



Service of
Wholeness & Remembrance

December 8th, 2019

SERVICE OF WHOLENESS AND REMEMBRANCE

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit. Comfort us and all who mourns this night.

People: Give us strength to grieve as we must.

Leader: Help us receive your healing in the midst of our pain, and find new order after the chaos of loss;

People: through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: We light this candle in thanksgiving for the loved ones lost, for past health and joy that now seems distant. As it burns bright, may we feel God's love in our present sorrow and as it flickers, may we be reminded of God's gift of hope, comfort, and peace; for the promises of God yet to be revealed.

*Hymn: #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (Verses 1,6,7)

Veni Emmanuel

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

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

Leader: 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.

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

Leader: 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.

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

Prayer

Time of Confession

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

We confess O God, that amid our times of sadness, loneliness, and grief we can feel isolated, alone, and far away from your grace and favor. It feels like you are distant; especially as our hurt engulfs us. Remind us again and again, that we are not alone in our grief. Grant us wisdom to know that you are with us always, especially in times when we feel alone or when we are at our absolute worst. We are thankful that you love us and are with us even in the darkest valleys. Lord, hear our confession and those we now offer in the silence....(a silence is kept). Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of God's grace.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Response to Forgiveness: *Advent Gloria*

Besançon Arranged by Richard Shephard

Glory to God in highest Heav'n, Peace to all your people given,
Almighty God, your grace abounding, We give you glory, our praise resounding;
We worship you, and sing today, Christ, our Hope, is on the way.

Prayer for Illumination

Readings from the Old Testament

Isaiah 40:1, 25-31, p. 517

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Psalm 121

Leader: I will lift up my eyes to the hills, from where is my help to come?
People: My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth
Leader: He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
People: Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
Leader: The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
People: So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night
Leader: The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.
People: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for ever more.
Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
People: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *How Can We Sing a Joyful Song*

O Waly Waly

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.

Reading from the New Testament

John 1:1-5, p. 70

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation: "A LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS"

Rev. Michelle Junkin

Intercession for Healing

Leader: The God of strength moves within us;
People: the God of courage hears our distress.

Leader: The God of hope reveals wholeness to us;
People: the God of healing touches us when we are broken.

Leader: When the pain overwhelms us, when the burden is too heavy,
People: we turn to our God, who is sustaining and redeeming.

Leader: When there is loneliness, when there is isolation,
People: we turn to our God, who is loving and present.

Leader: For God created us, redeemed us and sustains us,
People: and we are not alone.

All: Lead us in your ways, O God, and bring us your healing touch.

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The Placing of Ornaments and Anointing with Oil

Prayer

Invitation (You are invited to come forward to place an ornament upon the tree of remembrance in honor of a loved one. You may also receive and be anointed with oil. The anointing on your forehead is a very old gesture used to give strength on the journey of being healed and healing others. After people have returned to their seat, the pastoral prayer will be offered.)

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Josh Phelps, Tenor; Steve Thompson, Organ

Albert Hay Malotte

***Hymn: #140** *Once in Royal David's City*

Irby

***Benediction**

Blessing and Dismissal

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace, both now and forever more. Amen. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Postlude

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*This sign is an invitation, to all who are able, to stand as they offer God thanks and praise.

Leading In Worship:

Senior Associate Pastor: Rev. Michelle Junkin

Commissioned Lay Pastor: Glenn Dunn

Director of Worship and Music: Josh Phelps

Seminary Intern: Tylar Gregg

Organ: Steve Thompson, Principal Organist

Reception provided by WPC Care Team

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