

Surprising Encounters



Immanuel Advent Sermon Series

Lessons and Carols
December 12, 2021

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE: *Angevin Carol*
What Sweeter Music

Cesar Franck
John Rutter
ALETHEA FUNCK

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

ANNETTE LAPLACA

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

THE PICKARD FAMILY

Leader: Advent is a time to prepare.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

Leader: During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

Leader: During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

Leader: During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.

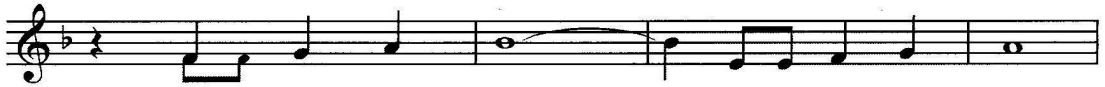
All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

Leader: During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

We Wait in Hope (Congregation is seated and sings third verse.)

Joel Raney



(1st Sunday) We wait in
(2nd Sunday) We watch in
(3rd Sunday) We pre - pare in
(4th Sunday) We praise with
(Christmas Eve) We pro - claim with } hope _____ for the morn - ing Light,



for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate _____ the night. _____



We wait with
We watch with
We pre - pare with
We praise with
We pro - claim with } joy _____ for the Sav - ior's birth;



we wait in
we watch in
we pre - pare in
we praise with
we pro - claim with } hope for peace on earth.

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OPENING PRAYER

(Choir sings vs. 1 & 2, congregation joins on verse 3, 4, 5)

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
 2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
 3. And through all his won - drous child - hood he would hon - or and o - bey,
 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
 5. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall:
 • love and watch the low - ly maid - en in whose gen - tle arms he lay:
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove,
 we shall see him, but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 with the poor, and mean, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 • Chris - tian chil - dren all must be mild, o - be - dient, good as he.
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
 when like stars his chil - dren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

* *Congregation stands*

WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

GABY SOSA

Leader: If we look at our own lives,

All: We must confess the mixture of giving and selfishness, our waiting on the Lord turned to an endless rush, our missing the mark of Advent.

Leader: We need forgiveness for our frantic ways and misplaced efforts. But we are grateful that we can trust in God,

All: Who still brings salvation, who still supplies us strength, who hears our songs of gratitude, who accepts our joyful praise.

Leader: Let us draw water from the wells of salvation. Let us proclaim his greatness with all our being.

All: His saving deeds support our lives. His greatness still astounds us. The Holy One of Israel is among us.

Based on Isaiah 12

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace. Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.

from The Worship Sourcebook

* ACCLAMATION

All: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(Please share God's peace with those around you.)

Jes-se Tree, Jes-se Tree, sign of God's fi - del-i - ty, that

5 he will love e - ter-nal - ly the prom-ise made to

9 pro-phets like I-sai-ah, and Ruth, a wom-an wise, and Dan-iel in the den, and to

12 John who bap-tized, who wait-ed for the com-ing of Em-man - u - el.

(Children 3 years through 2nd grade are dismissed to go downstairs to continue their worship.)

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE BIDDING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

All: **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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3:8-19

READER: COLIN HOLMAN

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM: *He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

arr. John Ferguson
IMMANUEL CHOIR

He comes to us as one unknown,
a breath unseen, unheard;
as though within a heart of stone,
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
a pulse of being stirred.

He comes in love as once he came
by flesh and blood and birth;
to bear within our mortal frame
a life, a death, a saving name,
for every child of earth.

He comes when souls in silence lie
and thoughts of day depart;
half-seen upon the inward eye,
a falling star across the sky
of night within the heart.

He comes in truth when faith is grown;
believed, obeyed, adored:
the Christ in all the Scriptures shown,
as yet unseen, but not unknown,
our Saviour and our Lord.

He comes to us in sound of seas,
the ocean's fume and foam;
yet small and still upon the breeze,
a wind that stirs the tops of trees,
a voice to call us home.

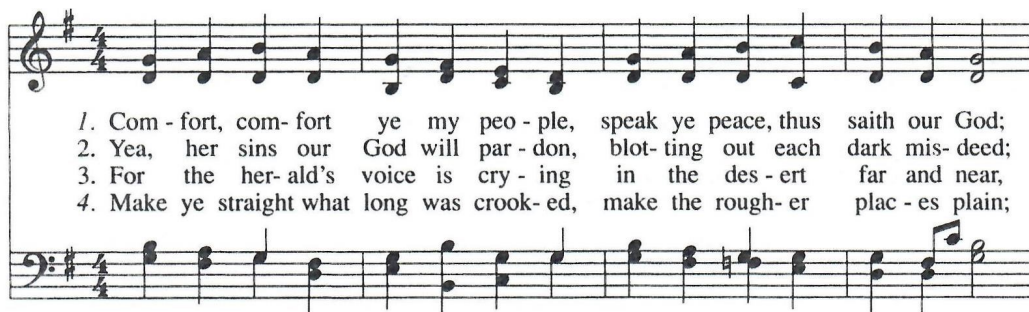
SECOND LESSON: God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.

Isaiah 40:1-8

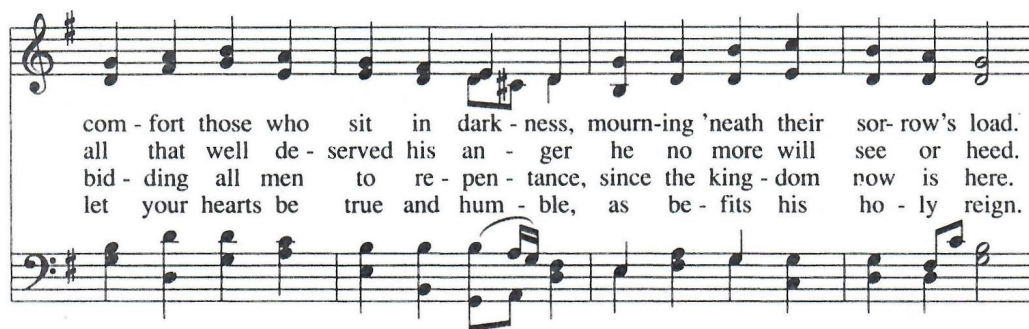
READER: DAVID MATHUES

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

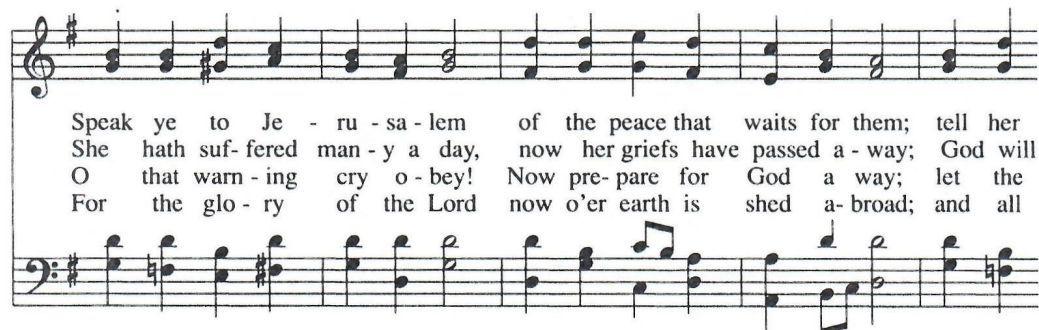
People: **Thanks be to God.**



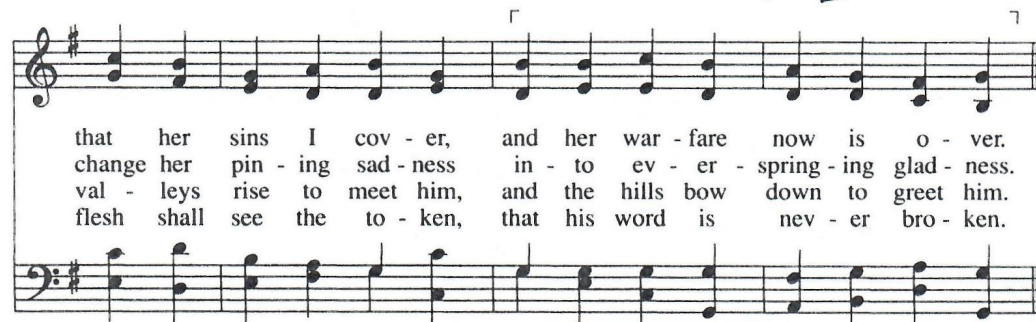
1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
 2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
 3. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load.
 all that well de - served his an - ger he no more will see or heed.
 bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them; tell her
 She hath suf - fered man - y a day, now her griefs have passed a - way; God will
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way; let the
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad; and all



that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.
 flesh shall see the to - ken, that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

THIRD LESSON: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Isaiah 35:1-4

READER: MARGARET LAMBKA

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

QUARTET: *What Child Is This? (Greensleeves)*

arr. Marcus D. Dowty

FOURTH LESSON: The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2-4

READER: WILL DURBIN

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by:
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

FIFTH LESSON: The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

Luke 1:26-35, 38

READER: ANNA TREIER

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

M. Praetorius

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-gone was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior
When half-gone was the night.

SIXTH LESSON: Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:1, 3-7

READER: LUCY LAPLACA

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR: *Christ Is Born, Alleluia!*

Howard Whitaker

Christ is born on Christmas day, Hallelujah!
Come to dwell with us today, Hallelujah!
Oh, let us praise him,
Born to set us free.

SEVENTH LESSON: The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8-20

READER: ANNA GISSING

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

* CAROL: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

HYMN 214

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN
Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

EIGHTH LESSON: The Wise Men are led to Jesus by the star.

Matthew 2:1-11

READER: NOAH KIM

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

OFFERING

CHOIR: *One Gift*

Glen L. Rudolph

One gift the magi bore
worth more than all the rest
the grace to kneel and bow before
the child whom starlight blest.

And though their gift of gold
shone brightly with the skies
still heaven's light was twice as bold
in their adoring eyes.

Their myrrh and frankincense
lay sweet upon the air,
but sweeter yet and more intense
the magi's humble prayer.

One gift the magi bore
worth more than all the rest:
we give that gift when we adore
the child whom starlight blest.

NINTH LESSON: John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

John 1:1-14

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR: *All Is Well*

Smith/Kirkpatrick
arr. Ronn Huff

All is well, all is well.
Angels and men rejoice.
For tonight darkness fell
Into the dawn of love's light.
Sing Alleluia

All is well, all is well.
Lift up your voices and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel,
Born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing Alleluia, all is well

All is well, all is well.
Let there be peace on earth.
Christ's come, go and tell
That He is in the manger.
Sing Alleluia

Born is now Emmanuel
Born is our Lord and Savior
Sing Alleluia
All is well.

1. See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,
 2. Lo, with - in a man - ger lies he who built the star - ry skies:
 3. Say, ye ho - ly shep - herds, say— what's your joy - ful news to - day?
 4. "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a won - drous light;

see the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
 he who, throned in height sub - lime, sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
 Where - fore have ye left your sheep on the lone - ly moun - tain steep?
 an - gels sing - ing, 'Peace on earth,' told us of the Sav - ior's birth."

REFRAIN

Hail, thou ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

5. Sacred infant, all divine,
 what a tender love was thine,
 thus to come from highest bliss
 down to such a world as this!

6. Teach, O teach us, holy child,
 by thy face so meek and mild,
 teach us to resemble thee,
 in thy sweet humility.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE: *In Dulci Jubilo*

TODAY

If you are in need of prayer, [elder Gaby Sosa](#) will be at the front of the sanctuary following the service.

Musicians and other participants: Mary Hopper, John Zimmerman, Alethea Funck, Edward Zimmerman, Marcus Mayell, Grace Mayell, Timothy Holman, Helena Norman, Abbot Klassen, Sophie Dietlin, Daniel Dietlin, Will Durbin, Grace Kenyon, Felicity Roche, Abigail Durbin, Phebe Balzer, and Andrea Carradus.

Thanks to our artists: The Nativity display at the front of the sanctuary is made from repurposed church bulletins. Thanks to our artist David LaPlaca. Also thanks to art historian John Walford for the visual history of the life of Christ on display in the narthex.

1:00 - 1:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Food Pantry

Iglesia Roca Eterna

Evening Mom Talk

Youth Group

THIS WEEK

Tuesday

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Women's Bible Study

Food pantry open

Men's Book Group

Wednesday

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Mom Talk

COMING

Friday,
December 24

6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve candlelight service

IN IMMANUEL AND BEYOND

The Advent readings are from "We Wait in Hope," words and music by Joel Raney.