

November 29, 2020
11:00 AM
First Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's Kingdom:

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

(Isaiah 2:4)

Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*Hymn

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

*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 earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

*Prayer of Confession

the Worship Sourcebook

Promised Christ,
our world is divided and conflicted.
Our peace depends on your coming.
We are a sinful people.
Our pardon depends on your coming.
We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;
our only hope of doing God's will
is that you should come and help us do it.
Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits
for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace.
Even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

***Congregational Response** *Christ Be Our Light*

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.*** Repeat

Time with Children

Scripture Reading Isaiah 11:1-11 (NIV)

Anthem *Every Valley* John Ness Beck

*Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low:
And the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.* Isaiah 40:4-5

Scripture Reading Psalm 85:4-13, John 14:27 (NIV)

Sermon *Peace Promised*

***Musical Invitation to Prayer** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verses 1 & 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 you, O Israel.
O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.***

Refrain

Prayers for the Church and the World and The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn** *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

***Now the heavens start to whisper
As the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen
To the stirring, faint within:
Seed of promise, deeply planted,
Christ to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frost-line,
Hearts grow soft to welcome him.***

***Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
Now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness***

Shines the hope of coming day.

***Christ, the morning star of splendor,
Gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
Hearts grow warm to welcome him.***

***Christ, eternal sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
Come to bless with fire and fragrance
Hours of yearning, hurt, and need.***

*In the lonely, in the stranger,
In the outcast hid from view:
Child who comes to grace the manger,
Teach our hearts to welcome you.*

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.*

Postlude