



Gilead Presbyterian Church
December 12, 2021
3rd 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 "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" traditional
Zoe Temple, piano arr. by Faber & Faber

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Isaiah 35:1-2 Janet Bracero and Luis Nazario

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

People: We are preparing ourselves for the days when the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad.

Leader: The desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly.

People: The land will rejoice with joy and singing.

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 Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel. (repeat)
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 #28

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

- 1. Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow, And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**
- 2. Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven’s door, And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we come to worship with deep need, and a joy so deep it is sometimes hard to feel. Sing to us a song of redemption, a song of hope and renewal. We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. We ask for your light of salvation for all our family members and friends, and we pray your blessings on all people. May there be bread for the hungry, love for the unlovable, healing for the sick, protection for our children, and wisdom for our youth. We pray for the forgiveness of our sins and abundant life in Christ. Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and power. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen. (adapted from Rev. Lia Icaza Willetts)

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

Zephaniah 3:14-20 ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Almighty has taken away the judgments against you, and has turned away your enemies. The Ruler of Israel, God Almighty, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ Your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; God will rejoice over you with gladness, will renew you in Divine love, and will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that

time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Almighty God.

Luke 3:7-20 ⁷ 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?" ⁸ Bear 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. ⁹ Even now the ax 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?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers 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, ¹⁶ John 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." ¹⁷ His 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. ¹⁹ But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

SERMON "Do You Want the Bad News or the Good News?" Rev. Martin McGeachy

MEDITATION "O Little Town of Bethlehem" by Phillips Brooks & Lewis Redner
Gilead Singers

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.

HYMNAL (insert) "While Shepherds Watched," vss. 1,2,4

26. While Shepherds Watched

★ INTRO.

JUNGST-TKACH



(1) *f*

1. While shep-herds watch'd their flocks by night,
 2. "Fear not," they heard the an-gels sing,
 3. "There ye shall find in Beth-lem's stall,
 4. "All glo-ry be to God on high,

(5) *f* (9) *p*

From heav'n they heard glad ti-dings bright.
 "To you this day is born a King.
 Christ, the Re-deem-er of us all.
 And on earth peace, good will to men.

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-

(13) *f* *p* (17) *f*

le-luh-ia, Joy, great joy, Joy, great joy, Glo-ry to

(21) *p* *rall.*

God in heav'n a-bove, Glo-ry to God in heav'n a-bove.

Neil A. Kjos Music Co., Publisher
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“I Saw Three Ships”
Zoe Temple, trumpet; Della Temple, flute

traditional

The flowers this morning are donated by Katherine Foote to the glory of God in memory of her father, Emerson Foote on his birthday.

Thank you to our videographer, Stephanie Gould.

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.
- ▶ Thursday Bible Study is on holiday until January 6.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Gilead Bell Chimes rehearse after worship today to play next Sunday.
- ▶ Gilead Singers rehearse at 9:15 today to sing in worship.
- ▶ Bake Sale right after worship next Sunday. Please pre-wrap items in containers, \$5 per plate or container.

† 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

