



Prelude

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night. arr. Healey Wilan
An Advent Meditation David Lasky
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus arr. Edwin T. Childs
Unexpected and Mysterious arr. D. Lasky
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Jason W. Krug

Introit

“Matin Responsory” Robert Lehman
*I look from afar, and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go
ye out to meet him and say, “Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?”
High and low, rich and poor, one with another, go ye out to meet him and say, “Hear, O thou
shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, tell us, art thou he that should come?”
Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*

Call to Worship

***Hymn 88** “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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Low voices only:

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

High voices only:

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

All:

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

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

First Lesson Isaiah 40:1-11

Anthem :: “Christ the Apple Tree” Stanford Scriven

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green; the trees of nature fruitless
be compared with Christ the apple tree. This beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know but n'er
can tell the glory which I now can see, in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have
sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought; I missed of all, but now I see 'tis found in Christ the
apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive; it keeps my dying faith alive, which makes my
soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree. I'm wearied with my former toil, here I will
sit and rest awhile; under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

Second Lesson Jeremiah 31:31–34

***Hymn 103** “Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.
Come now, O God of love; make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.
Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior. Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.
Come, hope of unity; make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Third Lesson :: “Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem” Maya Angelou

Anthem :: “The Yearning” Craig Courtney

*There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.
There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a
yearning for tomorrow. There is a yearning for the promised one, the first born of creation.
There is a yearning for the Lord who visited his own, and by his death for sin atoned, to
bring to us salvation. Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning. There is a yearning that
fills the hearts of those who wait the day of his appearing. There is a yearning when all our
sorrows are erased and we shall see the one who placed within our hearts the yearning.
Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.*

Fourth Lesson Isaiah 11:1–9

***Hymn 94** “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse’s stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline, hearts grow soft to welcome him.
Heavy clouds that block the moonlight now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor, gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven’s ember fans to fullness; hearts grow warm to welcome him.
Christ, eternal Sun of justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom’s seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view:
child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome you.

Fifth Lesson Zephaniah 3:14–18a

Anthem :: “O Radiant Dawn” James MacMillan

*O radiant dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice. Come, shine on those who dwell
in darkness and the shadow of death. Isaiah had prophesied, “The people who walked in
darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has
shone!” O radiant dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice. Come, shine on those who
dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Amen.*

Sixth Lesson Luke 1:26–38

***Hymn 98** “To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”

To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.

“Fear not,” the angel told her, “I come to bring good news;
good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.”

“For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
you are most blest, most blessed; God chose you, you are blest!”

But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel’s word.

What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,
to hear the angel’s message, it troubled her to hear.

“Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus, God’s offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high.”

“How shall this be?” said Mary, “I am not yet a wife.”
The angel answered quickly, “The power of the Most High
will come upon you shortly, your child shall be God’s child.”

As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.

“Behold, I am your handmaid,” she said unto her God.
“So be it; I am ready according to your word.”

Seventh Lesson :: “The Risk of Birth” Madeline L’Engle

Anthem :: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” Michael Praetorius / Jan Sandström
*Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse’s lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when
half spent was the night.*

Eighth Lesson Luke 1:39–55

***Hymn 100** “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.
(*Refrain*)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.
(*Refrain*)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God’s mercy must deliver us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.
(*Refrain*)

Ninth Lesson John 1:1–18

Anthem :: “Lux Aurumque” Eric Whitacre
Light, warm and heavy as pure gold; and the angels sing softly to the newborn baby.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

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.

Offering

Offertory Anthem :: “E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” Paul Manz
Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon. E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Almighty God, you have done and are doing great things for us, and holy is your name.
May you bless all that we offer you—our selves, our time, and our possessions—
that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior and redeemer. Amen.

***Hymn 105** “People, Look East”

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Postlude

Toccata on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Adolphus Hailstork

*We invite you to enjoy the postlude. If you need to leave prior to the end of the postlude,
please do so quietly out of respect for those who choose to stay.*

For more Advent and Christmas worship opportunities, see
www.fourthchurch.org/advent-christmas

SOURCES AND CREDITS

“Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem,” Maya Angelou, *Amazing Peace: A Celebration*
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