

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

WELCOMED. Todd Erickson

SONG OF PREPARATION: "I Wonder as I Wander"J.J. Niles

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die,
For poor ornery people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall

Abby Brown, soloist

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE Allie and Fraser Johnston

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL

Please remain seated for the first four verses. Stand for verse five only.

**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, 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.**

**O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
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 Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

✦CALL TO WORSHIP

✦READING FROM THE EPISTLES: Galatians 4:4-7, John 1:14 David Duarte

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

**And because you are sons,
God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying,
"Abba! Father!"**

So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

✦PRAYER OF DEVOTION

SONG OF JOY: "Sing with Joy to the Lord" Terry D. Taylor

Long time ago and low in a manger, Jesus, the tiny Child was born.
He is our Savior, dear little Stranger,
We sing our praise on this Christmas morn.
Gloria, gloria, come let us sing,
Sing with joy to the Lord.
Gloria, gloria, come let us sing,
Sing with joy to the Lord.

*Jr. Cherub Choir
Director: Terri Theil*

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 1:18-21 Maeji Brown
(page 805 in pew Bible)

SONG OF WONDER: "How Far Is It to Bethlehem?" arr. Molly Ijames

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little Child? Is He within?
If we lift the wooden latch may we go in?
May we stroke the creatures there oxen, or sheep?
May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?
If we touch His tiny hand will He awake?
Will He know we've come so far just for His sake?
Great kings have precious gifts and we have naught
Little smiles and little tears are all we brought.
For all weary children Mary must weep
Here, on His bed of straw sleep, children, sleep.
God in His mother's arms babes in the byre
Sleep, as they sleep who find their heart's desire.

*Sr. Cherub and First Grade Choirs
Director: Mimi Vestal*

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Emma Catherine Grant
(page 573 in pew Bible)

SONG OF HOLY LONGING:

"Come Jesus, Prince of Peace" Diane Hannibal/arr. Brad Nix

Come, O come, Emmanuel, come to us and stay.
Come, O come, Emmanuel, could this be the day?
Jesus, Prince of Peace, hope of all the earth;
Come, O come, Emmanuel, we await Your birth.

Come, O come, Emmanuel, joy of heav'n come down.
Come, O come Emmanuel, King without a crown.
Jesus, Prince of Peace, come to guide our way;
Come, O come, Emmanuel, live in us today.

Come, O come, Emmanuel, Branch of Jesse's tree.
Come, O come, Emmanuel, set Your children free.
Jesus, Prince of Peace, gentle as a dove;
Come, O come, Emmanuel, Messenger of love.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

*Music Makers and Spirit and Song Choirs
Director: Terri Theil*

✦ADVENT CAROL: No. 216 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" W ZLOBIE LEZY

FOURTH SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 1:5-17 Kathryn Haynes
(page 855 in pew Bible)

ADVENT DEVOTION

Be Prepared

Darrin S. Anthony

SONG OF JOYFUL PRAISE: "Jubilate" R. Prizeman

Alleluia, alleluia! Angels holy, high and lowly, tell the story of your glory.
Jubilate Deo! (Sing joyfully to God!)
Alleluia, alleluia! Heaven saw Thee, stars adore Thee, tell the story of Your glory.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, (Glory to God in the highest.)
Et in terra pax hominibus! (And peace to all men.)

Youth Choir
Soloist: Lizzie Young, Director: Ginger Statom

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O God, You have caused this world
to shine with Your true Light.
You have given us Jesus
Who came to reveal to us Your glory and grace.
As You have given this gift in love,
may we receive it with joy!
We dedicate all of these beautiful decorations to You
and ask that You would let them be reminders to us
that Your presence is with us at all times.
In this season of Advent,
help us to reflect Your light and Your love
to a world that is often dark and cold.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

♣ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE REGENT SQUARE

**Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One;
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.**

WORDS OF INSTRUCTION AND DISMISSAL

DECORATING OPPORTUNITIES

- Children and families will enjoy music
while working on crafts and decorating cookies (*Fellowship Hall*)
- Decorate the Christmas tree with the 3Ms (*Reception Area – B Building*)
- Decorate the tree and railing (*C Building Downstairs*)
- Decorate the Chapel with the Chapel Class
- Decorate the International Ministry tree (*West Entrance – Outside C310*)
- Decorate the lobby areas around the Sanctuary (*Connector by Welcome Center*)
- Help hang outdoor wreaths (*Main Sanctuary Entrance – Poplar Avenue side*)
- Decorate the Sanctuary Chancel (*Pulpit Steps*)

Reassemble outside the Russell (PDS) Building for the live nativity

INSTRUMENTAL POSTLUDE

THE NATIVITY

BENEDICTION

♣ *Indicates congregation standing*

CCLI License #252778

*Instrumentalists: Mary Lawrence Flinn, piano; Dee Walker, flute;
Lenora Morrow, organ; Abby Jacobs, harp*