

Worship Booklet for the Season of Advent
The Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 20, 2020
=== *Modified Morning Prayer* ===
THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Introduction – Rev. Dr. Lois Williams

Opening Hymn – Hymnal #56, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” v. 1, 4 & 5

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 4:

O come, thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,
free them from Satan’s tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Verse 5:

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Officiant Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God.
Revelation 21:3

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.

Venite *Psalm 95:1-7 Venite, exultemus*

A Reader leads the recitation

Reader and People together

*Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.*

*For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.*

*Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!*

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

For Advent 4 – Peace

Reader 1: We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that company is coming.

Reader 2: Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

Reader 1: We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace that knows that company is coming.

Reader 2: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Psalm *Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Misericordias Domini*

A Reader leads the recitation

Reader and People together

*Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.*

*For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.*

*"I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:*

*'I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.'*"

*You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.*

*I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.*

*My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.*

*No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.*

*I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.*

*My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.*

*I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.*

*He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'*

*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 – 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

Reader:

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

The Epistle – Romans 16 :25-27

Reader:

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

(See **Celtic Alleluia** on next page . . .)

*Gradual -- Celtic Alleluia

After a brief introduction, sing two times through

The musical score is written on two staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first staff begins in 6/8 time and contains the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!". The second staff continues the melody, changing to 9/8 time for the first measure and then back to 6/8 time for the final measure, with the lyrics "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 – Luke 1:26-38

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

Response *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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
“I Surrender Myself to God “

The central element in communion with God is the act of self-surrender. The symbol of my prayer this day is the open heart.

It is most natural for me to think of prayer in terms of the open hand. My needs are so great and often so desperate that there seems to be naught besides my own urgency.

I must open my heart to God. This will include my own deep urgencies and all the warp and woof of my desiring.

These things, deep within, I must trust with the full awareness that more important even than self-realization is the true glorifying of God.

Somehow I must make God central to me and in me, over and above the use to which I wish or need to put His energy and His power.

I surrender myself to God without any conditions or reservations. I shall not bargain with Him. I shall not make my surrender piecemeal but I shall lay bare the very center of me, that all of my very being shall be charged with the creative energy of God.

Little by little, or vast area by vast area, my life must be transmuted in the life of God. As this happens, I come into the meaning of true freedom and the burdens that I seemed unable to bear are floated in the current of the life and love of God.

The central element in communion with God is the act of self-surrender.

A Reflection – Deacon Kate Salinaro

13 The Song of Mary *Magnificat* Luke 1:46-55

A Reader leads the recitation

Reader and People together

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
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: 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.*

A Prayer for Peace

Reader: Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Healing of Our Land

Reader: Everlasting God, we pray for your great healing on our land. Shine your face on us for we need you now, more than ever before. Our times are in your hands. We are thankful that you are rich in mercy and full of grace. We are grateful that you are forgiving and merciful. Thank you for being strong and mighty; thank you for being for us and fighting for us still today. Bring honor to your Name, O Lord, for you alone are worthy. *Amen.*

A Collect for Mission

Reader: Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 #265, “The Angel Gabriel,” v. 1, 2, 3 & 4

Verse 1:

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All Hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady,”
Gloria!

Verse 2:

“For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers
foretold,
most highly favored lady,”
Gloria!

Verse 3:

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,
“my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.”
Most highly favored lady,
Gloria!

Verse 4:

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will
ever say—
“Most highly favored lady,”
Gloria!

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*

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.

