

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday in Advent, Year B

PRELUDE

“Wade in the Water”
by John F. Wade

Joyce Harris

WELCOME

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Tom Wilborn and Bill Petrites

LEADER: We light this candle as a symbol
of God’s love for us and for one another.
For the Lord rejoices over us with gladness
and renews us with his Love.
He exults over us with singing
and turns our sadness into praise

PEOPLE: **God be with us in this Light of Love.
Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

ADVENT WREATH

“Light the Advent Candle”
By Mary Lu Wal

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: A voice cries in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord; make God’s way clear.
Lift up every valley; lower every mountain.
For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.”

PEOPLE: **Come, let us worship God!**

GATHERING PRAYER

**Loving God, you sent your prophet John
to prepare your way among us,
to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight.
Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness
as we await the Messiah’s return,
that all may see your reign of peace
through your just and gracious rule. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN #116

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you , O Israel.*

*O come, O wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and help us in that way to go.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you , O Israel*

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

HYMN #126

“Angels from the Realm of Glory”

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
As you sang creation's story, now proclaim the Messiah's birth:*

*Come and worship, Come and worship,
Worship Christ, give thanks and sing.*

*Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er the flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:*

*Come and worship, Come and worship,
Worship Christ, give thanks and sing.*

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

*2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;*

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

*4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins.*

*5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out
to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.*

*6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate
locusts and wild honey.*

*7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to
stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.*

8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

SERMON

"Messengers of Hope"

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

HYMN #121

"All Earth is Waiting"

*All Earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
And open furrows, the sowing of our God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
It cries out for justice and searches for the truth.*

*Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,"
One whose name is "God with us," our Savior shall be,
Through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.*

*Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
Open new highways, new highways for our God,
Who now is coming close, so come all and see,
And open the doorways as wide as can be.*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory:

Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, in gratitude for all you have given us,
we bring our tithes, our offerings and labor.
to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope:
For the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN #6

“Sing praise to God, Our Highest Good”

*Sing praise to God, our highest good,
profound respect expressing.
God gives us health, life, livelihood,
with every needed blessing.
To God who wondrous work performs,
creating life and calming storms,
To God be praise and glory!*

*Creation thanks you, Holy One,
You made us and renew us.
Delighted at what you have done,
You show your greatness through us.
So may all living things proclaim
The wonders of their Maker's name:
To God be praise and glory!*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Hymn Tune No. 25 to St. Fulbert
By C. S. Lang

Joyce Harris

Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today's Service

Joyce Harris

Organist/ Pianist

Bill Petrites

Liturgist

Tom Wilborn

Candle Lighter

Dr. Oliver Lawrence

Videographer

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

Senior Pastor