

**ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

November 29, 2020

10:00 AM

**WELCOME**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Amid threatening clouds of anger and selfish strife, come, O God, to bring light. Into our days of worry and anxiety, send a confident hope. Enrich us with spiritual gifts that transcend disappointments and spill out in generous uwhere we are so we may be equipped for trials yet to come and for joys yet to be revealed. AMEN

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is hope. Because of Christ we not only have hope, but we believe that good is stronger than evil. God wants us to work for good in this world.

**OPENING HYMN:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**Verse 1**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain**

**Verse 2**

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and  
cheer,  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

**Refrain**

**Verse 3**

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.

**Refrain**

**Verse 4**

O come, Desire of nations, bind,  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

**Refrain**

**Refrain:**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

**CHILDRENS MESSAGE:** Miss Dee

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

In this Advent season we are summoned to prepare for God's coming to us in a form we can begin to understand. Jesus accepted all our human limitations yet remained faithful to the eternal law of love. We who have taken this saving action for granted are called to repent and be watchful. Let us confess our disobedience.

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Awesome and Powerful God, we have wandered far from You. You have trusted us, but we have mistrusted You. We have acted as if You never called our names or blessed us. No wonder we feel alone before a host of enemies! Are You angry with us, God? Is there a place for us in Your plans, in spite of our iniquities? We want to take hold of Your goodness and find a new direction for our lives. Save us from ourselves, O God!

## **A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION**

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God's grace has come to us in Jesus Christ. God restores us to a right relationship with the eternal, that we might rightfully value ourselves and all persons. Spiritual gifts are ours to claim. God is faithful and will strengthen us to face all circumstances. Praise God, the source of all things.

## **HOLY SCRIPTURES:** I Corinthians 1:1–13

### **I CORINTHIANS 1:1–13**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Thanksgiving**

<sup>4</sup> I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup> For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. <sup>7</sup> Therefore you

do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. <sup>8</sup> He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **A Church Divided Over Leaders**

<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. <sup>11</sup> My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas<sup>[b]</sup>"; still another, "I follow Christ."

<sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?

**SERMON:** "Gifted and Blessed"

### **PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **INVITATION**

Behold the Lord whose advent we await, who will come with glory on the day of judgment. Blessed are those called to the banquet of the Lamb.

#### **COMMUNION PRAYER**

#### **BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN:** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

**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.

**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.

(REPEAT VERSE 1)

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**HYMN NOTES**

**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL**

The name, Emmanuel, which Matthew refers to in his Gospel (Matthew 1:23), was first given to Jesus by the prophet Isaiah 700 years before His birth (Isaiah 7:14).

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is a favorite hymn to sing during Advent. Its history originates in the medieval Roman Catholic Church. This mournful melody was originally a Plainsong or Chant, which is the earliest form of singing in the church.

It is believed that the traditional music stems from a 15th Century French processional for Franciscan nuns, but it may also have 8th Century Gregorian origins. An unknown author wrote seven antiphons—short lines to be sung before and after psalms. Those seven antiphons all begin with the "O," and thus became known as "The O Antiphons."

Just think: the people of the Dark Ages, few of whom read or had access to the Bible, this song was one of the few examples of the full story of how the New and Old Testament views of the Messiah came together in the birth and life of Jesus. And we still sing the words today, connecting us throughout the centuries to our fellow believers.

John Mason Neale (1818–1866) translated this hymn into English. He was both revered and persecuted for his desire to bring a unity of ideas between the Catholic Church and the Church of England. (Source: Jean Wise, "Healthy Spirituality")

## **COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS,** Charles Wesley, 1744

For countless Christians around the world, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" signals the beginning of Advent.

It was first published in 1744 in Charles Wesley's *Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord*, a little collection so popular that it was reprinted 20 times during Wesley's lifetime. Published in two eight-line stanzas, this hymn is now generally sung in the Advent season rather than during the nativity of Christ as the title of the collection indicates.

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" has the quality of a petition—a prayer that implores Christ to be among us. Imperative verbs are used six times in the two stanzas found in the hymnal: "Come, thou long-expected Jesus"; "From our fears and sins *release us*"; "Let us *find* our rest in thee"; "Now thy gracious kingdom *bring*"; "Rule in all our hearts alone"; "Raise us to thy glorious throne." The cumulative effect of these petitions is a tone of supplication. Wesley succeeds in recalling the deep longing of ancient Israel for the Messiah—the Promised One.

He also draws upon another cumulative technique, the repetition of a single word for effect. In this case it is the word "born" which appears four times. Each time "born" is sung, an aspect of Jesus' mission to a troubled world is revealed: "Born to set thy people free"; "Born thy people to deliver"; "Born a child and yet a king"; "Born to reign in us forever."

Although we live in a different time than Charles Wesley, the longings of people's hearts are just as deep. We long for security, love, relationships, meaning. To those who open themselves up to its message, this hymn identifies with that longing at the deepest levels of our existence. Where there is no longing, there can be little meaning. Hope is central to Christian experience.

And where will our longing, our hopeful waiting lead us? Where is the ultimate home of our hope? In the final line Wesley takes us there: "Raise us to thy glorious throne." (Source: *Dr. Hawn is professor of sacred music at Perkins School of Theology, SMU*)

## **WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS, November 29, 2020**

**BELL PRACTICE:** Mondays, 7:00 PM in the Sunday School wing.

**GRIEFSHARE:** Tuesday evenings, 7:00 PM in the Grove building. All are welcome!

**FEED-a-FRIEND MARATHON:** The Marathon benefits New Hope Ministries and can be heard on *Happy FM 95.3*, *Rocky FM 98.5* and *WHVR AM 1280*. We will be collecting canned goods and/or cash donations from November 15 through December 6 (Last day to donate, December 6). Every \$1 buys 3 cans and \$8 buys a case of canned goods. Broadcast times: Thursday, December 10, Noon to 8:00 PM & Friday, December 11, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

**“CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS”—New Hope Ministries: Christmas Gifts.** We will be collecting various toys and household items to be distributed by New Hope Ministries for needy families in our area. Lists of items will be available for you at church services and online ([www.stdavidsucc.com/announcements](http://www.stdavidsucc.com/announcements)). As well as toys for children, there is especially a need for teen items. *No clothing items are being collected.* Many clients do not have full-size kitchen appliances, so we are focusing on providing small kitchen appliances such as crock pots and toaster ovens which are essential for them. Many thanks for your thoughtfulness in making Christmas so much brighter for those in our area. Collections can be made at the church Sunday mornings. Deadline for donations will be Sunday, November 30.

**ANNUAL MITTEN TREE:** The Council of Churches has many hats, mittens and scarves on hand this year, so we will not be collecting those items during this Advent season. Instead, we will be collecting items for Homewood Skilled Care residents. Items Needed: *Christmas Cards, Unscented Body Lotion, Cube-style Tissue Boxes (Christmas-themed, if possible).* Collecting items now through Sunday, December 6. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:** Christmas Poinsettias, \$11/each. We will be using red poinsettias again. Order by December 6. Make checks payable to St. David's UCC and write "Poinsettias" in the memo section of your check. An order form can be downloaded by clicking on the poinsettia photo on the church website in the announcement section: <https://www.stdavidsucc.com/announcements>

**CLEAN GALLON-SIZED PLASTIC MILK/JUICE CONTAINERS WANTED:** The Music and Worship Committee is collecting gallon-sized plastic milk/juice bottles for making luminaries to be placed around the church on Christmas Eve. We cannot drink that much milk ourselves until Christmas and we need your help. Bring your clean, label-free bottles to church and give them to Nancy Costello. Thank you!

**UCC PENSION FUND OFFERING (Benefits Retired Clergy). Offering Dates:** Sunday, December 20 and the Christmas Eve Worship Services. We are able to express our love and compassion for retired UCC Clergy through this offering. These are individuals who have faithfully served their congregations and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. This assistance will benefit those who need help with health insurance premiums, and emergency financial or household needs. Thank you for your contributions.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please send your prayer requests directly to Pastor Scott either by text (717-880-6082) or e-mail ([pastor@stdavidsucc.com](mailto:pastor@stdavidsucc.com) or [pscott8283@comcast.net](mailto:pscott8283@comcast.net)) prior to Sunday, so that he can lift them up during worship.

**YOUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS:** If you would like to mail your offerings to the church, please mail them to Harley Hartman, 2195 Blackrock Rd, Hanover, PA 17331 and include one offering envelope indicating the manner in which you would like to have your funds applied. Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of St. David's!

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**HACC ITEMS NEEDED:**

**PAL:** Sauerkraut, Large Cans of Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Pasta Sauces, Single-serve Fruits, Canned Pears, Scalloped Potatoes Boxes, Corn Bread Mix, Beef and Chicken Broth, Ziploc Sandwich Baggies

**Changing Lives Shelter:** Large Trash Bag, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Disinfectant Wipes/Spray, Umbrellas or Ponchos

**HACC General (Benefits All Ministries):** Lysol Spray/ Disinfecting Spray

**Meals on Wheels:** Prayer Cards/ Words of Encouragement for Our Shut-Ins, Large Print Word Find or Crossword Activity Books, (Old Extra-Large Print Devotion Books. We Currently Have 10 Books and Need 30 More to Reach All of Our Shut-ins.

**Clothing Bank:** Family-Sized Toiletries, Sheet Sets (all sizes), Bath Towels, Men's White T-shirts (L & XL), Baby Diapers (Size 4-5). (Note: Many good quality clothing items are available. Both clients and anyone in the public are welcome to setup an appointment to select clothing. You will be given *Two Free Bags* of clothing. After that, each item is \$.50. Call 717-633-6353 for an appointment. Open Mon-Thurs 9 am- Noon. Masks required, temperature check, and sanitize hands.)

**Ruth's Harvest:** Single-serve Entrees, Cereal, Juice Boxes, Snack or Veggies (all single-serve).

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**COMMUNITY AID UPDATE:** Community Aid will be removing the bins from our church property. They are currently accepting donations of *clothing, shoes, toys, books* and *jewelry* at the store on Baltimore St. Just mention St. David's United Church of Christ and our **Code number, #20003** and we will receive \$.06 per pound for clothing donations. Drive-up hours are Monday - Saturday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.