

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to the, 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.
Refrain.

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.
Refrain.

O come, Desire of nations,
Bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.
Refrain.

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Prayer of Confession
(Responsively)

Celia Weber

Arise, shine: for your light has come.
**O God, we live as if the light
had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
**We confess that we ignore the Christ
you sent to be among us, to be in us.**
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.
**We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season
and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming.
It's time that we prepare for your coming.
Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth.
Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love.
Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Celia Weber

As we hear the ancient prophecies of the coming of the Messiah,
we long for the day when death will be swallowed up
and every tear will be wiped away.

As we wait expectantly
for Christ's promised return,
we live in the assurance of God's gracious forgiveness. **Amen.**

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

! Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men.*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can, I give him, give him my heart.

Offering

**Please place your offerings in the plate in the back
of the church on your way out.*

Offertory

*I'll Walk with God
Solo—Gary Covert*

! Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

! Prayer of Dedication

O Mighty One,
you have done and are doing great things for us,
and holy is your name.
Bless all we offer you—ourselves, our time,
and our possessions—
that through us your grace and favor

may be made known to all the world,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen**

Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hymn of Response

Mary Did You Know?
(Marcy Biggs, Chuck Stauffer)

New Testament Reading *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Sermon *"The Promise of Hope"*
 Rev. Tim Latham

Responding
We respond to God's Word

! Profession of Faith

Leader: Let us know profess our faith along with the saints through the ages.

People: We believe that God fulfilled the promise that He made to the early fathers, by the mouth of His holy prophets, when He sent His only and eternal Son into the world. The Son took the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of man, truly assuming a real human nature, with all its weaknesses, except for sin. He not only assumed human nature as far as the body is concerned, but also a real human soul, in order that He might be a real human being. For since the soul had been lost as well as the body, He had to assume them both to save them both together. He is truly our Immanuel - God with Us.

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

Hymn 124 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Organ Postlude**

The Advent of Our God

Broughton