Dec. 12, 2021

OPENING PRAYER, WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN: #196, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (UM Hymnal)

***Verse 1: 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 every nation, joy of every longing heart.***

***Verse 2: 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.***

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION, PARDON, AND PEACE (The Moravian Church, moravian.org)

**Forgive us, loving God, for the winding path upon which you have to travel to find us. As we bend to the self-centered influences of our culture, we lose sight of your intended will for us. Too often, we live by fear rather than by faith because we underestimate your power to heal the parts of us that are broken. Give us the courage to correct the parts of us that have drifted from your influence. Bring us back to you so that we might respond to your grace by sharing it with others. Give us the courage to give you unhindered access to all of who we are and, in so doing, find ourselves blameless at your coming.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON & CANDLE LIGHTING

SUNG RESPONSE, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” v.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.***

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

ISAIAH 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation;

 I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength and my might;

 he has become my salvation.

3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4And you will say on that day:

Give thanks to the Lord,

 call on his name;

make known his deeds among the nations;

 proclaim that his name is exalted.

5 Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;

 let this be known in all the earth.

6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,

 for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

LUKE 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. 9Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

10 And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ 11In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ 12Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’13He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’14Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

SERMON

\*HYMN: #131, [“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear](https://hymnary.org/hymn/NCH1995/131)”

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

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

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\*HYMN:#104, [“We Hail You God’s Anointed”](https://hymnary.org/hymn/NCH1995/104)

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

Family of Stacey Tall, friends of the Hills, grieving the loss of Stacey’s husband

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.