Order for the Public Worship of God
December 6, 2020
2nd Sunday of Advent
11:00 AM Worship Service

WE COME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY
“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”
Piano and Organ Duet

WE COME TO WORSHIP
“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”
arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
Chris Curvin, Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP
“The People Who Walked in Darkness”
Sally Ann Morris

The people who walked in darkness awaken to see a great light.
The people who dwelt in the land of the shadow rise to a star shining bright.

His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Father forever, Prince of Peace.

For God has enlarged the nation, and prospered the fruit of its land.
God’s people are blest with the harvest of victory, gift from a bountiful hand.

text by Mary Louise Bringle, 2008
© GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN #88
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

(stanzas 1,6,7)

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.

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.

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.

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE
Lighting the Candle, Steve & Debbie Lang

The reader offers words about the candle of peace.

RESPONSE
Reader: …and so we offer this mysterious prayer:
All:
All singing:

CALL TO CONFESSION
Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)
O God, you search us and know us, and all that we are is open to you. We confess that we have
sinned. We long for your coming to change the world, and yet are unwilling to change even our
own hearts; when we do not listen to the prophets and angels; when we reduce our preparation of
your coming to reckless spending and trivialities. For- give us for all of our failings, in Jesus’
name. Amen.
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful, his own self for heavenly food.

APOSTLES’ CREED (Together)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

ANTHEM

“Every Valley”
John Ness Beck
Chancel Choir, recorded on November 25, 2018

CALL TO OFFERING

HYMN #96 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

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!

Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand; our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

WE GROW IN THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-5 NRSV
Mark 1:1-8 NRSV

SERMON
Advent Series: The World Is Not Yet Finished
#2 “Turning Towards Peace”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

WE UNITE IN PRAYER AND SACRAMENT

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE SHARING OF
THE CUP; THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(please plan to celebrate communion during this livestream service by preparing a small portion of
juice—or something to drink—and bread for your use at home.)

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
“Comfort, comfort, now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

Benediction

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”  Jonathan Reuss

Stephanie Carson, Music Director
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile
all things Might i ly to us the path of knowledge tribes on Sinai’s height in ancient times didst give the
Satan’s tyranny; from depths of hell thy people here un til the Son of God appear.
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re joice! Re joice!

2 O come, thou Word of God on high, who art Q poph
Em man u el shall come to thee, O Israel.

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy saves and give them victory over the grave.

4 O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from

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. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

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.

TEXT: Latin prose; pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMANUEL

LM with refrain
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

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!

2 Then cleanse be every life from sin; make straight the way
   for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.
   waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.

3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and great reward; without your grace we on us shine and fill the world with love divine.
   rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up
   has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us all praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent

5
Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1 “Com-fort, com-fort now my peo-ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
2 For the her-ald’s voice is cry-ing in the des-ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough-er plac-es plain.

“Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing un-der sor-row’s load.
call-ing us to true re-pen-tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum-ble, as be-fits God’s ho-ly reign.

To my peo-ple now pro-claim that my par-don waits for them!
O, that warn-ing cry o-bey! Now pre-pare for God a way.
For the glo-ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a-broad,

Tell them that their sins I cov-er, and their war-fare now is o-ver.”
Let the val-leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing,
and all flesh shall see the to-ken that God’s word is nev-er bro-ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

TEXT: Johannes Olearius, 1671; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551