

The Falls Village Congregational Church

December 10, 2023 10:00 a.m.

2nd Sunday in Advent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Church Bell

Choral Prelude – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* - arr. M. James

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

God of the watching ones, the waiting ones, the slow and suffering ones, the angels in heaven, the child in the womb,

Give us your blessing in this time, your good word for our souls, that we might rest and rise in the kindness of your company.

In this time of worship, let us come to know the living God.

Prayer for God's Presence:

Lord Jesus, we are bold to pray that you would work in our lives to prepare us for your presence among us. Create in us a vivid expectation of your advent. Stir up in us a desire to welcome you in all times and in all circumstances in our lives. As we worship, help us not only to praise you but to grow in your grace, to explore new dimensions of your love, and to hear your claim upon our lives in service to you and your kingdom Amen.

Hymn #119 “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*”

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God. There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help. Forgive us, God. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Reading – Advent Antiphons, p. 120

Gloria Patri

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace of Christ.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Dick and Donna Heinz

#121 Prepare the Way of the Lord” 2x

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon:

“Coming Home”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

The Offertory -- *The King Shall Come When Morning Comes* - D. Lasky

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Closing Hymn: #122 “*Comfort, Comfort You My People*”

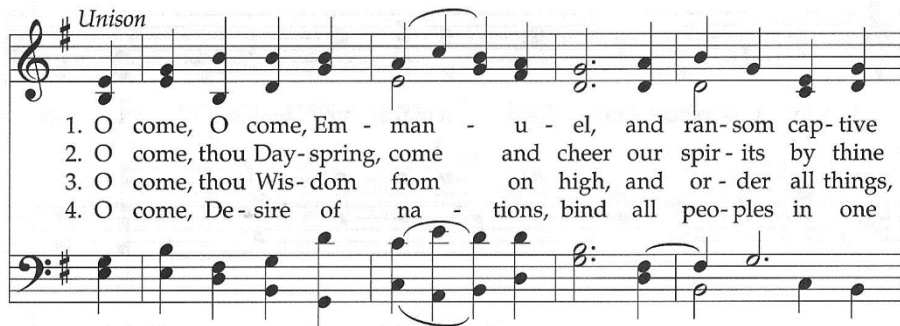
Benediction

Benediction Response (gather in a circle around the sanctuary)

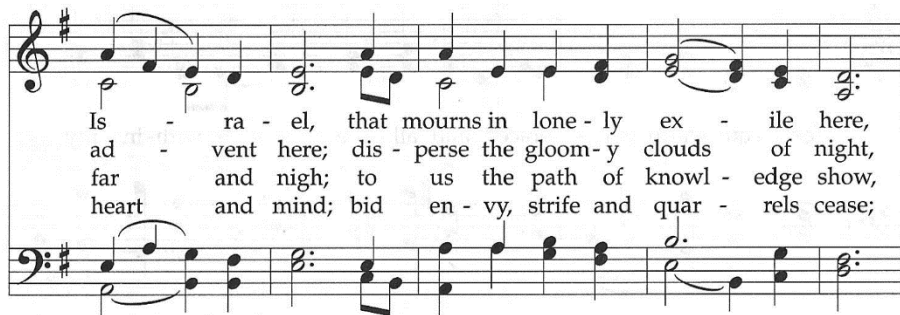
God Be with You till We Meet Again

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You are invited to place your offerings as you leave in the plate at either entrance to the church.

Unison

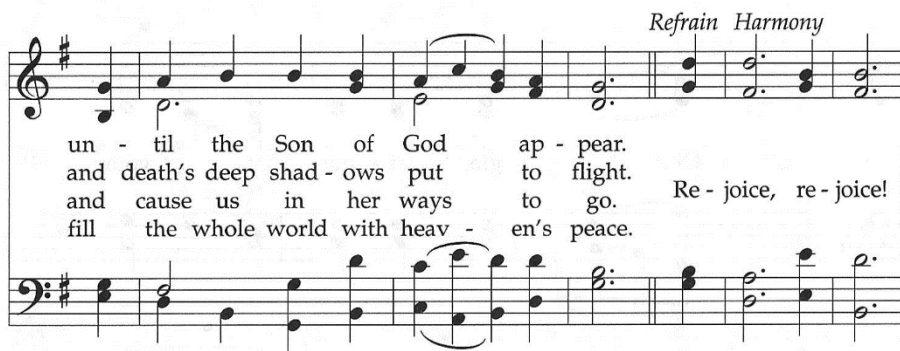


1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
 2. O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spir-its by thine
 3. O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, and or-der all things,
 4. O come, De-sire of na-tions, bind all peo-ples in one

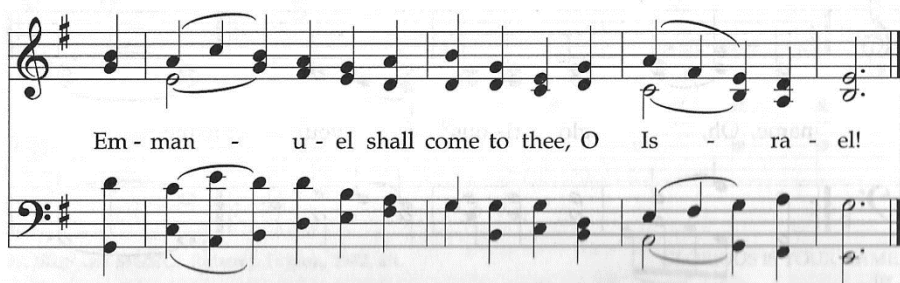


Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease;

Refrain Harmony



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and death's deep shad - ows put to flight.
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice, re - joice!
 fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- Antiphon 1 O Emmanuel, our King and giver of the law,
 the people await you, their Savior:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.
- Antiphon 2 O Wisdom, you came from the lips of God most high,
 and you reach from one end of the universe to the other,
 powerfully and gently ordering all things:
Come to teach us the way of prudence.
- Antiphon 3 O Adonai and Leader of the house of Israel,
 you appeared to Moses in the flame of a burning bush
 and at Sinai you gave him the law:
Come with your outstretched arm to save us.
- Antiphon 4 O Root of Jesse, you stand as a sign to the peoples;
 before you kings are silent and the Gentiles pray with longing:
Come now and set us free.
- Antiphon 5 O Key of David and ruler of the house of Israel,
 you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open:
**Come and lead out of the prison house the captives
 who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.**
- Antiphon 6 O Morning Star, you are the splendor of eternal life;
 you are the dawning sun, the Sun of justice:
**Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness
 and in the shadow of death.**
- Antiphon 7 O King of the nations and the fulfillment of their longing,
 you are the Cornerstone and you make all one;
 you formed us from primeval clay:
Come and save us.

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2nd Sunday in Advent – The Candle of Peace

Every year we light candles as we prepare for the coming of Christ. More and more candles, more and more light, as we watch and wait for Jesus, the Light of the World.

Today we relight the candle of hope, (relight one purple candle) and light the candle of peace. Jesus came into the world to offer a peace which transcends external circumstance, a peace which breaks down the walls of hostility which divide us, a peace which comes from the presence of God.

(light 2nd purple candle)

Listen to God's promises from Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Let us pray together

God of Promise, come into our darkness.

Renew your hope and peace in us,

for you alone bring life out of death.

Song: "Prepare the Way of the Lord" J. Berthier (Taizé Community)

Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord

And all the people will see the salvation of our God (2x)

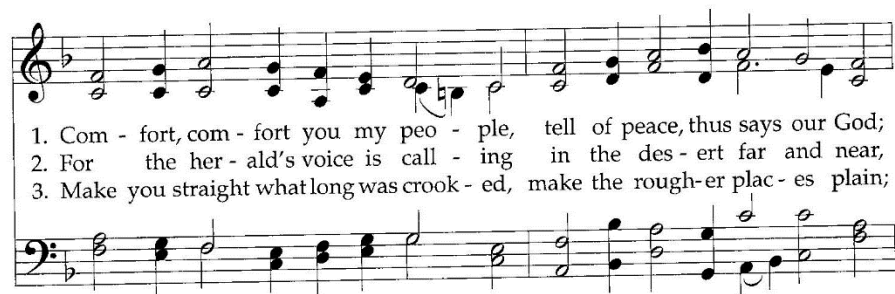
MATTHEW 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah* took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

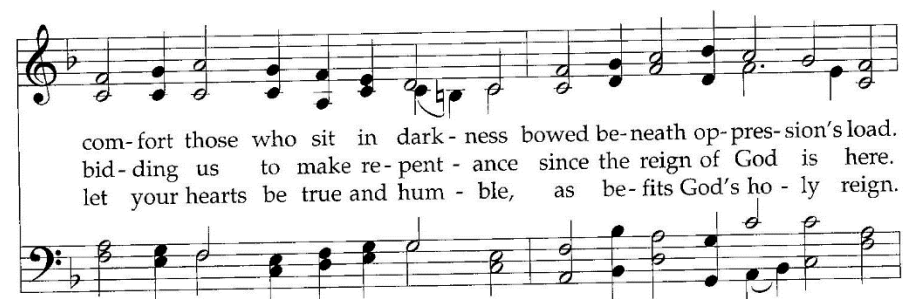
²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;* and he named him Jesus.

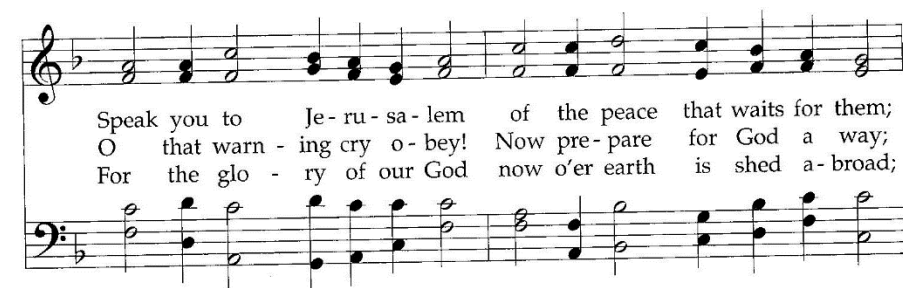
122 Comfort, Comfort You My People



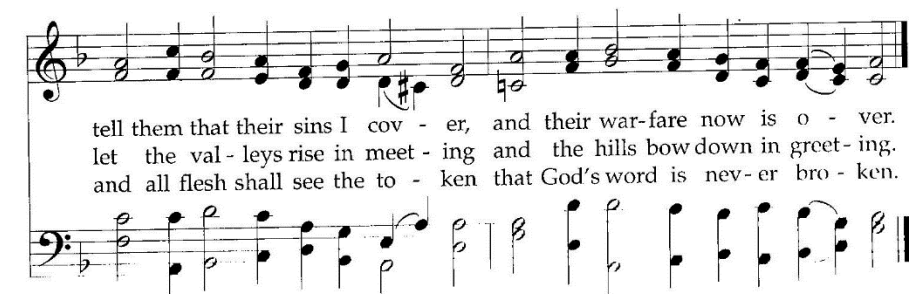
1. Com - fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, tell of peace, thus says our God;
 2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3. Make you straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness bowed be - neath op - pres - sion's load.
 bid - ding us to make re - pent - ance since the reign of God is here.
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of our God now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver.
 let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.