

Order of Worship - First Sunday of Advent 2025

PRELUDE: "Lord, Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" Linda Von Rosenvinge, piano

WELCOME

This is the day the Lord has made! ***All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!***

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace and the joy of the Lord be with you! ***All: And also with you!***

HYMN: #88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL (verses 1-4)

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

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2 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*

3 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*

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem, unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave. . *Refrain*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & OPENING PRAYER Karen & Mike Guerin

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past
to imagine a future when God's reign will flourish throughout creation.

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise
to answer God's call to transform our hope into reality
today and in the days to come.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

Let us pray: ***Today, we choose to live in hope,***

to be instruments of God's grace in the world. Amen.

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

A STORY FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US: "Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?"

Peg Koller

By Martin Waddell; illustrated by Barbara Firth.

VERSE: #740 "Lead Me, Guide Me"

Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 2, verses 1-5.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established
as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord. *All: Thanks be to God.*

SERMON: "The Way of Hope"

Rev. Sue

SILENT MEDITATION & COMMUNITY RESPONSE**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (Brian Wren, amended and adapted)

Spirit of God, Giver of Life,
 Deep in every human heart,
 You plant a seed of promise
 And a spark of hope.

*Do not give up on us
 When we surrender to disappointment,
 Drift into aimlessness,
 Or sink into gloom and despair.*

*Hear our prayer for all who long to find
 Joy beyond sorrow,
 Healing beyond hurt,
 Peace beyond conflict,
 And dawn after a dark night.*

*Stir us, again and again,
 To dream of new possibilities,
 And inspire each other
 To create a future with hope.*

*Help us to remember to turn to you,
 Our rock and safety,
 The God in whom we trust. Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER (An adaptation by Tom Hall)

Eternal Spirit
 Source of all that is and ever shall be,
 Loving Parent in whom we discern heaven,
 May knowledge of your holiness inspire all peoples.
 And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom flourish on earth,
 until all of humankind heed your call to justice and compassion.
 May we find the bread that we need for today.

And for the hurts we cause one another
 may we be forgiven in the same measure that we forgive.
 In times of trial and temptation, help us to be strong;
 When life seems overwhelming, sustain our hope;
 And thus from the yoke of sin deliver us.
 May you reign in the power of human love,
 Now and forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY: "Down by the Riverside"

Gonna lay down my sword and shield,
 down by the riverside (3x)
 gonna lay down my sword and shield,
 down by the riverside. (2x)

*I ain't gonna study war no more.
 ain't gonna study war no more,
 ain't gonna study war no more. (2x)*

Gonna lay down my burden,
 down by the riverside (3x)
 gonna lay down my sword and shield,
 down by the riverside (2x). *Refrain*

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DOXOLOGY OLD HUNDREDTH

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, Light of Lights,
Source of All Goodness,
We thank you that we have these gifts to share.
May they become seeds of hope and new life
where most needed in this community and beyond. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Indigenous Wisdom for the Crises of our Times” with Sherri Mitchell, TODAY at 4 p.m. St. Paul Lutheran Church. Sponsored by the Interfaith Committee of the Cape Ann Climate Coalition.

“Come and Find the Quiet Center” - Tuesdays in December at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary with Rev. Sue & Song Leader Sarah Wetzel

ECCO Immigration Meeting - Saturday, Dec. 6th at 1 p.m. with Cindy Nicholls (Cove Rm)

Wreath-Making at Marshview Farm - Sunday, Dec. 7th at 1 p.m. \$35 (Sponsored by the Creation Care Team) Sign-up in Narthex. Limited to 18 people.

Cape Ann Kids Holiday Fund - See gift list on the back of the bulletin. Bring gifts by next Sunday.

Lessons & Carols - 3rd Sunday of Advent - Dec. 14 at 10 a.m.

Lobster Cove String Quartet Christmas Concert - Thursday, December 18th at 7 p.m.

Christmas Pageant - 4th Sunday of Advent - Dec. 21 at 10 a.m.

Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service - Wed. Dec. 24th at 5 p.m.

ONGOING:

Yoga with Holly Clay - Wednesdays at 3 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Gentle Yoga with Joan Collier - Tuesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal - Wednesdays at 4:30

Ease Into Meditation with Rick Blue - Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Midweek Contemplative Prayer with Rev Sue - Thursdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom

CLOSING HYMN: #105 “People, Look East” verses 1-4 BESANCON, Eleanor Farejon

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.

BENEDICTION (Jane Goodall, adapted)

Hope does not deny all the difficulty and all the danger that exists,
but it is not stopped by them.
There is a lot of darkness, but rooted and grounded in God’s love,
our actions, together, create the light. Amen.

POSTLUDE: “Blowin’ in the Wind”