

# St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER 20, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## WELCOME

### OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Carol of the Birds*  
Arch Baker, Cello

Pablo Cassals

### CALL TO WORSHIP

I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of my child,

**Suddenly, joy was overflowing.**

I knew love, but when you held my hand,

**Suddenly, love was overflowing.**

I knew God, but when you showed me grace,

when you forgave me,

when you loved me,

when you raised me,

**Suddenly, God was overflowing.**

So, let us worship Holy God together

As a reminder that God is here and we are never alone.

**This is community.**

This is the body of Christ.

**Welcome home.**

### CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

### HYMN INTRODUCTION

Paul Manz

### HYMN

*Come, thou Long Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

1) O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

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.

### CONFESSING OUR SIN

God of Good News,

You say to me, "You are highly favored," but I struggle to see how that could be.

You say to me, "Do not be afraid," but I am afraid all the time.

You say to me, "Even the impossible is possible, just look at Elizabeth!"

But hope slips through my hands like water.

The impossible still feels impossible.

So today I pray,

Today we pray:

Teach us to sing like Mary.

Teach us to laugh like Elizabeth.

Teach us to trust like the angels.

Forgive us when we can only do one at a time, or none at all.

*Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession*

**SONG OF PETITION**

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

PREPARE THE WAY

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

*Love Will Come!*

BRING A TORCH

Love will come - a light in the darkness! Love will fill the Bethlehem skies.  
Soon, all heaven will come to proclaim it - Soon, their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Mary Evans

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 1:26-45

**CHILDREN'S LESSON**

**SERMON**

*Those Who Dream...Are Not Alone*

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe that this world is hard—  
Harder than it has to be.  
When the world falls apart around us,  
We believe in listening for the angels that say, “Do not be afraid,”  
And in seeking out the Elizabeths in our lives—  
Those who laugh with joy at our arrival  
And throw open the doors to their homes.  
We believe that healthy relationships can offer healing,  
Through the laughter of cousins,  
The joy shared between siblings,  
And the home found in partnership.  
Therefore, we believe in church families,  
In chosen families,  
And in the love that extends beyond family.  
We believe in friendships,  
In neighbors,  
And in leaning on each other when the going gets tough.  
We believe in the Triune God—  
Lover, Beloved, and Love itself—  
Inherently relational, always connected, and never alone.  
We believe that that same belovedness exists for us.  
We believe that we are loved and claimed,  
Never alone.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS OF GOD'S CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND WORLD**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

**Offertory Response**

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;

TALLIS' CANON

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

### Prayer of Dedication

#### HYMN INTRODUCTION

Roy Brunner

#### HYMN

*People, Look East* BESANÇON

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. *Continued*

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.

#### CHARGE AND BLESSING

#### THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

#### BLESSING RESPONSE

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Setting By Raymond Hann

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.



Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.

#### BLESSING IN MUSIC

*Veni Emmanuel*

Noel Rawstone

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Affirmation of Faith by Sarah Are |  
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#### Information on this Week's Music

Today is our Sunday of *Veni Emmanuel*, an ancient hymn that is both a plaintive prayer and an urgent cry. Could ever this hymn be more appropriate to our times as right now? The Latin prose that is believed to be pre-9th century. It consisted of seven antiphons sung as a response after a Psalm on the seven days before Christmas. Each antiphon was based on one (or more) of the messianic titles from Hebrew scripture and was a prayer addressed to Christ. Even in translation "Veni" in imperative form is "O come" in English - and the antiphons became to be known as the "Great Os". Also, originally the verses were arranged to form an acrostic yielding two Latin words: *ero cras* meaning "I will be tomorrow" - a direct reference to Hebrews 13:8 - that Christ is "the same yesterday and today and forever" The tune is traditional plainsong thought to have been from the 11th century; however, recent research has confirmed the tune to be from a 13th century French document. Whatever the original source, the tune and the words combined have become a signature expression of the emotions of Advent.

The **Opening Voluntary** is by Noël Goemanne (1926–2010), a Belgian-born musician, who in 1952 emigrated to the United States, where he became well known as an organist, as a choirmaster and as a composer, especially of, but not limited to, sacred music. An interesting note to his life: during World War II the Nazi occupier tried to persuade him to become a composer for the Third Reich, but he refused. He was later arrested for playing music by Felix Mendelssohn, a Jewish composer, in public.

The **first Hymn Introduction** is from a collection of pieces for Advent and Christmas by Paul Manz (1919-2009) who long served the church as recitalist, composer, teacher and leader in worship.

The **second Hymn Introduction** was composed by Roy Brunner (b. 1945), an American composer and organist who served at Park Street Church, Boston.

The **Benediction in Music** is by Noel Rawsthorne (b. 1949), an English organist and educator. He was organist of Liverpool Cathedral for 25 years and Senior Lecturer in Music at St. Katherine's College, Liverpool until his retirement in 1993.