

Durham Mennonite Church

December 20, 2020 - Order of Worship

Gathering - 10:15 to 10:30

Announcements – Marcia Nice

Opening Prayer

Litany

Hymn – O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Scripture – Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Scripture – Luke 1:26-38

Message - Jonathan Larson

Musical Meditation - Savior of the Nations, Come - Joanna

Reflection on the message – Jackie

Sharing praise and prayer requests - Jackie

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn - The virgin Mary had a baby boy #202

Benediction

Announcements

Opening Prayer

Litany

Based on Luke 1:38 and Psalm 89

If ever we were silent witness to Heaven's deeds of goodness, lived as mute recipients of divine generosity, we ask now that these laggard tongues be loosed to sing and to say with Mary,

Let it be to me according to your word.

If ever an emissary of sacred purpose sent to us was left standing outside as we fumbled with our own pursuits, deaf to Heaven's entreaties, we ask now that these eyes and ears be opened, that we might perceive and understand, and say with Mary,

Let it be to me according to your word.

If ever there came a season when nobility and justice were aborning, but found no lodging in these souls, when righteous purpose for neighbors and ourselves miscarried e'er it drew its first breath, we plead now to be schooled in welcome, and to say with Mary,

Let it be to me according to your word.

If ever sacred friendship came urgent to our doors, came to seek us in our friendless state, but we barred the door, fled crouching in the darkness for failed faith, help us now to swing open the doors and to say with Mary,

Let it be to me according to your word.

If ever you beckoned to draw us 'neath your canopy of grace, that royal house for all, and for the ages, but we demurred,

preferring a shabby lean-to of our own, we beg that we might
learn to say with Mary,

Let it be to me according to your word.

JPL

Hymn – O Come, O Come Immanuel

**1. O come, O come, Immanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain - Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**2. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave.**

Refrain - Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**3. O, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.**

Refrain - Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**4. 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.**

Refrain - Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**5. 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.**

Refrain - Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**6. O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease.
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

Light the Advent Candle

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Revelation and Peace

Scripture: Luke 2:10-14 “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Candle Lighting: Relight the first two blue candles and the pink candle and then light the last blue candle; as you are lighting the candles say: Today we relight the candles of expectation and hope, recalling God’s promise; the candle of Preparation, remembering the voice crying in the wilderness, urging the people to prepare the way of the coming Lord; and the candle of Proclamation, reminding us of the joy found in HIM. Now we light the candle of Revelation and Peace. We celebrate the announcement of the coming King and the greatness of God’s love revealed through the Christ child.

Prayer: Father, we thank you for revealing yourself through Jesus, and we praise you for the greatness of your love. Help us to share your peace with others and live our lives more like Christ every day. In His name we pray. Amen.

Scripture - Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

A *maskil* of Ethan the Ezrahite.

- ¹ I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations.
- ² I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.
- ³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant,
- ⁴ "I will establish your line forever
and make your throne firm through all generations.'"
- ¹⁹ Once you spoke in a vision,
to your faithful people you said:
"I have bestowed strength on a warrior;
I have raised up a young man from among the people.
- ²⁰ I have found David my servant;
with my sacred oil I have anointed him.
- ²¹ My hand will sustain him;
surely my arm will strengthen him.
- ²² The enemy will not get the better of him;
the wicked will not oppress him.
- ²³ I will crush his foes before him
and strike down his adversaries.
- ²⁴ My faithful love will be with him,
and through my name his horn will be exalted.
- ²⁵ I will set his hand over the sea,
his right hand over the rivers.
- ²⁶ He will call out to me, 'You are my Father,
my God, the Rock my Savior.'

Scripture – Luke 1:26-38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Message – Jonathan Larson

Musical Meditation - Joanna Nice

Savior of the nations, come #173

Reflection Time - Jackie

Praises and Prayer Concerns - Jackie

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen.

Hymn - The virgin Mary had a baby boy #202

The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
The virgin Mary had a baby boy
And they say that his name was Jesus.

Refrain

**He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom;
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
O yes, believer! O yes, believer!
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.**

The angels sang when the baby was born,
The angels sang when the baby was born,
The angels sang when the baby was born
And they sang that his name was Jesus.

The wise men saw when the baby was born,
The wise men saw when the baby was born,
The wise men saw when the baby was born
And they say that his name was Jesus.

Benediction

God of Light and Hope, in whom there is no darkness, cause your light to shine on us and through us to others, that they may know of you and of your Love. Let us witness to your gift of Jesus who came and taught us how to live as children of Light. Go in peace, dear friends, and know that the God of light, hope, peace, and joy goes with you. AMEN.