Dec. 5, 2021

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” - Luke 1:68-79

OPENING PRAYER, WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP IN SONG

Song: “Hymn Of Joy”[[1]](#footnote-1)

Verse 1: Joyful joyful we adore Thee; God of glory Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee; Opening to the sun above; Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness; Fill us with the light of day

Chorus: ***Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel; Your love has come here to dwell***

Verse 2: All Thy works with joy surround Thee; Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays; Stars and angels sing around Thee; Center of unbroken praise; Field and forest vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow flashing sea; Singing bird and flowing fountain; Call us to rejoice in Thee

Verse 3: Mortals join the happy chorus; Which the morning stars began; Father love is reigning o'er us; Brother love binds man to man; Ever singing march we onward; Victors in the midst of strife; Joyful music leads us sunward; In the triumph song of life

Song: [“2000 Miles” The Pretenders](https://youtu.be/AEyGZlBdkaA)

Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” v2

***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.***

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, PARDON, AND PEACE

**Holy God, amidst the busyness and distractions of this season you ask us to follow your Spirit along a different path:**

**To a desert river and a prophetic voice,**

**A call to repentance,**

**A call to service,**

**A call to immerse ourselves in living water that will never run dry,**

**A call to prepare a way in our own lives for the savior of the world to enter in,**

**To know the touch of tender mercy and rest in your forgiving love.**

[Silent Prayer]

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, 4constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. 8For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

 make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled,

 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

 and the rough ways made smooth;

6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

SERMON

HYMN: [#117, “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”](https://hymnary.org/hymn/NCH1995/117)

JOYS & CONCERNS, PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH, LORD’S PRAYER

 Lord, in your mercy… **Hear our prayers.**

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THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN: #202 UMH “People Look East”

Verse 1: ***People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.***

***Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table***

***People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.***

Verse 2: ***Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.***

***Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.***

***People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.***

Verse 3: ***Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.***

***Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.***

***People, look east and sing today; Love, the Lord, is on the way.***

BENEDICTION

PRAYER LIST

*To add to our prayer list please email Pastor Tim with a brief description of your prayer. Please indicate if you would like the prayer to be listed on an ongoing basis.* tim.hare@trumbullcc.org.

Rita & Bob Bennett, Pastor Tim’s Aunt & Uncle, experiencing health concerns

John, Sarah, and Ryan Tyler, grieving the loss of Beth

Chip Warren, recovering from surgery

Mitchel Archer, continued recovery and help with new prostheses

Santiago Alfonso, (lives in our parsonage,) recovering from a severe seizure.

Muirgheal Coffin, struggling with a seizure disorder

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