

*Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**December 10, 2023**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Silent Prayer of Preparation**

*Gracious God, we come before you now during Advent, as we await the birth of the Christ child and the second coming of Christ. Help us not to be apathetic or anxious during these between times. Instead give us faith, hope, and peace. Amen.*

## **Gathering Music**

### **The Gathering of God's People**

#### **Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship**

"Veni Emmanuel"

arr. Gregg Sewell

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Introit "Emmanuel"**

John Gorman, 1987

O come. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile here

Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## **Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Mark, Oanh, Seth, and Jace Johnson

Reader 1: We light the first candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

Reader 2: We light the second candle as the symbol of peace for the purity of heart only God can bring.

*(lighting of the candles)*



## First Scripture Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

## Choir Anthem “Repent”

John Gorman, 1995

There will come a man that will bless with a fire,  
Fire of the Holy Spirit.  
And we are not worthy to take off his shoe.  
But He’s coming for me and He’s coming for you.  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.  
Praise God with a voice crying in the wilderness.

## Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon “No More Apathy and Anxiety” Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

### The Response to the Word

#### \*Affirmation of Faith

The Larger Catechism (7.166)

Pastor: How is Christ to be exalted in his coming again to judge the world?

**People: Christ is to be exalted in his coming again to judge the world, in that he, who was unjustly judged and condemned by wicked men, shall come again at the last day in great power, and in the full manifestation of his own glory, and of his Father’s, with all his holy angels, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, to judge the world in righteousness.**

#### \*Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verses 1-4)

#88

## Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

**People: We pray for peace in every nation—that hatred and ill will in the hearts of all people will be burned away in your refining fire, leaving only love.**

Pastor: Pray for the peace of the church.

**People: We pray for peace in Christ's body—put an end to fear and fighting, that we may proclaim your good news and be awake to your presence.**

Pastor: Pray for the peace of this community.

**People: We pray for peace in this place—for safety in our homes and streets, for the prosperity of our neighbors, and for the health of family and friends.**

Pastor: We pray ... And now we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us:

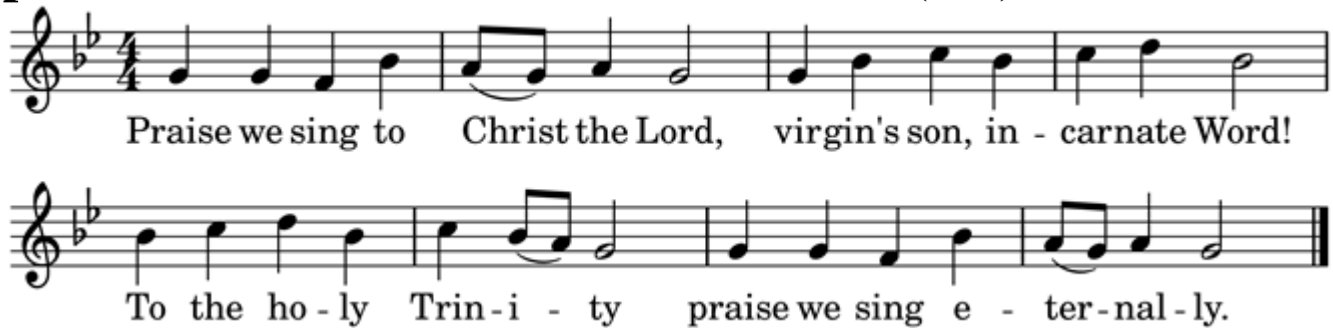
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Offering

### \*Response

“Savior of the Nations, Come” (v. 4)

#102



Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, in - carnate Word!  
To the ho - ly Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4<sup>th</sup> cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;  
English trans. stanza 4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress  
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### \*Prayer of Dedication

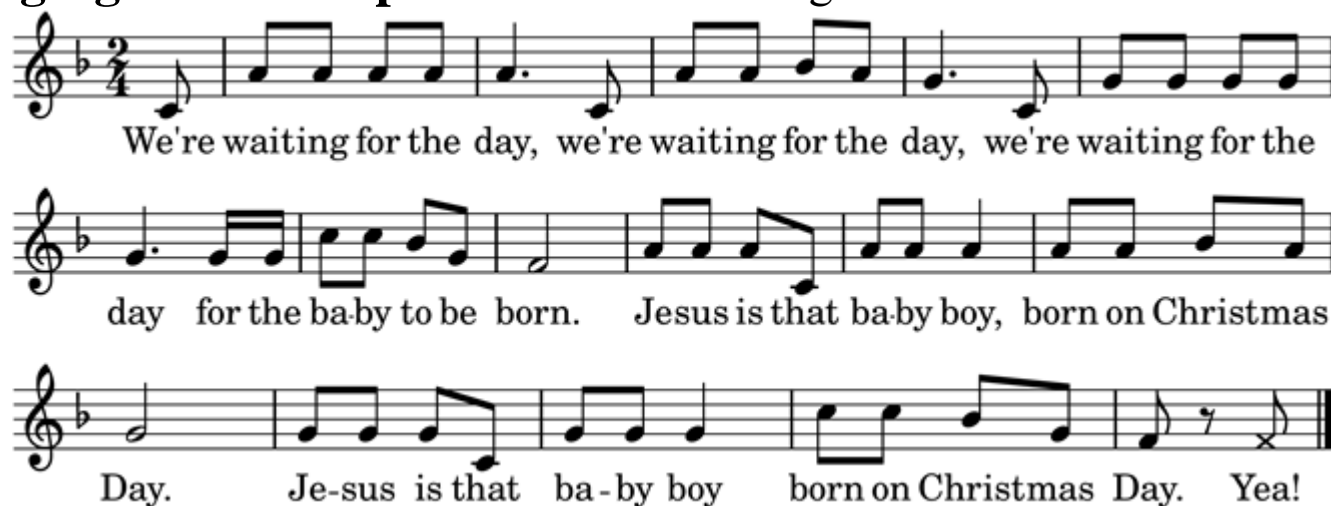
## The Sending of God's People

\*Closing Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verses 5-7)

#88

### \*Charge and Blessing

## \*Congregational Response “Advent Song”



We're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the  
day for the ba-by to be born. Jesus is that ba-by boy, born on Christmas  
Day. Je-sus is that ba-by boy born on Christmas Day. Yea!

Words and Music: Thomas & Joyce Lloyd

## \*Postlude

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

arr. Robert Lau

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**Pastors:** Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood  
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd

**Organist:** Carol Welk

**Liturgist:** Joyce Lloyd

*Joyce Lloyd and her husband, Tom, moved from Pittsburgh, PA, to London, OH, in 1974. They had just graduated from college and were newlyweds. Joyce and Tom were anxious to start their new life together and to start new jobs. London turned out to be a very welcoming town. They were able to find new friends and a new church family.*

*Joyce has a twin sister, an older sister, and an older brother, who live across the US, giving them a chance to visit some beautiful cities. Joyce is fortunate to have her brother-in-law, John, and sister-in-law, Margaret, living nearby.*

*Retirement is the best job Joyce has ever had, allowing her to enjoy more time with Tom, their dog, Sasha, and their cat, Meow Mix. Even in retirement there never seems to be enough time to be involved in as many volunteer projects as she would like. Joyce enjoys her time with friends, and being outside walking the dog or working in the yard. Goal in life: "Make me an instrument of your peace."*