

Welcome to Worship

Sunday December 6, 2020

ADVENT 2



Image: ["End and Beginning"](#) © Jan Richardson

(using materials from the Christmas Bowl,
National Council of Churches)

OPENING HYMN - O Come, O come Emmanuel (Em/E)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and fill our lives, all dark and fear dispel,
as once an exiled Israel you found,
redeemed, restored and set on holy ground.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to us
and in our hearts will dwell.

O come, O light of Christ, so bright and clear
and lift our spirits by your advent here.
In all who gather, show us your face,
that we may know the warmth of your embrace.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to us
and in our hearts will dwell.

O come, O Wisdom, mind and heart divine,
help us restore a world we've let decline.
Enlighten us; your way we would know
and show us where new seeds of hope to sow.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to us
and in our hearts will dwell.

O Advent God of hope, joy, love and peace,
in you we pray our sad divisions cease.
Bind us as one, a people of grace,
for at your table each one has a place

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to us
and in our hearts will dwell.

These fresh words to an ancient hymn were penned by Susan Wickham in 2010, who is a Minister of the Word, serving the UCA in Adelaide, SA. <https://youtu.be/iO7ySn-Swwc>

Call to worship

CONGREGATIONAL LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Candle Song

Amelia

‘Christmas is coming’
the church is glad to sing
and let the Advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.

The first is for God’s promise
to put the wrong things right,
and bring to earth’s darkness
the hope of love and light.

‘Christmas is coming’
the church is glad to sing
and let the Advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.

The second for the prophets,
who said that Christ would come
with good news for many
and angry words for some.

‘Christmas is coming’
the church is glad to sing
and let the Advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.

READING

Isaiah 40:1-11.

40 Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:

“In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord^[a];
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.^[b]”

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry out.”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever.”

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,^[c]

lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

Reflect on the impact of Love

http://ctm.ucahost.com/Movie_files/Zoriahlove.mov

An Advent Litany

We wait for the coming of hope:

We wait for the coming of love:

We wait for the coming of justice:

We wait for the coming of peace.

We wait.

How long, O Lord, shall we wait?

Silence

What does the Lord require of you,

But to act justly, love mercy

And walk humbly with God.

Silence

Have mercy upon us, Christ Jesus:

Forgive us our lack of hope,

Our lack of love, our lack of joy,

Our lack of peace.

Words of Assurance:

Through the waters of baptism

You are raised to new life:

You become a new creation.

Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

The Blessing (Kids).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w>

Sharing the Peace:

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

And also with you.

READING

Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the good news^[a] of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.^[b]

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,^[c]

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,^[d]

who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight, ’”

⁴ John the baptizer appeared^[e] in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with^[f] water; but he will baptize you with^[g] the Holy Spirit.”

SERMON An upside down Advent

The Offering

The Prayer for Others

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBmQV-EsWM8>

(Principle 4 of inSpiring the Common Good reads)

We seek to be

A nurturing place of forgiveness, the healing of life's wounds, mercy, compassion, reconciliation, love, friendship and grace.

The Lord's Prayer.

COMMUNION

The Invitation: Love bade me welcome (George Herbert)

HYMN: **'I am the bread of life'.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhdFESRoy5k>

Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Good and gracious God,

You are the one in whom

we live and move and have our being:

we are restless until we find our life in you.

We thank you, God,

that from the beginning

You made the world, the seas,

Islands and continents,

and all their creatures.

You made people,
male and female,
in your image,
to live for you and each other.

We praise you, God our creator,

We thank you, God,
For your coming to us in
Christ Jesus,
your beloved Son:

We thank You for his teaching,
his ministry of healing,
the way in which he drew alongside
all sorts of people and
for the way in which he embodied
your will for us.

We are filled with sorrow
that he should have been
despised, rejected, betrayed,
handed over, crucified:

We are filled with hope
because you raised him from the dead;
that he is now ascended,
once more with you in your presence;

and that you now come to us
in and through the Spirit,
who enables us to confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord

We are yours: we belong to Christ.

And so, now, with all those
who have gone before us
and with those who will come after us
with the whole creation
we sing your praises:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Prayer of Consecration:

Now we gather around your table,
for you are a God of hospitality;
your will is to feed us and nourish us
and keep us company.

**We remember the meals Jesus
shared with others**
We remember especially
the last supper he shared with his disciples

We remember that
On the night he was betrayed
he took the bread, blessed it
broke it and gave thanks and said
Do this in remembrance of me;

and, then, in the same way, after supper,
took the cup, blessed and poured it out
for our sake.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the body and blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the body of Christ
given for the world you have made.

Amen.

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of
Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
For we all share the one bread.**

The cup of blessing for which we give thanks
Is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**Bread and wine: the gifts of God
For the people of God.**

Lamb of God:

Jesus, lamb of God.
Have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins.
Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world.
Grant us your peace.

Distribution:

We serve one another in our own homes.

“The Body of Christ, broken for you”.

“The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ shed for you”.

Post-Communion Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,
You put your life in our hands,
Now we put our lives in yours.

**Take us, mould us, remake us
For we have broken bread together:
We have drunk the cup of wine.**

We have shared in the mystery
Of your death and rising to life again.
**Our hope is in you,
To the close of the age, Amen.**

Hymn: Love divine, all loves excelling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PzuTpV08gc>

Dismissal and Blessing:

May the love of God
The creator in whose image
We are made:

Watch over all your days

May the peace of Christ
The beloved Son
Upon whom we wait
Be with you.

May the Spirit of God,
The life giver,
Raise you to new hope:
Now and always,

Song: Thuma mina

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eik2HK7u9xA>