

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 28, 2021



*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person.
For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.
— Apostle Paul, First Letter to the Corinthians 3:16-17*



We know a thing or two about waiting these days.

We wait for a world without disease.
We wait for improved health of a loved one.
We wait for answers.
We wait for someone to make a change.

As we begin our Advent journey today, in some ways it feels like the liturgical calendar is finally meeting us in a place that feels comfortable. We await the celebration of the miracle of our Savior to enter into the world while we wait for miracles in our world today. However, even though waiting has become comfortable, or

at least natural, Advent is a time for us to experience discomfort, and I encourage you to lean into it this Advent season.

Of course this may come easily on the day-to-day side of things. The shopping, preparing the house for guests, dinner parties with people you may not know, evenings with distant family members, living into high expectations put on us by everyone and no one. Most of that can be uncomfortable. What I'm talking about here is the faith side of things.

We know how the beautiful story of Christmas ends, but unless you understood and believed the prophecies, the people in the first century weren't as prepared. Mary and Joseph had to "show face" while Mary's belly started to show. I can only imagine the whispers and disbelief from a lot of their community. In a crisis situation, having no place to give birth to their first child, they had no one who offered help. The birth of Jesus was truly a miraculous one, and he entered into a world that didn't know him, and wasn't quite prepared.

Waiting during Advent is more than eating chocolates out of a themed calendar. It is a time of preparation in ourselves as well, and that work is uncomfortable. As we wait for the arrival of Jesus, how are we preparing a place for him? A place where he is welcomed, a home where he is celebrated, a home where he is worshipped.

While we explore Biblical hometowns this advent season, I encourage you to take note of our home at this church. What makes you feel at home here? What do we do that makes others feel at home? Find joy in the ways that this home is prepared for Jesus, but move boldly into areas of growth. Let us step out of our comfort zones in order that upon Jesus' arrival our hearts are prepared, and we know what it looks like to praise and celebrate God. Our God who has broken into our world in order that we may know God's love, and know it to the fullest.



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 & 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Service

...Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. —Luke 1:13b

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARIES

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Paul Manz

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Michael Burkhardt

* *Please rise in body or spirit at the ringing of the tower bell.*

* **CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY** *from Awake, Transform, Reveal, Be Born Anew* *Michael Burkhardt*

At every beginning there is a yearning.

O Emmanuel, wake us up to your coming.

*Awaken our hearts to expect the unexpected
and imagine the unimaginable.*

O Emmanuel, wake us up to your coming.

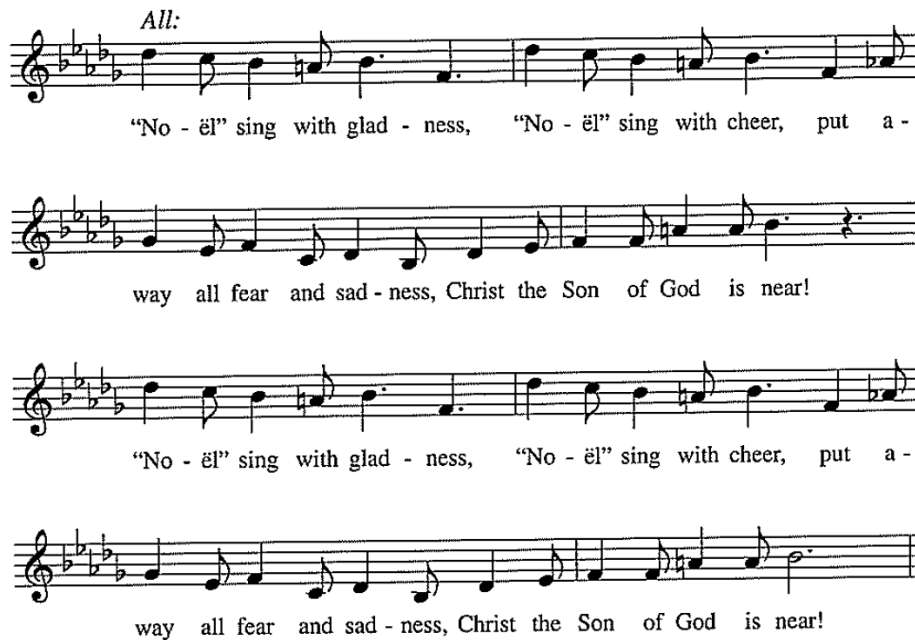
Soloist:

Christ the Lord is coming, bring hope and light,

Re-awakening hearts now burdened by the night.

Please join the choir singing the refrain:

All:



"No - ël" sing with glad - ness, "No - ël" sing with cheer, put a -
way all fear and sad - ness, Christ the Son of God is near!
"No - ël" sing with glad - ness, "No - ël" sing with cheer, put a -
way all fear and sad - ness, Christ the Son of God is near!

Let us pray.

We welcome your presence now with the lighting of this
candle whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills
this place with the glow of hope. **Amen.**

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN 82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

from Isaiah 64:5b-7

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Let us make our confession to God.

**God-with-us,
even in Advent,
we confess you can seem far away.
You are hidden when we need you near.
In our hurt, doubt, and fear,
we do not try to draw closer to you;
instead, we lash out –
against you, our neighbor, even those we love.
Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us!
Let your face shine until our tears are dried,
our sins are faded, and our hope is restored.
After all, we belong to you,
and in your hands, we can be made new.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

from 1 Corinthians 1:4, 8, 9

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus,
strengthens us to the end
so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.
**Thanks be to God, who is faithful
and has called us into the fellowship of the Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord!**

*** GLORIA**

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD WITH CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (9:00 a.m.)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Following the Word with the Children, children and youth, ages 4 through grade 8, will be dismissed for Sunday school.

PRAYER

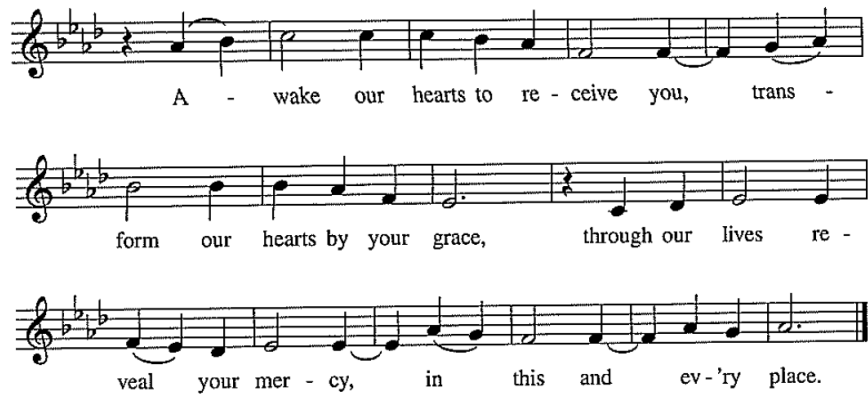
CALL TO PRAYER

Please remain seated and sing the refrain when indicated.

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free;
from our fears and sins release us; grant us peace and liberty.
Refrain

Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king:
born to reign in us forever, now your gracious kingdom bring.
Refrain

Refrain



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (10:30 a.m.)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING

HYMN 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

Waiting

*Please remain seated as the soloist sings Stanza 1.
Please rise in body or spirit to sing Stanzas 2-3.*

PRESENTATION OF PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS

Our giving is an offering to God. All offerings, whether made in the worship service or outside of it, are part of our worship of God and are used to support the Kirk's ministry here and in other parts of the world.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

ANTHEM

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes

Hal H. Hopson

Thou shalt know him when he comes; not by any din of drums,
nor the manner of his airs, nor by anything he wears.
Thou shalt know him when he comes;
not by his crowns or his gown,
but his coming known shall be by the holy harmony
which his coming makes in thee. Amen.

*** DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

WORD

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Please sing several times.

This prayer for illumination is Hymn 91.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:5-22

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Hometowns: The Temple in Jerusalem

SENDING

* HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Savior of the Nations, Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

Copyright information

Music and texts are reprinted and streamed with permission under One License !-717156. All rights reserved.

Liturgy from *The Worship Sourcebook* and *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*.

Candle lighting liturgy and music from *Light the Candle*, Michael Burkhardt © 2020 Birnamwood Publications.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Paul Manz © 1990 MorningStar Music Publishers.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Michael Burkhardt © 2016 Birnamwood Publications.

While We Are Waiting Come Claire Cloninger © 1986 Word Music, LLC.

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes Hal H. Hopson © 1982 Harold Flammer, Inc.

Come, Come Emmanuel James J. Chepponis © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc.

Notes on worship and music

"The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions – past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us – people who wait for the second coming. . . . A deliberate tension must be built into our practice of the Advent season. Christ has come, and yet not all things have reached completion. While we remember Israel's waiting and hoping and we give thanks for Christ's birth, we also anticipate his second coming at the end of time." from *The Worship Sourcebook*

Two threads weave together for today's worship:

Hometowns: Temple in Jerusalem

Come – Emmanuel, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, Savior of the Nations, Ever-Gracious Son of God . . .

We begin our Advent series today with *Hometowns: Temple in Jerusalem* and preaching from Luke 1:5-22. How have your hometown and other places you've lived shaped who you are and how others perceive you? How do Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem tell us more about Jesus, the Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Savior, the Messiah?

Throughout Advent, we'll use a candle lighting liturgy based on the actions: Awake, Transform, Reveal, Be Born Anew. Today's liturgy combines the action calling on God to "*awaken* our hearts to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable" with our cry to Emmanuel to "wake us up to your coming."

Our season of Advent comes from the Latin *adventus* – "coming." During this season, we call on God, especially on the second person of the Trinity, Jesus, by a variety of names:

Emmanuel ("God-with-us") – opening voluntary, liturgy, hymns, and sung prayers.

Long-Expected Jesus – Charles Wesley's text is used twice for the introit and processional hymn.

The text for our final hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, uses a number of titles: Emmanuel, Wisdom, Lord of might, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Dayspring, and Desire of Nations. Each stanza ends with the common refrain of "Rejoice," reminding us of God's promise as we celebrate Christ's coming 2000 years ago and his coming again at a time we don't know.

In this time of longing and waiting, how can you sing "Rejoice"? What attributes might you use for the coming Messiah? How will you know him when he comes?

If you are in need of prayer

You may submit prayer requests online at kirkinthehills.org under Connect/Prayer.

Stephen Ministers are available for personal, confidential prayer in Melrose Chapel (to the left, when facing forward in the sanctuary) immediately following service each Sunday.

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer please contact Nancy Lau at 248-835-6691.



Coffee Hour - Join us for fellowship in Heritage Hall from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. each Sunday!

Tour Kirk in the Hills each Sunday! Those interested in a brief tour are asked to meet in the Baptistry, to the right of the Chancel, after the 10:30 a.m. service. See an usher for direction or further details.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Anne R. Sherwood and Lloyd C. "Skip" Sherwood by the Sherwood family

Poinsettias will be used to adorn the Kirk during the Christmas season. Today is the last day to turn in Poinsettia Memorials. Please make checks payable to Kirk in the Hills for \$25 along with your name and the person(s) you are memorializing and drop by the welcome center. You may also donate plants online at kirkinthehills.org.



About today's cover art

Archangel Gabriel Struck Dumb Zachariah by Alexandr Ivanov | public domain

Ivanov was a Russian painter who adhered to Neoclassicism (the study of art and culture of classic antiquity) in his work. At age 11, he began studying with his father who was a professor of art at the Imperial Academy of Arts. Ivanov spent a majority of his working years in Italy.

From left to right: Rev. Kelsey Sorge, Rev. Dr. Nate Phillips, Rev. Angela Ryo, Rev. Edwin Estevez



We envision a world where every heart experiences God's transforming love.



Membership

Stephanie Sheak
ssheak@kirkinthehills.org



Serve

Julie Walker
jwalker@kirkinthehills.org



Congregational Care

Rev. Angela Ryo
revang@kirkinthehills.org



Choirs and Music Events

Nicole Joseph
njoseph@kirkinthehills.org



Baptisms, Memorials, Weddings

Jen Morris
jmorris@kirkinthehills.org



Small Groups

Rev. Angela Ryo
revang@kirkinthehills.org



Give

Karen Bowman
kbowman@kirkinthehills.org



Questions/Information

Erica Ginter
eginter@kirkinthehills.org



Church Leadership

Bob Beck/Clerk of Session
clerk@kirkinthehills.org



KIRK IN THE HILLS
1340 WEST LONG LAKE ROAD
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48302
(248) 626-2515 • kirkinthehills.org