

# Hope for the Holidays Order of Worship

## December 2020

Prelude Michael Frank  
*Listen for His Coming* arr. Mark Hayes  
(*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence and O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*)

Gathering Together Steve Wilson

Opening Prayer Barb Wakefield

Advent Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.** (Refrain)

Refrain: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O Come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.** (Refrain)  
**O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.** (Refrain)

Words: Latin, c. 12<sup>th</sup> century/Sts 1-2 trans. John Mason Neale/St. 3 trans. Henry Sloan Coffin  
Music: *VENI EMMANUEL* adpt. Thomas Helmore/accomp. John Weaver



1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading Psalm 137:1-4 Kathy Bowser  
<sup>1</sup> By the rivers of Babylon— there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion.  
<sup>2</sup> On the willows there we hung up our harps. <sup>3</sup> For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" <sup>4</sup> How could we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?

Introduction of Speaker Don Ewing

Reflection *On Allowing Our Self to Feel the Pain* Dr. Lin Ewing

Prayer Dave Geis

Hymn *How Can We Sing a Joyful Song?*  
**How can we sing a joyful song? O God, our sorrows hem us in.  
When pain and grief seem all too strong, how can we sing a joyful hymn?**

**The world around finds songs to sing of laughter, mirth and happiness,  
But these sound false and even sting when what we feel is deep distress.**

**And yet, O God, we dare to sing for in our grief, we're not alone.  
You love this world and entered in by sending us your only Son.**

**You sent us hope — Emmanuel! O God-with-us, you bore our pain.  
And so we sing, for all is well! In Christ, we will be whole again.**

Tune: *O WALY WALY* – Traditional English melody  
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carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: [www.carolynshymns.com/](http://www.carolynshymns.com/)



<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reflection

*On Living Into Light and Hope*

Dr. Ewing

Prayer

Frank Hancock

Christmas Carol

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**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 wondering 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 given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
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 Emmanuel!**

Words: Phillips Brooks

Music: *ST. LOUIS* – Lewis Henry Redner



Benediction

Frank Hancock

Postlude

Michael Frank

*I Will Come to You*

words and music: David Haas

*I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.  
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be still and know I am here.*

*I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.  
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light, come and rest in me.*

*Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.*

**The Quartet:**

Soprano – Shannon Meyers

Alto – Sandy Wahnsiedler

Tenor – Jan Hepler

Bass – Dave Geis

**OPC STAFF**

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