



**First Central
Congregational**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

[Un]Expected

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Wachet Auf

J. S. Bach

Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Miller

***Greeting and Passing of the Peace**

“The Peace of God be with you.”

In Unison: **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

Introit

Oh Come to Us, Abide with us, Our Lord, Emmanuel

Call to Advent

Allison Hardy

The days are surely coming, says our God, when justice and righteousness will appear.

God’s promises will be made known to us, and we will declare God’s goodness and salvation.

Render thanksgiving to God for all of life’s benefits.

God’s mercy and steadfast love will surround us.

Lift up your souls in trust and praise.

We open our hearts and minds to God’s teaching.

***Processional Hymn**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel *Black Hymnal*, No. 116

VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

118

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and
 3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who
 4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your
 5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
 or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of
 came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a
 own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your
 o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.
 sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you. O Is - ra - el!

6 O come. O Day-spring, come and cheer
 our spir - its by your ad - vent here:
 Love stir with-in the womb of night,
 and death's own shad - ows put to flight.
(Refrain)

7 O come. De - sire of Na - tions, bind
 all peo - ples in one heart and mind;
 Make en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease:
 fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.
(Refrain)

*Invocation

Direct our attention, O God, above the turmoil of our times. We look for signs that your realm is near, that your Word rules the world. Free us from the weight of heavy cares so that we might enjoy all your blessings. Join us together in a spirit of thanksgiving and expectant prayer. Amen.

*Gloria

Black Hymnal, chorus of No. 125

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

125

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Luke 2:15

Traditional French carol
Transl. st. 1-3, "Crown of Jesus Music II," 1862; alt.
St. 4, "Carols Old and Carols New," Boston, 1916; alt.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See the babe in man - ger laid whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heaven - ly song.
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, God, our world now en - ter - ing.
Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Conversation with the Children

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Allison Hardy, Elizabeth & Leah Wiggins

In Advent we wait and prepare for a baby to be born.

In Advent we watch for signs of God's light breaking into the world.

In Advent we look forward with wonder and delight.

We come to Advent with expectations.

But we've learned to be ready for the Unexpected.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

In the midst of all the uncertainties, we light this candle today as a sign of all our hopes and dreams and expectations.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Psalm Reading

Psalm 25:1-10, pew Bible pg. 475

Anthem

Keep Your Lamps

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16, pew Bible pg. 694

Sermon

Rev. Katie Miller

*Hymn

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Black Hymnal, No. 122

STUTTGART

123-95
Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!
4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;

From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.
Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was one of the students known as "Methodists" at Oxford University. He wrote hymns

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716)

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

A new year is coming. An air of anticipation challenges us to fresh beginnings. We want to rid ourselves of old ways and embrace the newness you offer, Loving God. Forgives us our transgressions. Help us to renew our covenant with you and one another. May we live together in peace and joy. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

The mercy of God is new every day. In the midst of our fears, doubts, and uncertainties, God's steadfast love embraces us. Let's put our trust in God.

Offertory

Es Ist Ein Ros

***Hymn of Dedication**

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Praise Holy Spirit evermore. Praise Triune God whom we adore. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

***Offertory Prayer**

God of hopeful waiting, we give thanks for all of the ways in which you reveal yourself to us. Help us to clear away the many distractions of this season and offer our whole lives as gifts to you. May these offerings nurture all of the ways your promise is breaking into the world in acts of compassion and justice. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

Black Hymnal, No. 103

ABERYSTWYTH

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

*Isa. 21:11-12**John Bowring, 1825; alt.*

1 Watch-er, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
 2 Watch-er, tell us of the night, high-er yet that star as-cends.
 3 Watch-er, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav - eler, O a won-drous sight! See that glo-ry - beam-ing star!
 Trav - eler, bless-ed - ness and light, peace and truth its course por - tends.
 Trav - eler, shad-ows take their flight, doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.

Watch-er, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?
 Watch-er, will its beams a - lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
 Watch-er, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el!
 Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth!
 Trav-eler, I re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

This hymn, a dialogue between watcher and traveler, was suggested by the dialogue in Isaiah 21:11-12. John Bowring was

Tune: ABERYSTWYTH 7.7.7.D.
Isaiah Parry 1870

***Benediction**

Benediction Response

Bouma

May you hear laughter in the wind. May you see hope in the light.
May you find courage in your faith. May you know joy in your God.

Postlude

Consolation

*You are invited to remain for the playing of the postlude.
Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.*

Open & Affirming Statement

In our ongoing quest for hearts that open, minds that understand,
and lives that serve, we welcome into our fellowship, membership, leadership, and
employment, all people, regardless of abilities, race, gender, sexual orientation, or any God-
given characteristic.

Announcements

November 28, 2021

Prayers: for the family of *Marjorie Goldsmith*, who died this month.

Happy Birthday this week: *Martin Blount, Dena Higginbotham, Elena Staffend, Luci Quenaud, Tom Blount, Emma Ferber, Julie Elliott,* and *Philip Smith*.

Chancel flowers and decorations: Donors this month are *Susan & Steve Dolezal*.

Fair Trade Coffee: Sponsors this month are *Steve & Susan Dolezal* and *Jan & Vic Kensler*.

FirstKids: Fireside Room following the Conversation with the Children. Masks required.
Christmas Pageant rehearsals continue.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.



Activities for the Coming Week **November 28-December 4**

Lectinary Readings: Baruch 5:1-9, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Monday: Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study.

Wednesday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Family Night, 5:30 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir, 7 p.m.
Vespers, Facebook Live, 8 p.m.,

Thursday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, December 5

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on Facebook Live, YouTube, or in person. Masks required.

Advent Workshop: Advent Craft Workshop following worship in the parlor.

Bible Study: Carols & Stories Forum with Patricia Miller and Dave Shipley.

FirstKids: Fireside Room following the Conversation with the Children. Masks required. Christmas Pageant rehearsals continue.

Food Pantry: Donations will be accepted at church. Checks may be given to First Central with "pantry" in the memo line. Frozen meats are now being accepted (and are needed).

*The church calendar is also available at www.firstcentral.org
Like us on **Facebook**. Follow us on **Twitter**. Watch us on **YouTube**.*