



*The purpose of our Community is:  
“Building Committed Followers of Jesus Christ”*

**Prelude**

*Pianist: Shirlene Everhart*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Invocation**

*Every worship service opens by invoking the name, the presence, and the power of the one true God, the God in whose name and by whose power we became members of the Holy Christian Church in our Baptism.*

*(Pastor) In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**(Everyone) Amen.**



The story begins with hope for a child –  
A child, born of woman, like us;  
A child who will lead us,  
A child who will inspire us.  
A child who will be our living hope.  
On this first Sunday of Advent, we give thanks for  
the coming child, Jesus. (light candle)  
Let us worship God.

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon**

**[Everyone]** Holy God, we might need to confess that we have forgotten what this story is about – the story of the birth of Jesus. We’ve been confused, so we wrap ourselves with so much planning, and shopping, and gift giving and sending, with so much decorating and card-writing and partying that we haven’t left any time to sit in the dark, to sit in silence, to contemplate the Incarnation, to give thanks for this one life that changed the world.

We have celebrated so many Christmases, and yet – Yet we still need You to remind us what this is all about, to turn us around and set us in the right direction.

May the generosity that drives us this season be present all year. May the intentional reaching out to the far-flung and to the stranger continue past the holidays. May our hearts, so full of so much, be mostly full of love For You, for each other, and for ourselves. Heal us, we pray. Amen

## **Prayer of Forgiveness**

*(Pastor) Friends in Christ, hear this Good News! God could not love you any more than God loves you at this very moment. You are that beloved. So know that wrapped in that love is grace and forgiveness, and a call to go out into the world to love. Alleluia! Amen.*

## **Opening Hymn**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, # 245*

## **We Worship Through Our Giving**

*We express our gratitude to God as we give to support the work of the church so that more people may hear the Good News about Jesus. Please ask an usher if you need an envelope.*

## **Offertory**

## **We Worship Through Speaking and Hearing the Word of God**

*We read the Word of God to strengthen, encourage, and challenge us for the week ahead.*

## **First Lesson for the Day**

*Isaiah 40: 1-11 ((NLT))*

<sup>1</sup>“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God. <sup>2</sup>“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. Tell her that her sad days are gone and her sins are pardoned. Yes, the LORD has punished her twice over for all her sins.” <sup>3</sup>Listen! It’s the voice of someone shouting, “Clear the way through the wilderness for the LORD! Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God! <sup>4</sup>Fill in the valleys, and level the mountains and hills. Straighten the curves, and smooth out the rough places. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!” <sup>6</sup>A voice said, “Shout!” I asked, “What should I shout?” “Shout that people are like the grass. Their beauty fades as quickly as the flowers in a field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fade beneath the breath of the LORD. And so it is with people. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.” <sup>9</sup>O Zion, messenger of good news, shout from the mountaintops! Shout it louder, O Jerusalem. Shout, and do not be afraid. Tell the towns of Judah, “Your God is coming!” <sup>10</sup>Yes, the Sovereign LORD is coming in power. He will rule with a powerful arm. See, he brings his reward with him as he comes. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.

## **Epistle Lesson**

*2 Peter 3: 8-14 (NLT)*

<sup>8</sup>But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a ter-

rible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. <sup>11</sup> Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, <sup>12</sup> looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. <sup>13</sup> But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. <sup>14</sup> And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

*[Please Stand for the reading of the Gospel]*

## **Gospel Lesson**

*Mark 1: 1-8 (NLT)*

<sup>1</sup> This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began <sup>2</sup> just as the prophet Isaiah had written: "Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way. <sup>3</sup> He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the LORD's coming! Clear the road for him!'" <sup>4</sup> This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. <sup>5</sup> All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> John announced: "Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!"

## **We Respond to God's Word by Confessing Our Faith**

*As we recite together the words of the Apostles' Creed, we join the worldwide chorus of followers of Jesus, who, for centuries, have confessed their faith through this simple declaration.*

**(Everyone) 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 Spirit, 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 is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Sermon Hymn**

*O, Come, All Ye Faithful, # 249*

**Sermon**

*"Getting Ready for Christmas in the Midst of Covid 19"*



## **Communion Hymn**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain, # 258*

## **We Worship at the table of the Lord's Supper**

*Communion — If you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please hold up 2 fingers when you reach the person with the cups.*

*Everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is welcome and invited to join us. Together we receive anew the love and grace that God pours out to us through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Come hold in your hands and taste on your lips the love He poured out for you.*

*Pastor: The Words of Our Lord...(Consecration of the Elements)*

**(Everyone) 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen!**

Distribution

## **Benediction**

*A blessing we receive to send us out into the world once again.*

## **Sending Hymn**

*Emmanuel, # 243*

*Pastor: Go In Peace and Serve the Lord!*

**(Everyone) Thanks be to God**

## **Postlude**

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## ***Things going on during the week:***

Please pick up Food Bags today to use or to distribute to others.

**Monday-Friday: 7:15 am to 5 pm Little Blessings Christian Preschool:**

Theme: Happy Birthday Jesus; Letter: Mm; Bible: God's has a plan for salvation

**Thursdays: 5:00 pm Choir;** Until further notice, **NO other meetings** of the committees.

## ***Birdhouse = Building Fund Donations***

Please place all and any donations for the Building Fund in the Birdhouse. This fund is needed to replace 'The Shack' and build for the future of this church. Being more visible to Mission Avenue we hope to attract Christians looking for a new home and non-Christians looking for what is missing in their life.

## ***Mark Your Calendars!***

***December 19, Saturday — Free Food Distribution***--At the Shack from 9 to 10 am. If you know of someone who could benefit from the free food distribution, please let them know. Also, if you can help with set-up, please come at 8:30 am. If you can come later and stay until about 11:00 am to help with putting away leftover food, tables and chairs, your help will be greatly appreciated. *Join us in thanking God for the continuation of this ministry!* The Blue bin on the North wall of the Church is for the collection of can goods for the Food Distribution.

***January 2, Saturday, Normally, Women's Bible Study, 10 am.***

***February 7, Sunday, Love Offering ... for Missions***

Once a quarter, we will be collecting a special offering in the 'Missions Giving Box' on your way out of the Sanctuary for our Missionaries. This offering is above and beyond our regular giving. In planning ahead, we will repeat the Love Offerings in 2020 on the first Sunday in February, May, August & November.







# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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, Thou Wisdom from on high  
And order all things, far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show  
And cause us in her ways to go.  
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 quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of Angels

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
O Sing, all ye bright hosts of heaven above!  
Glory to God,  
All glory in the highest!  
[Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given:  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing!

# Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold! thro'out the heavens  
There shone a holy light.  
[Refrain]

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When, lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth.  
[Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And brought us God's salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.  
[Refrain]

# Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed in us;  
His name is called Emmanuel.