**with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

CAROLERS' ANTHEM (11:00 a.m.)

Come to Set us Free
Puerto Rican Folk Hymn

J.A. Shafferman & L. Larson
James Caraher, piano;
Denise Page Caraher, director

Come, O come, Emmanuel! Come, O come, on earth to dwell!
Come, O come, God's love to tell! Come to set us free!

All the angels in the sky sing their praise to God on high
Soon He come on Christmas night, come to set us free!

Halle, hallelujah! Come to set us free!

Ev'ry valley, lift your voice, ev'ry creature, now rejoice.
Ev'rywhere a joyful noise, come to set us free! *Refrain*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (pew card)

Hope is a Star

J. Raney
Eric Applegate and TA Inskeep

Choir: Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Savior is born.
Love is a flame that burns in our hearts, Jesus has come and will never depart.



When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be
first and the weak shall be strong, _____ and none shall be a -
fraid, _____ none _____ shall be _____ a - afraid. _____

Leader: In this season of Advent, we remember that Christ's coming will bring us love.

For those who are forsaken and alone

People: Christ will bring us love.

Leader: For those who are angry and hostile

People: Christ will bring us love.

Leader: For those who are wounded and hurting

People: Christ will bring us love.

Leader: For all of us who have sinned

People: Christ will bring us love.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lydia Shaw

FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing, Jerusalem. Israel, shout for joy!

Jerusalem, be happy and rejoice with all your heart.

¹⁵ The Lord has stopped punishing you,
and has sent your enemies away.

The Ruler of Israel, the Lord, is with you;
you will never again be afraid of being harmed.

¹⁶ On that day Jerusalem will be told,
“Don’t be afraid, city of Jerusalem. Don’t give up.

¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you;
the mighty One will save you and will rejoice over you.
You will rest in God’s love;
who will sing and be joyful about you.”

¹⁸ “I will take away the sadness planned for you,
which would have made you very ashamed.

¹⁹ At that time I will punish all those who harmed you.
I will save my people who cannot walk
and gather my people who have been thrown out.
I will give them praise and honor
in every place where they were shamed.

²⁰ At that time I will gather you;
at that time I will bring you back home.
I will give you honor and praise from people everywhere
when I make things go well again for you,
as you will see with your own eyes,” says the Lord.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAYER #388

O Come and Dwell in Me

***O come and dwell in me, Spirit of power within,
and bring the glorious liberty from sorrow, fear, and sin.***

***Hasten the joyful day which shall my sins consume,
when old things shall be done away, and all things new become.***

***I want the witness, Lord, that all I do is right,
according to thy mind and word, well-pleasing in thy sight.***

***I ask no higher state; indulge me but in this,
and soon or later then translate to thine eternal bliss.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Brandon Wallace

THE LORD’S PRAYER #895

**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.**

***There'll be joy in the morning on that day,
there'll be joy in the morning on that day,
for the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone,
there'll be joy in the morning on that day.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Advent Promise

D. Wagner

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the world thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every loving heart.
Prepare a way, make straight the path, proclaim so all may know.
The valleys shall be lifted up, and all the hills made low.
Awake, for the morn is breaking forth. We wait for the coming light
to comfort sorrow, banish pain, and pierce the dying night.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

*ADVENT DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' ¹¹In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' ¹²Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' ¹³He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

***Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!***

***Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.***

***Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.***

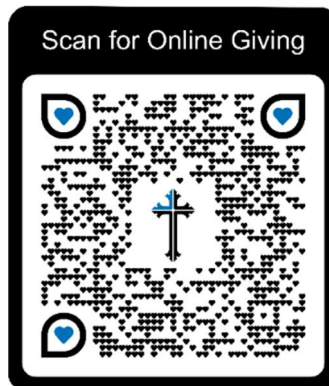
***Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!***

*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

A. Miller



Upcoming Events:

Youth Progressive Dinner, Today, 4:30pm

Longest Night Service, December 22, 5:00pm:

For many of us holidays are difficult, even painful, at times. This simple service of silence and song, scripture and prayer will acknowledge the gift of letting go and celebrate the gift of holding fast to hope.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, December 24:

Children and Families Service, 5:00pm

Celebration of Holy Communion, 7:30pm

Festival of Lessons and Carols, 10:30pm

Last Sunday of the Year, December 29, 11:00am

one combined worship service

Scan to sign up for our newsletter:



This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood
Senior Pastor

Brandon Wallace

Minister of Christian Education

Lydia Shaw

Liturgist

John Hague, Allen McCormack
& James Horton

Audio Visual

Mark Gilgallon

Music Director

Heather Hinton

Organist