

Sunday, November 27th

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements



*Call to Worship

Leader: Let us go into the house of the Lord!

People: let us meet God with joy!

Leader: God builds us up like a great city.

People: May peace be within our walls.

Leader: Let us seek the goodness of God;

People: let us go into the house of the Lord!

*Hymn # 88 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 2, 6, & 7)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Affirmation of Hope

Leader: From our first breaths of life to our final moments before death, our bodies tell God's story of hope.

People: We are created to attach, to connect, and to live in community. This is our hope.

Leader: We hear the story of hope in the dependence of babies who know help is coming when they cry.

People: We are created to need one another. This is our hope.

Leader: We hear the story of hope in children who ask, explore, experiment, and wonder.

People: We are created to enjoy creation. This is our hope.

Leader: We hear the story of hope in teenagers who notice injustice, waste, and hypocrisy.

People: We are created to advocate for each other. This is our hope.

Leader: We hear the story of hope in middle age, when questions of identity and purpose find depth and discovery.

People: We are created to be distinctly and uniquely beloved. This is our hope.

Leader: We hear the story of hope in our older adults who pursue passions formed by decades of wisdom and experience.

People: We are created to attach, to connect, to live in community. This is the hope of our faith.

Prayer for Hope

Congregational Response: Hymn 90 – Wait for the Lord (x2)

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Word of God made flesh, long before stories were told or books were written, the Word was with God and the Word was God. But we have worshiped other words. We have mistaken the Word made flesh for printed words, for words in our own language, for cruel words, and for words that divide and dehumanize us. We repent and return to the beginning, to the Word through whom all other words came into being. Forgive us, God. Amen.

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Assurance of Pardon

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Time with Children

After the Time with Children, we invite children to return to their seats and participate in the service. Activity bags may be found on the welcome table.

Choral Anthem

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Luke 1:5-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Elizabeth and Zechariah

Affirmation of Faith: The Confession of 1967

God expressed love for all mankind through Israel, whom God chose to be God's covenant people to serve God in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgments and maintained God's cause through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose for Israel and for humankind would be realized.

Out of Israel God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn # 756 – O God of Every Nation**

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***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response: Hymn #90 – Wait for the Lord (x2)**

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

Postlude

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 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.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

- 7 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

O God of Every Nation 756

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.