

O Come, Emmanuel

PRELUDE

Sherri Genung

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Words: 12th-cent. Latin antiphon/Music: 13th-cent. Plainsong

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.

REFRAIN: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

WELCOME & GREETINGS

Ray Cortese, Pastor

GATHERING SONG

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

A.H. Bullen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen let nothing you dismay;
Remember, Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan’s power when we were gone astray:

REFRAIN: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav’nly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

“Fear not then,” said the angel, “Let nothing you affright:
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan’s pow’r and might.”

ADVENT PRAYER

Leader & People

“De Profundis”

This ancient prayer from Psalm 130 was a regular part of the medieval church’s daily prayer during the season of Advent. The postures of hoping, watching, and waiting are integral to this season, a season that teaches us to expect our Lord’s Second Advent: His return.

LEADER: *Out of the depths I have cried to You, Lord: Lord, hear my voice. Let Your ears be attentive to my cries.*

ALL: If you remember my sins, Lord, how can I survive?

LEADER: *But with You there is merciful forgiveness: so that I may learn from Your law, I have waited on You, Lord.*

ALL: My soul has placed its hope in You; I long for You.

LEADER: *From the morning watch even until night, let Israel hope in the Lord.*

ALL: Because with the Lord there is mercy, with Him, lavish redemption. He will redeem Israel from all their sins.

LEADER: *Glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

ALL: As it was in the beginning, it is now, and will be forever. Amen!

ADVENT HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744/Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

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.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!
O’er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
“Go to Him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth.”

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end.
By His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

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 own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Philippians 2:5-11

Christ Jesus,

though He was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied Himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form
He humbled Himself
and became obedient to the point of death
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted Him
and gave Him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord!

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Immanuel”

Stuart Townend © 1999 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)/CCLI License #136148

From the squalor of a borrowed stable by the Spirit and a virgin’s faith,
To the anguish and the shame of scandal came the Savior of the human race.
But the skies were filled with the praise of heav’n,
Shepherds listen as the angels tell of the gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven, now the friend of sinners, humble servant in the Father’ hands
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit, filled with mercy for the broken man
Yes He walked my road and He felt my pain,
Joys and sorrows that I know so well yet His righteous steps give me hope again.
I will follow my Immanuel.

Congregation

Leader & People

Congregation

Through the kisses of a friend’s betrayal He was lifted on a cruel cross,
He was punished for a world’s transgressions, He was suffering to save the lost.
He fights for breath, He fights for me, loosing sinners from the claims of hell
And with a shout our souls are free,
Death defeated by Immanuel.

Now He’s standing in the place of honor, crowned with glory on the highest throne
Interceding for His own beloved ‘til His Father calls to bring them home.
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds,
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell, but the bride will run to her lover’s arms,
Giving glory to Immanuel.

“Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendour”

Frank Houghton (1894-1972)

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
All for love’s sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
All for love’s sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love’s sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising
Heavenward by Thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love’s sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship Thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what Thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship Thee.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Congregation

Welcome Pads Passed

OFFERTORY

Choir

“A Virgin Unspotted”

William Billings (1746-1800)

*A Virgin unspotted by Prophet foretold,
Should bring forth a Saviour which now we behold,
To be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin,
Which Adam’s transgression involved us in.*

*Then let us be merry, put sorrow away,
Our Saviour Christ Jesus was born on this day.*

*At Bethlehem at Jewry a city there was,
Where Joseph and Mary together did pass,
And there to be taxed with many one mo’,
For Caesar commanded the same should be so.*

*To teach us humility all this was done;
Then learn we from hence, haughty pride for to shun.
A manger’s His cradle, Who came from above,
The great God of mercy, of peace, and of love.*

SERMON

Rev. Cortese

CLOSING SONG

Congregation

"Once In Royal David's City"

Music by H. J. Gauntlett/Text by C.F. Alexander © Oxford University Press 1970

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him through His own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

CLOSING

Welcome to Seven Rivers!

To all who are spiritually weak and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to whomsoever will come,
this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.



SRPC CORE VALUES

GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION

*In a world of brokenness, SRPC seeks to be a place
where hearts and homes are healed by the love of God.*

MISSIONAL LIVING

*In a world of self-absorption, SRPC seeks to bless our world
with deeds of compassion, mercy and grace.*

AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

*In a world of disconnection, SRPC seeks to be a place
of unusual devotion to one another.*

WORSHIP SERVICES

SATURDAY EVENING 6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY MORNING* 9:00 & 10:50 A.M.

**September - May*

NURSERY LOCATIONS

Infants Room 400

1-Year-Olds Room 403

2 & 3-Year Olds Room 401

4-Year-Olds Room 402

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Kindergarten through Second Grade Room 405

SEVEN RIVERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4221 W. Gulf to Lake Hwy.
Lecanto, FL 34461
352.746.6200 fax: 352.746.6299
email: srpc@sevenrivers.org
(or staff member's first initial last
name@sevenrivers.org)
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00
www.sevenrivers.org

SEVEN RIVERS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

a ministry of Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church
352.746.5696
email: srscs@sevenrivers.org
(or staff member's first initial last
name@sevenrivers.org)
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30
www.sevenriverscs.org

Worship



Seven Rivers

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEEKEND SERVICES

December 15 & 16, 2007

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness,
send Your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to Your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of Your Kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of Your presence.
We are Your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To You we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.
Henri J.M. Nouwen