



First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

December 1, 2024

PRELUDE - Hani

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Thomas Helmore

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WELCOME & LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14).

Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.

Reader 2: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

(Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.)

OPENING HYMN #211 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (v. 1, 2)

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

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

2. 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 O Come Emmanuel (Veni Emmanuel)

Henry Sloane Coffin | Laurence Hull Stookey | Thomas Helmore

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations. We are busy with parties, with feasts, with giving. We are busy cleaning house and wrapping presents. We are busy with the stuff of the holiday. And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for You. Draw us back to the center, which is You. Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of that which does not matter, and to see what does matter. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What Is Good."

HOLY COMMUNION - *The United Methodist Hymnal, page 15*

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...The pastor concludes:

And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

...The pastor concludes:

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

The pastor concludes:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.
now and for ever.

Amen.

HYMN #211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 3, 4)

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

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

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call.

Refrain

O Come O Come Emmanuel (Veni Emmanuel)

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TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**JOYS AND CONCERNS / PASTORAL PRAYER / LORD'S PRAYER**

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

For those who are called and able, gifts and tithes can still be made through [online giving](#), by mailing them in, and by dropping them off to the church office through the secure mail slot to the left of the double door entry to the church hallway.

OFFERTORY MUSIC - Hani**Emmanuel**

Bob McGee

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ADVENT DOXOLOGY**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.****Praise God, all creatures here below.****Praise God above, ye heavenly host.****Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.****Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.****Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow**

Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken | Dean McIntyre

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, in this season of anticipation, we offer our gifts with hopeful hearts. As we prepare for the fullness of your kingdom, may these offerings be a sign of our readiness and desire to live attentively. Use them to bring justice, righteousness, and joy to our world. Surprise us with your presence and help us to look up, to pay attention, and to embrace the hope you bring. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Luke 21:25-36)

SCRIPTURE Joshua 24:14-15 (NRSV)

14 "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Response

The Word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

Anthem - Chancel Choir

Come To Us Now, Emmanuel

Nancy Price | Don Besig

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SERMON - Rev. Jacob Lee

A Resolution for a New Beginning

CLOSING HYMN #714 *I Know Whom I Have Believed* (v. 1, 2)

1. I know not why God's wondrous grace
to me he hath made known,
nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
redeemed me for his own.

Refrain

But I know whom I have believed,
and am persuaded that he is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto him against that day.

2. I know not how this saving faith
to me he did impart,
nor how believing in his word
wrought peace within my heart.

Refrain

I Know Whom I Have Believed

Daniel Webster Whittle | James McGranahan
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Hani

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Arr. Carolyn Hamlin

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