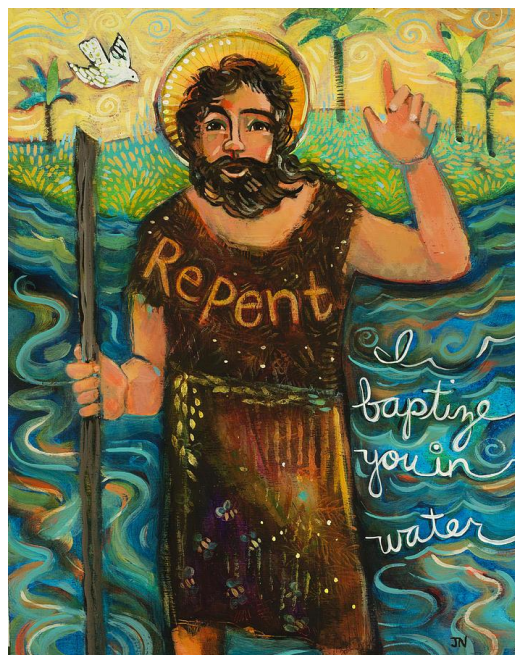


Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025



We Gather in Response to God's Invitation

THE GIFT OF MUSIC TO GATHER US

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (*RESPONSIVE*)

One: In Advent, we anticipate God coming in Christ to make it clear that God's love is for all persons: persons of every race, culture, or color; persons of all sexual orientations, gender expressions and identities; persons of all ages and abilities; persons of every legal, economic, and marital status. All persons whom the world would say there is "no room at the inn." God has come into the world as Jesus, is present as the Spirit of Christ, and is coming again as the risen Christ, because God delights in each and every one of you.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

So we as a community that seeks to worship, sing, pray, fellowship, serve, give, grow, and live in faith, invite each of you to fully participate, share, and lead.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES: REPENTANCE (*RESPONSIVE, INSPIRED BY MATTHEW 3:1-12*)

This is the season to repent. This is the day to confess our sins.

We confess, O God, that we are happy to name our sins but reluctant to release them, glad to aspire to righteousness but challenged to live it.

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Keep your candles lit. Offer your willingness in hope.

Too long, O God, we have decried the pit of vipers but reserved our own venom for use. Too long, we have rinsed in the water but avoided the baptism of your fire.

By the light of Advent, we repent as we wait for Emmanuel.

(The second Advent candle is lit.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

**An asterisk indicates when the people stand in body or spirit.*

One: The Reign of God is drawing near:

All: **The prophet calls us to change our lives!**

Prepare the way for the Lord:

A just and peaceful path!

Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you:

For the glory of God!

***OPENING PRAYER (TOGETHER)**

Almighty God, we seek relief from the unrest of our daily lives. You, who offer peace and justice in a single hand, are our redeemer. Allow us, God, to unfold like a seed in your palm. With each breath, allow us to inhale the power of your sacred word, and exhale the turmoil within. Allow us to grow toward you, the light of peace. Amen.

***SINGING TOGETHER**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Black #116, vs 1, 4, 7

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.**

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O shoot of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny,
From depths of hell you people save, and give them victory o'er the grave**

[Refrain]

**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. *[Refrain]***

Pray for Transformation and New Life

INTRODUCTION

We who have known the refreshing waters of baptism recognize our continuing need to be cleansed. We have not heeded the voice of love, which seeks the highest good of all. We have ignored the wonders of God to live in fear, not hope. Our

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Creator calls us back to a relationship of trust and obedience. Let us seek to respond.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*RESPONSIVE*)

Oh God, you call us to turn our lives around, and work with patience and diligence to prepare the way for your Reign, but we get discouraged and give up too soon.

Holy One, have mercy.

Oh God, you call us to collaborate in community to prepare the way your Reign, but we neither trust nor honor the gifts of others.

Christ, have mercy.

Oh God, you call us to be full of joyful confidence to prepare the way for your Reign, but we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear.

Holy One, have mercy.

(a moment of silent prayer)

Forgive us, O God, and lead us in the ways of patience, community and joy.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

Hear the good news: the risen Christ is present with us, forgiving our weakness, rebuilding our relationships, restoring our joy. Our Redeemer will never stumble or disappoint.

Praise be to God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(As a sign of our deep fellowship and communion with God and with one another, let us personally greet one another with a handshake or peace sign and bless one another with the peace that comes from being in Christ.)

God will speak peace to God's people, to those who turn to God in their hearts, and with their feet and hands.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

*SINGING TOGETHER

"Breath of Heaven" chorus

Breath of Heaven, hold us together,

Be forever near us, Breath of Heaven.

Breath of Heaven, lighten our darkness,

Pour over us Your holiness,

For You are holy, Breath of Heaven.

CCLI Song # 1128784; Amy Grant and Chris Eaton; © 1992 Clouseau Music Ltd; Age To Age Music, Inc.; Riverstone Music, Inc.

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

We Hear God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, God. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 11:1-10

The prophet Isaiah has a vision of the peaceful kingdom that God intends. Our reading from Isaiah begins.

¹¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of God endures forever. (*Isaiah 40:8*)

Amen!

RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 (*PARAPHRASED*)

The psalmist prays for a world shaped by God's justice and righteousness, that peace may flourish. Our responsive psalter reading begins.

Pulpit side: Give our leaders, our President, our Senators and Representatives, your justice, O God, and your righteousness to their children.

Lectern side: **May our Governor and state legislators judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

Let the mountains give exuberant witness; shape the hills with the contours of right living.

Please stand up for the poor, help the children of the needy, come down hard on the cruel tyrants.

Outlast the sun, outlive the moon— age after age after age.

Be rainfall on cut grass, earth-refreshing rain showers.

Let righteousness burst into blossom and peace abound until the moon fades to nothing.

Blessed God, Israel's God, the one and only wonder-working God!

Blessed always God's blazing glory! All earth brims with God's glory.

Yes and Yes and Yes.

GOSPEL READING:

MATTHEW 3:1-12

The proclamation of John the Baptist.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ!

MEDITATION:

“Go into the Larger Mind”

Pastor Dave

SINGING TOGETHER:

“All Earth is Waiting”

Black #121

**All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows, the sowing of our God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.**

**Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”:
One whose name is “God with us”, our Savior shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.**

**Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for our God,
Who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.**

**In lowly stable the Promised One appeared,
yet feel that presence through-out the earth today,
For Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving Christ brings us liberty.**

We Respond to God’s Word

A TIME FOR COMMUNAL PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

You are invited to share joys and concerns we can pray for together. Let our sharing itself be an act of prayer.

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life’s journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

ENTERING INTO PRAYER: "Jesus, Name Above All Names"

**Jesus, Name above all names, Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

*by Naida Hearn © 1974, 1978 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing CCLI Song
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PRAYERS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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 sins as we forgive those who
sin 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. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Jesus, Name Above All Names"

**Jesus, Loving Shepherd, Vine of the Branches, Son of God,
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of the Universe, Light of the
World.**

GROUP ENCOURAGEMENT TO SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*You are invited to place your gifts in the offering basket as you arrive or depart from our worship
together. (Along with your regular offering you are invited to make an offering to the York County
Food Bank by putting your loose change in a can. With your change we can make a joyful noise
to the Lord!)*

The Ruler of Peace is coming, the prophet Isaiah says, and we await that Gift of
God together. God's abundance pours through us to our neighbors, just as God's
love showers us with blessing. As each of us gives what we can, we know that our
community is only as resilient as our most vulnerable neighbor.

*DEDICATING OUR OFFERINGS (*TOGETHER*)

**With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our
hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your
presence in the world, and further your dream for the world through Jesus,
Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.**

We Go Out to Serve

*SINGING TOGETHER

"Love Has Come"

Sing! #110

**With one voice the angels sing, -- songs that make creation ring. --
Prophets hear and call us to live in spirit and in truth.**

Chorus: **Word of God, enthroned, dwell in us forevermore.**

Love has come to show the way. -- Hallelu -- jah, peace be with -- us.

Love has come to show -- the way.

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

**God, Creator, Elohim, -- voice of thunder, spirit, wind: --
breathe on me your very life; grace will make the shadows bright. [chorus]**

**God of Covenant, divine, -- lead us to the end of time, --
beyond sorrow, beyond fear, beyond pride and earthen tears. [chorus]**

**Now salvation has -- come -- in the New Jerusalem. --
Dances dance and singers roar; praising Jesus Christ as Lord! [chorus]**

***GOOD WORDS FOR GOING FORTH**

Advent people, go now in the blessing and inspiration of God to live God's story wherever you go, that your lives may be an invitation to others to join in the journey. So hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, and trusting that God's reign in Christ is coming in its fullness. Amen

***SUNG RESPONSE**

**"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" Black #107, verse 4
Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and
cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and
fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.**

DISMISSAL

**"Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." (Matthew 3:3)
Thanks be to God that God shows us the way.**

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Some of this liturgy is adapted from Raised Above: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent Year A was written by the Maria Mankin.

Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!