

**St. Timothys United Methodist Church – Cedar Falls, Iowa
December 20, 2009 – 10:15 am
The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Large print bulletins and hymnals and hearing aid devices are available.
A nursery is provided for children younger than First Grade.
Ask an usher to help you.**

Gathering

Prelude *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* Plainsong/arr. Rocherolle
 "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" Praetorius/arr. Labenske

(We invite you to use the prelude as a time for centering on God, the Holy, the Spirit, the Living Jesus. Please be considerate of others for whom this is a quiet time.)

Greeting and Welcome

Lighting the Advent Candles

Responsively

Leader: Companion God, we begin our Advent journey anew.

All: Illuminate for us a shining path to you.

(Light the first, second, third, and fourth candles.)

L: Holy One, we light these candles, a flicker of starlight, cradled in a forever circle of green, a sign of belonging, of growth, of possibility, of awe and wonder.

All: May they be a reminder of your divine spark, kindling new beginnings within us. May love be born among us.

L: We wait in hope and peace, joy, and love with all your people through the ages and into tomorrow. Amen.

***Advent Candle Song** *Tune of "Away in a Manger"* Red hymnal 217

Light four Advent candles and feel all around

The love that is growing and soon will surround.

Light four Advent candles and wait for the morn

When new birth will happen and light will be born.

Copyright © 2009 Ann Freeman Price. The author may be contacted by e-mail at AnnFreemanPrice@embarqmail.com. Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203. Used by permission.

Unison Prayer

Teach us to sing your praise, O God. Teach us to sing with notes formed by hopes and acts of justice. Teach us to sing with harmonies shaped by mercy's wide embrace. Teach us to sing Mary's song of birth and rebirth for all creation in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Festival of Carols

Praying

Call to Prayer

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Red hymnal 211

***"O, come, dear Lord, with mercy and grace,
make strong the weak and heal the human race;
The hungry feed, the needy clothe,
that by example we will learn to love.***

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel."

Words by Cynthia A. Douglas, From Alternatives for Simple Living: 800-821-6153.

Sharing Joys and Concerns

(After each joy or concern, we sing, "***O, come, dear Lord, with mercy and grace.***")

Silent Prayer

*Passing the Peace

Listening to the Word

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS by Joseph M. Martin

"A CHRISTMAS PROCESSIONAL"

*Congregation please stand to sing when cued:

**Yeah, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n..**

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

The First Lesson:

"A FATHER'S LOVE, A PERFECT ROSE"

The Second Lesson:

"O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

*Congregation please stand to sing when cued:

**1. Oh, 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.**

**2. 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. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. (Interlude)**

**3. 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

The Third Lesson:

"CELTIC ADVENT CAROL"

The Fourth Lesson:

"COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS"

*Congregation please stand to sing when cued:

- 1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**
- 2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet, a king.
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne!
By Thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts along.**

The Fifth Lesson:

"MY SOUL DOTH MAGNIFY THE LORD"

The Sixth Lesson:

"CRADLE CAROLS"

*Congregation please remain seated to sing when cued:

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

- 1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in
heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."**

The Seventh Lesson:

"A NOEL CELEBRATION"

The Seventh Lesson:

"A CHRISTMAS INVITATION"

The Ninth Lesson:

"A CHRISTMAS THANKSGIVING"

Responding to the Word

Opportunities and Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Liturgist

"Mary/Nazareth girl:/What did you know of ethereal beings/with messages from God?/What did you know of men/when you found yourself with child?/What did you know of babies,/you, barely out of childhood yourself?/God-chosen girl:/What did you know of God/that brought you to this stable/blessed among women?/Could it be that you had been ready/waiting/listening/for the footsteps/of an angel?/Could it be there are messages for us if we have the faith to listen?"

"Mary, Nazareth Girl" by Ann Weems, [Kneeling in Bethlehem](#)

Offertory

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Redner/arr. Labenske

*Dedication Song

Tune: *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

***"Oh, come, dear Lord, with mercy and grace,
make strong the weak and heal the human race,
The hungry feed, the needy clothe
that by example we will learn to love.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!"***

*Prayer of Dedication

Unison

All praise and thanks to you, God of Christmas glory! We join our hearts and voices with all peoples, all nations, and all of creation in welcoming your gift to us of new life in Jesus Christ. We pray that our gifts to you may be used to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, set free the oppressed, and bring new life to the world. Amen

Going Forth

Prayer and Blessing:

"A CHRISTMAS RECESSIONAL"

*Congregation please stand to sing when cued:

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace. Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings; ris'n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,

Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

*Postlude

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Wade/arr. Carter

* = The Congregation is invited to stand

All rights reserved OneLicense.net #A-709143