

# ~ Joy Has Dawned ~

## SEVEN RIVERS CELEBRATES

Video

## WELCOME & GREETINGS

Ray Cortese, *Senior Pastor*

## SONG OF PREPARATION

Josh Bales

Welcome to Worship! We are so glad you have come to Seven Rivers. Each weekend we celebrate the God of the Universe who came to us in the person of Jesus Christ. Whether you know Him and love Him already or are simply here to find out more about Him, take the next few moments to look over the songs and Scripture readings that follow, and prepare your heart to worship Him!

### **“Come, Oh Redeemer, Come”**

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*Father enthroned on high; holy, holy.  
Ancient, eternal Light, hear our prayer.*

*Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us mercy.  
Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.*

*Lord, save us from the dark of our striving,  
Faithless and troubled hearts weighed down.*

*Look now upon our need; Lord be with us.  
Heal us and make us free from our sin.*

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The lighting of Advent candles dramatically depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. The traditional Advent wreath has four purple candles (lit on the four Sundays of Advent) grouped around a white Christ candle (lit on Christmas Day). The main symbolism portrayed by the wreath is the growing intensity of light as the candle lighting includes an additional candle each worship day and as anticipation builds for the celebration of Christ's second coming. (*The Worship Sourcebook*)

### **“Veni Emanuel”**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” was first entitled “Veni, Veni, Emmanuel.” It was sung in Latin. It was an Antiphon (12<sup>th</sup> Century), translated by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866. This haunting carol is the epitome of an Advent hymn. The tune to this carol was probably written in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The text of this hymn is filled with many biblical allusions and a firm understanding of Covenantal theology. Some of the more important concepts are here identified. The word “Emmanuel” means “God with us” and directly refers to Isaiah 7:14 as well as Matthew 1:23. The word “Israel” refers to all Christians, and the reference to the Babylonian exile is a metaphor for the fallen state of man who is banned from paradise.

<i>Veni, veni, Emanuel:</i>	<i>O come, O come Emmanuel!</i>
<i>Captivum solve Israel,</i>	<i>Redeem Thy captive Israel</i>
<i>Qui gemit in exilio,</i>	<i>That into exile drear is gone,</i>
<i>Privatus Dei Filio.</i>	<i>Far from the face of God's dear Son.</i>

*Gaude! Gaude! Emanuel      Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*  
*Nascetur pro te, Israel.      Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## GOD INVITES US TO BEHOLD HIS COMING      Leader & People

The *Gloria in Excelsis* (a title meaning “Glory to God in the highest”) is a classic hymn of response at least 1,500 years old. It opens with the words of the angels in the book of Luke who visit the shepherds announcing the birth of Christ. The hymn goes on to praise and give thanks to God for His glory and plan of redemption in Christ. May our worship of God today be a response to this glorious work of redemption!

### **“Gloria In Excelsis”**

*L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.*

**P: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.**

*L: Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;*

**P: Have mercy on us.**

*L: You are seated at the right hand of the Father;*

**P: Receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## GOD GIVES US HOPE AS WE SING OF HIS COMING      Congregation

### **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

Latin Hymn, attributed to John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.

CHORUS: O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light;  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God in the highest.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

*God of God, Light of Light, glory is Yours on earth and in heaven. We worship You, we give You thanks! For when You came, You broke the silence of humanity's night, speaking light into our sin-wrought darkness. We join now the choirs of angels and all the citizens of heaven singing Your praises. Because of You, King Jesus, our Joy has dawned.*

### **“Joy Has Dawned”**

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Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation,  
God’s salvation now unfurled, hope for ev’ry nation,  
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,  
But a humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels,  
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.  
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,  
Cling now to a mother’s breast, vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;  
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.  
Gold, a King is born today; incense, God is with us;  
Myrrh, His death will make a way; and by His blood He’ll win us.  
Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom;  
Reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty Champion.  
What a Savior, what a Friend, what a glorious mystery:  
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.

*God of glorious mystery, our hearts long to feel what our minds can barely grasp: that it was not with fanfares from above, nor with scenes of glory, but with vulnerability and helplessness that You came to earth. Despising the world’s idolatry of political power, military might, and religious rule keeping, You came in humility: a babe in Bethlehem, a friend to sinners, now the Lord of history.*

### **“Go Tell It On The Mountain”**

Spiritual

REFRAIN: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.

Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

### **GOD COMES TO US IN HIS WORD**

Readers & People

*Psalm 146, Matthew 6:9-13*

**P: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **GOD IS WITH US IN SONG**

Congregation & Choir

“There is not an inch in the whole area of human existence of which Christ, the sovereign of all does not cry, ‘It is Mine.’” (*Abraham Kuyper*)

#### **“A Hymn For All The World”**

Words and Music by Josh Bales

There is no place in all the world You do not call Your own.  
Creator of all peoples, every nation, every tongue.  
From every corner of the earth, boundless is Your reign  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, hear us sing Your praise.

We Your people call to You, asking for Your help  
God be merciful to those whose pain we’ve never felt.  
Give them rest from worldly sorrow, bless them Lord with food to eat.  
We ask You, gentle Shepherd, call the ones that are Your sheep.

All-seeing Lord now look to those in city and in field,  
Who seek to spread Your fame and love, this broken world to heal.  
See Your persecuted children, soothe their violent wounds.  
In their weakness be their strength, that they might hope in You.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, may Your Kingdom come  
In all the earth as it is in heaven, may Your will be done.  
In all the world, in all our hearts, Jesus, You are King.  
We wait, we hope, we trust, we know, Your face we soon shall see.  
We wait, we hope, we trust, we know, Your face we soon shall see.

### **GOD USES OUR POSSESSIONS TO MAGNIFY HIS COMING THROUGH THE WORLD**

“Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee...Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love...Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold...” (from the hymn “*Take my Life, and Let it Be*”)

### **GOD COMES TO US IN HIS WRITTEN WORD**

Reader, Choir & Congregation

*Luke 3:1-20*

### **GOD COMES TO US IN THE PREACHING OF HIS WORD**

Rev. Cortese

The teenagers of today’s culture are called the generation of entertainment. In fact, no age group is exempt from this constant media bombardment. And with every form of media comes a message, be it news, sports, educational information, or the latest celebrity gossip. But there is only one message that is life changing, and each week we gather around God’s Word to hear that message proclaimed. It is a message of depth and hope in a world of the trivial and broken. So hear again the good news of God’s message in Jesus Christ.

**GOD GIVES US FAITH AS WE RESPOND  
TO HIS WORD IN SONG**

Congregation

***“Angels We Have Heard On High”***

Traditional French carol & melody

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

CHORUS: Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo.  
Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

**GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE A BLESSING**

Rev. Cortese