



Love

Prelude

Charles Dickinson

Welcome

Rev. Lora Andrews

Opening Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Jackson Thomas, song leader

Red #211

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,

and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light. Refrain

O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace. Refrain

Advent Wreath

Allison & Mike Marcus

Choir Response Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
St. Paul’s Virtual Choir
Jackson Thomas, director; Charles Dicksinson, pianist

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!

So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Seek

Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-11

40 Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4 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.

5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

6 A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

10 See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Message

Allison Marcus

Serve

Response to the Word

We are invited to respond to what God is doing in our lives through prayer, action, and generosity. You can light a candle as part of that response—as a prayer or as a commitment of your faithfulness today. We also respond with our financial gifts. Your generosity helps us Love, Seek, and Serve faithfully during this time and always. As we listen to the music, our prayer is that your relationship with God strengthens.

“Longest Nights”
St. Paul’s Praise Band

Hannah & Lenora Rand

You shouldn’t be here tonight
It doesn’t seem quite right
Here where the cattle sleep
Here where they keep the sheep
Here in the mud and blood and hay
How could you end up in this place?

You shouldn’t be here tonight
It doesn’t seem quite right
Here where the shots ring out
Where everything’s burning now
Where there’re a hundred words for pain
How could you end up in this place?

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
God with us
Love for us
Born into the longest nights
Emmanuel

You shouldn’t be here tonight
It doesn’t seem quite right
Here where the hurt is deep

Here where the wounded weep
Where there's so much we cannot say
How can you show up in this place?
How can you show up in this place?

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
God with us
Love for us
Born into the longest nights
Emmanuel

In this scarred and starry night
In our aching, crying nights
In this trembling, tender moment
before we start to see the light...
Dawn

Doxology

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"
(To the tune of "The First Noel")

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Praise God, the Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

Comfort and Joy Video

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Closing Song

"He Has Come For Us"

St. Paul's Praise Band

Meredith Andrews

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ, our Savior
Was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray
O, tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O, tidings of comfort and joy

He has come for us
This Jesus
He's the hope for all
Mankind
He has come for us
The Messiah
Born to give us life

From God, our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name
O, tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O, tidings of comfort and joy

He has come for us
This Jesus
He's the hope for all
Mankind
He has come for us

The Messiah
Born to give us life

Benediction

Rev. Lora Andrews

Postlude

Charles Dickinson

St. Paul's Mission Statement:

***LOVE God and all others unconditionally;
SEEK answers to our questions;
SERVE God by serving others.***

