

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT MCFARLAND UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

November 27, 2022 ☩ Sunday Worship

**Indicates please rise, in body or spirit.*

OPENING WELCOME

OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #116 NCH

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

Refrain:

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

2 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. [Refrain]

3 O come, O come, O Adonai,
who came to all on Sinai high,
And from its peak a single law
proclaimed in majesty and awe. [Refrain]

4 O come, O shoot of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny,
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. [Refrain]

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide your heavenly home;
Make safe the way to endless day,
to hell's destruction close the way. [Refrain]

6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night,
and death's own shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

7 O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]

Opening Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-18 (The Message & New English Translation)

Watch for this: The time is coming—GOD’s Decree—‘when I will keep the promise I made to the families of Israel and Judah. When that time comes, I will make a fresh and true shoot sprout from the line of David. This one will run this country honestly and fairly. This one will set things right. That’s when Judah will be secure and Jerusalem live in safety. The motto for the city will be, “GOD has provided us with justice.”

Lighting of The First Advent Candle: The Candle of Hope

One: This morning we light our first Advent candle—the candle of Hope. We light this candle as a symbol of hope for wholeness and healing in our lives and throughout the world.

Many: We remember how our spiritual ancestors longed for God to send them a promised Messiah—the anointed one—who would deliver them from their suffering and oppression.

One: Our ancestors lived in a world that, like our own, was full of reasons to be overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problems they faced. They, like us, sometimes found it hard to hope that things would ever truly change for the better.

All: But our spiritual ancestors clung to God’s promises of hope and healing. They read the Scriptures and told each other the stories of God’s liberating power and sustaining love. They reminded each other that no matter what they faced, God was always with them.

And so today we do the same. As we light this candle of hope, we remind each other that God will always give us courage to face our challenges straight on, resolve to hang in and do what’s right no matter how hard it may be, and strength to keep moving forward in love.

Passing of the Peace

A Time for All Ages

A Time for Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

A Choral Anthem: “Advent Prayer” By Allen Pote

Offertory (Lori Stoneking, guest pianist)

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost*

A Message Through Scripture and Spoken Word

Closing Song: "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus" #122 NCH

Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.

Born all people to deliver, born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever, come, be known to us again.

By your own eternal Spirit, come to claim us as your own;
By your all sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.