



Gilead Presbyterian Church
December 5, 2021
2nd Sunday in Advent, Year C

Convinced of God's Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, ability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

WELCOME

OPENING MUSIC Meditation on "Lo, How A Rose E're Blooming"
tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengasäng, Koln, 1544
arr. by Robert Graham Penny Cameron, piano; Mary Temple, organ

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Isaiah 40:3-5
Leader: A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
People: Every 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.
Leader: Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
ALL: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.
The people sing: **Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel. (repeat)**
(Purple Hymnal #91)

Come, Come Emmanuel 91

Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em -
man - u - el. man - u - el.

This Advent refrain centers on the name of Jesus meaning "God with us" (Matthew 1:23, quoting Isaiah 7:14). Intended for repeated congregational singing, it can be expanded by the addition of stanzas sung by a soloist or choir, or it can serve effectively as a prayer response.

TEXT and MUSIC: James J. Chepponis, 1995
Text and Music © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc.

COME, COME EMMANUEL
6.5

BLUE HYMNAL #12

"People, Look East"

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: Love the guest is on the way.**

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: Love the rose is on the way.**

5. **Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised transformation of the world. Give us grace to heed the promises of your prophets and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE GLORIA, from "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 1:68-79 "Blessed are you, Most High God of Israel, for you have looked favorably on your people and redeemed them.⁶⁹ You have raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of your servant David,⁷⁰ as you promised through the mouths of your holy prophets from of old,⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.⁷² Thus you have shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and remembered your holy covenant,⁷³ the oath that you swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve you without fear,⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before your

presence all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before our God to prepare the way of the Promised One, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to the people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹ 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 3:1-6 ¹ 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, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as 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 Most High, make straight the paths of our God. 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 "Christmas Doesn't Just Happen" Rev. Martin McGeachy

MEDITATION "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
 Gilead Bell Choir

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

For those joining virtually, all are invited to partake of bread and wine, or any substance that feels appropriate; or prayerfully take in the sacrifice of the Lord symbolically. For those joining physically, the individual Communion Bread & Cup sets contain grape juice.

INVITATION, PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF THE BREAD

 "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" Welsh melody
 John Vangor & Mariah Warren, music

SHARING OF THE CUP

 "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Gustav Theodore Holst
 John Vangor & Mariah Warren, music

PASTORAL PRAYER, THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BLUE HYMNAL #3 "Comfort, Comfort, You My People"

**1. Comfort, comfort you my people, Tell of peace, thus says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness Bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak you to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, And their warfare now is over.**

2. For the herald's voice is calling In the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance Since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting And the hills bow down in greeting.

BENEDICTION

BLUE HYMNAL #3 “Comfort, Comfort, You My People”

3. Make you straight what long was crooked, Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token That God's word is never broken.

POSTLUDE

“The Joys of Mary”
Penny Cameron, piano; Mary Temple, organ

Old English carol
arr. by Ethel Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ The Food Pantry can use monetary donations, as well as all non-perishable foods and toiletries. Leave in the outside bin or call Martin for appointment.
- ▶ Prayer Zoom each Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. The link is in the weekly bulletin email.
- ▶ Bible Study in the lounge and Zoom, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. The link is in the weekly bulletin email.
- ▶ Christmas Caroling Sunday Dec. 19 at 3 p.m., followed by pizza party at Mary's!
- ▶ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Bell Chimes rehearse at 9:15 today to play in worship.
- ▶ Gilead Singers rehearse immediately after worship to sing next Sunday.

† We accept offerings through the “Online Giving” link on our website, www.gileadchurch.org, or mail checks made out to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. In doing so, we brighten the world, and brighten our hearts.

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Martin McGeachy, Pastor
Mary Temple, Music Director
Diana Drake Behan, Church School Superintendent

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www.gileadchurch.org

