

3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday December 14th, 2025
Redemption Lutheran Church
8001 Bustleton Ave.
Philadelphia PA 19152
www.redemptionphiladelphia.org

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH/GATHERING

(The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God)

SONG/Lighting of Advent Wreath - *O Come O Come Emmanuel* - Stanza 1

See next page

LITANY

P: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.

O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up for your coming

P: We gather together to allow our deeply held hopes to be reshaped by God's promises. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up for your coming

P: We wait for the day when God will make for us a future that is no longer predicated on our fear. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up for your coming

P: We find a new receptivity within us that desires God's will over our own will and relies on God's justice and mercy to accomplish it. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming

P: Jesus, we welcome your presence now
with the lighting of these candles,
whose flames bring warmth to winter
and fill this place with the glow of hope.

C: Amen.

SONG/Lighting of Advent Wreath - *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* - Stanza 4

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



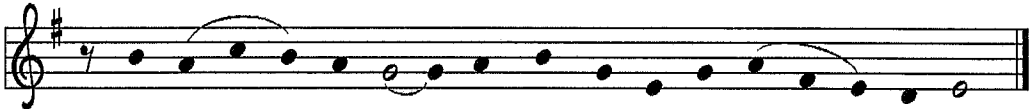
- 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
- 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
- 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C: Amen.

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin. Everlasting God:

C: You love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: Amen.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

(God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

A: A reading from Isaiah

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.]]

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:5-10

The Psalm is read responsively.

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob [|] for their help,
whose hope is in the [|] LORD their God;
⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that [|] is in them;**
who keeps promis- [|] es forever;
⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to [|] those who
hunger.

The LORD sets the [|] captive free.
⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who [|] are
bowed down;**
the LORD [|] loves the righteous. R

⁹ The LORD cares [|] for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way [|] of the
wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall [|] reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. [|] Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING: James 5: 7-10

A: A reading from James

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

Sung Twice

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first line of musical notation is for a two-part setting. The treble staff (top) begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on a whole note chord, followed by a half note, and then a quarter note. The bass staff (bottom) begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on a whole note chord, followed by a half note, and then a quarter note. The lyrics "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." are written below the staves.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second line of musical notation is for a two-part setting. The treble staff (top) begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on a whole note chord, followed by a half note, and then a quarter note. The bass staff (bottom) begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on a whole note chord, followed by a half note, and then a quarter note. The lyrics "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" are written below the staves.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What

did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Sandra Ellis-Killian

The assembly remains seated.

Hymn of the Day – *Christ, Be Our Light ELW - 715*

The assembly stands.

THE APOSTLES CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer ends with the words, “God of Grace” and the congregation responds, “Hear our prayer.”

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

MEAL

(God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.)

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

P: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them up to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise

PREFACE

The presiding minister continues:

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

The assembly may be seated. The bread is broken for communion

COMMUNION

You may come to the rail to receive communion. The bread is gluten free, and you may dip it in the wine or grape juice. If you can't come to the rail communion will be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONG - *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* - ELW 490

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

P: Let us pray. Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen**

SENDING

(God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.)

BLESSING

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN – *People, Look East ELW - 248*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace, Be Surprised!

C: Thanks be to God.

Worship Permissions

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Our Prayer List

Our Community: Bob Conn, Mabel Turner, Ethel Metz.

Our Friends: Terry Gara, Lea and Paul Ressler, Ruth Mann, Melissa Kuchler, Linda Moore, Robert Donnelly and Family, Patricia Weiser, Eileen Krygier, Kathy Schultz, Shannon Puitro, Josh, Sue & Dave Goldstein, Jack Horvath, friend of Diane & John Graham, Joe Wolf, Mason Family, Nina Liptak, Barbara Laudenbacker, Jim Kellmer, Jill Edwards, Dorrie Schenkel, Mark Strenger, Freddie Schrat.

Announcements

During this time of pastoral transition, we want to share our financial status with the congregation by reporting the amount budgeted for monthly offering income, versus actual monthly offering income. Budgeted monthly offering income for December is \$4,200, and to date we have received \$1,373.

Feast of Justice Collection – Personal Care items are needed. Full-sized bottles of shampoo, conditioner and body wash. Soap, toothpaste, deodorant and especially feminine products would be greatly appreciated. You can place the items in the box in the Narthex.

Feast of Justice Food Pantry – We will be collecting a different shelf sustainable food item every Sunday for the Feast of Justice Food Pantry. We will collect for a total of 8 weeks (through January 25) to help restock their shelves. You can place the items in the box in the Sanctuary. **On Sunday, December 21st please bring Tuna.**

Wednesday, December 24th – Our Christmas Eve Service is at 3:00p.m. Pastor Davidson will be leading us in worship. A Trumpeter will be performing during the service.

Save the Date

Saturday, January 10th – Join us for the 1:00p.m. performance of the annual Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Lafayette Hill. Tickets are \$22 for an adult and \$6.00 for children (5 and under). We will carpool from Redemption. Please complete the sign-up sheet at the back of the church by December 21st.

Sunday, January 11th – Join us after worship for a "Meet and Greet" with our new Vice Pastor, Ron Wesemann. Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday, January 18th – We will be completing an MLK Day service project after worship.

Sunday, January 25th – There will be a Congregational Meeting after worship. We will approve the second half of our fiscal year 2025/2026 Budget (January-June 2026).