

Worship Booklet for the Season of Advent
The Third Sunday of Advent: December 13, 2020
=== Modified Morning Prayer ===
THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Introduction – Rev. Dr. Lois Williams

Opening Hymn – Hymnal #56, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” v. 1, 2 & 3

Verse 1:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Verse 2:

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Verse 3:

O come, O come, thou Lord of might
who to thy tribes on Sinai’s height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Officiant The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.
Isaiah 40:5

Advent Kyrie

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***All 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.*

Officiant Lord, open our lips.
Response And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

Jubilate *Psalm 100 Jubilate Deo*

A Reader leads the recitation

Reader and People together

*Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.*

*Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.*

*For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.*

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Liturgy *From Discipleship Ministries, United Methodist Church*

For Advent 3 – Joy

Reader 1: We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

Reader 2: The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, “God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.” No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

Reader 1: We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things: the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming.

Reader 2: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Psalm *Psalm 126* *In convertendo*

A Reader leads the recitation

Reader and People together

*When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, **
then were we like those who dream.

*Then was our mouth filled with laughter, **
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

*Then they said among the nations, **
"The Lord has done great things for them."

*The Lord has done great things for us, **
and we are glad indeed.

*Restore our fortunes, O Lord, **
like the watercourses of the Negev.

*Those who sowed with tears **
will reap with songs of joy.

*Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, **
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Old Testament – *Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11*

Reader:

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Response *Thanks be to God.*

The Epistle – 1 Thessalonians 5 :16-24

Reader:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Response *Thanks be to God.*

*Gradual -- Celtic Alleluia

After a brief introduction, sing two times through

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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The Gospel – John 1:6-8,19-28

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

Response *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Officiant The Gospel of our Savior.

Response *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

This year Bishop Marc and the Diocese of California has expressed its desire to introduce into our worship services some of the gifts given to serving Jesus Christ from people of color including various cultures. This Advent Season we introduce to Christ the Lord Church the poetic gifts of Reverend Doctor Howard Thurman (1899–1981).

"He preached a philosophy of Common Ground, which taught that humans need to seek an inner spiritual happiness that would lead them to share their experience in community with others. In 1944, Thurman co-founded San Francisco's Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, the first integrated interfaith religious congregation in the United States. In 1953, he became the dean of Marsh Chapel, the first black dean at a mostly white American university, mentoring, among many others, Martin Luther King, Jr. (GRS'55, Hon. '59) as he developed his philosophy of nonviolence." From Boston University Today, January 7, 2020

A Meditation by Howard Thurman (from *Meditations of the Heart*) – Rev. Lois
“Life Is Alive”

The awareness that the universe is dynamic gives to the individual the quiet assurance that wherever he may be located he is in immediate candidacy for the strength that comes from a boundless vitality.

This fact makes for a universal kinship among all living things. The blessing of self-consciousness makes possible a deliberate relatedness out of which arise all of the joyous overtones of human relations.

To understand another human being even dimly is to bring to a point of focus an Infinite Resource.

A Reflection – Rev. Lois

16 The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus* Luke 1:68-79

A Reader leads the canticle recitation

Reader and People together

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

The Apostles' Creed

A Reader leads the recitation

Reader and People together

*We believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Response *And also with you.*

Officiant Let us pray.

All *Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.*

Prayers of the People *Adapted from Advent Prayers, Rev. Jim Friedrich, The Religious Imagineer*

The Reader leads and the People respond

Reader: Let us pray to God with our community and our neighbors, responding with:
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every
story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed.

People *O come, O come, Emmanuel.*

Reader: Blessed are You who joins us together in the communion of Christ's body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labors to the work of Providence.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle.

People: ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: O Lover of souls, give to the departed eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illumining all things with your radiance: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel.***

Reader: God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare Your room.

People ***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.***

The Doxology

All ***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. Amen.***

Reader: God of Peace, we are confronted with so many overwhelming needs in our world. Walk with us as we set aside our own desires and wants and join the call to alleviate human suffering. Transform these financial gifts we have made to Christ the Lord Church and our community into genuine acts of concern and ministry to others. In the name of the One who surpasses all understanding, we pray. ***Amen.***

Add your prayers for yourself and the world, and thanks for God's blessings, out loud or in the chat.

Officiant O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

The Collect of the Day *From Planning for Rites and Rituals 2020-2021*

Officiant Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Wisdom to Set Aside Differences

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we ask that you fill us with your Spirit of love and unity among believers all across this nation. We ask for your help to set aside our differences and look to the greater cause, the cause of Christ. We ask that you would help us to truly live a life of love. We know that this is only possible through the power of your Spirit, so we pray for your Spirit to move across our land in fresh ways. Help us to quickly forgive hurts, provide us with a renewed heart of compassion, and let love and faithfulness be evident in all of our decisions and actions; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Guidance

Reader: Lord God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path, may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Mission

Reader: O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in your image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ; and grant that, by the prayers and labors of your holy Church, they may be brought to know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People together

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.*

*We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.*

*And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom [*KRIS-us-tum*]

Reader: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

Response **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn – Hymnal #76, “On Jordan’s Bank,” v. 1, 2 & 5

Verse 1:
On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Verse 2:
Then cleansed by every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

Verse 5:
All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

Officiant The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.
Amen.

Don’t forget to join us for virtual coffee hour after the service
through Zoom! Check your email from Sandy for details.

Stewardship update: Thanks to all of you who have returned your completed pledge and time and talent forms. If you have not already done so, please return your completed forms to the Church office. God bless all of us as we bring the light and love of Christ into the world.

From the Church Office: Due to the pandemic, we will not be able to collect non-perishable items for the Food Bank this year. So we encourage everyone to please make a money donation to the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. You may donate through our online giving page by going to <https://christthelord.gvtls.com> and clicking on the Food Bank picture.

