

FIRST CHURCH, SARASOTA
Traditional Worship Service
Communion Sunday

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 6, 2020

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright, Senior Pastor
Michael Stuart, Director of Music/Organist

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CHORAL INTROIT

Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel Shall Come to Thee, O Israel

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donna Maynard, Director of Ministries

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1,5,6,7)

Hymnal 211¹

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Susan Quigley, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright

CHORAL RESPONSE

Harold Darke

What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

CHORAL ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Ensemble

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 within, 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!

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:1-11²

SPECIAL MUSIC

Peace Be Still

Hope Darst

Mya Mamazza, soprano

I don't wanna be afraid every time I face the waves. I don't wanna be afraid. And I don't wanna fear the storm just because I hear it roar, I don't wanna fear the storm. Peace be still. Say the word and I will set my feet upon the sea til I'm dancing in the deep. Peace be still. You are here so it is well even when my eyes can't see, I will trust the voice that speaks. I'm not gonna be afraid cause these waves are only waves. I'm not gonna be afraid, no, I'm not gonna be afraid and I'm not gonna fear the storm. You are greater than its roar. Oh, I'm not gonna fear the storm, no, I'm not gonna fear at all. Peace be still. Say the word and I will set my feet upon the sea til I'm dancing in the deep. Peace be still. You are here so it is well, even when my eyes can't see, I will trust the voice that speaks. Peace, peace over me. You speak peace, let faith rise up. Oh, heart believe, let faith rise up in me and let faith rise up. Oh, heart believe, let faith rise up in me. Let faith rise up. Oh, heart believe, let faith rise up in me. Let faith rise up. Oh, heart believe, let faith rise up in me. Peace be still. Say the word and I will set my feet upon the sea, til I'm dancing in the deep. Oh, peace be still. You are here so it is well, even when my eyes can't see, I will trust the voice that speaks. Peace, peace over me. I hear You speaking. Peace, peace over me, oh, peace over me. You speak peace over me.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit
to give ourselves for others
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*Hymnal 213³

BENEDICTION

THE CHORAL BENEDICTION

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.

PASSING THE PEACE

¹O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

1. 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.
5. O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home. The captives from their prison free, and conquer death's deep misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
7. O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Antiphons may be read before and between hymn stanzas. (Antiphons may be read before and between hymn stanzas).

²Isaiah 40:1-11 (CEB)

Comfort, comfort my people! says your God. Speak compassionately to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended, that her penalty has been paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins!

A voice is crying out: "Clear the LORD's way in the desert! Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God! Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be flattened. Uneven ground will become level, and rough terrain a valley plain. The LORD's glory will appear, and all humanity will see it together; the LORD's mouth has commanded it."

A voice was saying: "Call out!" And another said, "What should I call out?" All flesh is grass; all its loyalty is like the flowers of the field. The grass dries up and the flower withers when the LORD's breath blows on it. Surely the people are grass. The grass dries up; the flower withers, but our God's word will exist forever. Go up on a high mountain, messenger Zion!

Raise your voice and shout, messenger Jerusalem! Raise it; don't be afraid; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" Here is the LORD God, coming with strength, with a triumphant arm, bringing his reward with him and his payment before him.

Like a shepherd, God will tend the flock; he will gather lambs in his arms and lift them onto his lap. He will gently guide the nursing ewes.

³LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!
2. Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
3. Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide; let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.
4. Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won; eternal praise, eternal fame be offered, Savior, to thy name!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES LIMITED SEATING - TICKETS AVAILABLE

We will have two identical in-person traditional Christmas Eve services at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. with professional singers and instrumentalists. Those same musicians will be featured in our online Christmas Eve service. The music will be wonderful. Our in-person Christmas Eve services will be different this year. We will not have congregational singing or lighting candles in order to keep each other safe. We will be observing the guidelines of the CDC, taking temperatures, wearing masks, and physically distancing to show kindness to others in order to protect each other from infection with the virus.

In order to make certain that we have enough seating at each service (120 maximum), we are providing complimentary tickets. You must have a ticket in order to attend the in-person Christmas Eve services. You can obtain tickets by calling the church office (941-955-0935) and speaking with Secretary Debi Adams who will add the names and contact information for each person attending to our list. She will mail you the tickets. When the tickets are gone, people will be encouraged to participate in our online Christmas Eve services from home where everyone can safely sing along.

Artisans' World Marketplace OPEN HOUSE

128 S. Pineapple Ave.

TODAY ~ 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Monday -Friday, December 7-11 ~ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, December 12 ~ 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

As a thank you for all First Church helps us do, bring your in-person or online bulletin to receive 10% off your purchases. Come see the array of unique and beautiful items. Each purchase helps an artisan provide the basics for his or her family.

STAFF APPRECIATION

As many of you know and experience, the First Church Staff serves with caring professionalism in their myriad of weekday and Sunday responsibilities. The Staff-Parish Committee invites you to express your appreciation of them with a Christmas love offering. Please note "staff gift" on your check or envelope. Thank you for this gift and your other expressions of kindness to the staff throughout the year. - Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Angel Tree THANK YOU

Yes, we missed the real Angel Tree in the narthex and shopping for 75 local needy children whose families are vetted to qualify for this Salvation Army annual project. Your donations of approximately \$8000 will provide a very Merry Christmas to these children and families. Jesus loves the little children and so do you!

THANK YOU, TEAM, for Hanging the Greens

The church looks more exquisite than ever. This masked team, divided in groups, worked tirelessly on three days to stay physically distanced and to beautify the church for all who enter this season. We express our gratitude and love to each.

Russ Copeman, Jim Fredrick, Suzanne and JR Cline, Sally Altman, Bev Gorman, Sandy Grimes, Dione Post, Tina McGovern and son Rob, Valorie Pruitt, Bonnie VanOverbeke, Jayne Cory