

November
29th 2020
9:30 a.m.



Live Stream
Worship

First Sunday in Advent

Meditation Thought

"Politicians compete for the highest offices. Business tycoons scramble for a bigger and bigger piece of the pie. Armies march and scientists study and philosophers philosophize and preachers preach and laborers sweat. But in that silent baby, lying in that humble manger, there pulses more potential power and wisdom and grace and aliveness than all the rest of us can imagine."

— Brian D. McLaren

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Call to Worship

Even if we cannot gather in person this season of Advent,

Emmanuel, God with us!

Even if some Christmas traditions have had to go,

Emmanuel, God with us!

Even if we might not get to hug family and friends

Emmanuel, God with us!

Even if we cannot sing carols beside each other,

Emmanuel, God with us!

Even if Christmas cheer is harder this year,

Emmanuel, God with us!

Hymn *"Now Bless the God of Israel"* # 110 New Century Hymnal

**Now bless the God of Israel, who comes in love and power,
Who raises from the royal house deliverance in this hour.
Through holy prophets God has sworn to free us from alarm,**

To save us from the heavy hand of all who wish us harm.

Remembering the covenant, God recuses us from fear,
That we might serve in holiness and peace from year to year;
And you, my child, shall go before to preach, to prophesy,
That all may know the tender love, the grace of God most high.

In tender mercy, God will send the day-spring from on high,
Our rising sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.
God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.
Sing praises to the Holy One! O worship and adore!

Invocation and Lord's Prayer (Unison)

God our caring Parent, you who gave your beloved Son to ransom all people,
see our human fears and love us anyway.
Guide us through this season with quiet, glad anticipation.
Help us to pay attention to the poor and needy,
and to the lonely among us.
Give us a spirit of reflection, patience with each other,
and hearts brimming with thanks even in the face of limited gatherings and learning
new ways of being together. We ask this through Christ our Lord who taught us the
prayer: Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come,
your 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver
us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle – *Hope* the McCarty family

Advent Hymn “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” (verses 1,2,6,7) # 116 New Century Hymnal

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 you, O Is-ra-el.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and help us in that way to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Is-ra-el.

O Come, O Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night, and death's own shadows out to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Is-ra-el.

O Come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Is-ra-el.

Scripture Readings Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 Mark 13:24-37

Music Offering *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* (Gordon Young) Bob Bengtson, Organ

Message *"Restore Us, O God"*

Music for Reflection *"All Things Bright and Beautiful/Tis a Gift to Be Simple"*
Gaynelle Gosselin, Soprano

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn *"Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"* # 122 New Century Hymnal

**Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.**

**Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.**

**Born all people to deliver, born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever, come, be known to us again.**

**By your own eternal Spirit, come to claim us as your own;
By your all sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.**

Benediction

God Be with You

**God be with you 'til we meet again
By God's counsels guide uphold you
With God's sheep securely fold you.
God be with you 'til we meet again.**

Postlude



Our altar flowers this week are shared with us by Rev. Janet Heslam in honor of the beginning of Advent.

Announcements

December Wednesday Devotional Gathering

Every week in December 9:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83011130486>

Meeting ID: 830 1113 0486

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 830 1113 0486

Church office hours

Monday, Wednesday

and Friday

9 AM – 3 PM

Prayer Requests: If you're watching today's service on YouTube you may send in your prayer requests via the comment section on the YouTube page.

"Open Sanctuary" A special Christmas event! Put on your calendar Sunday December 20 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. We are going to open the sanctuary for a limited number of people at a time. Come in and spend some time in prayer and meditation as you enjoy the decorated chancel and Christmas music played by our very own Bob Bengtson. We will be asking you to sign up for a 20 minute time slot. Be looking for more information on this and how to sign up for a time slot.