Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2024



"He measured six measures of barley."-Ruth iii. 15.



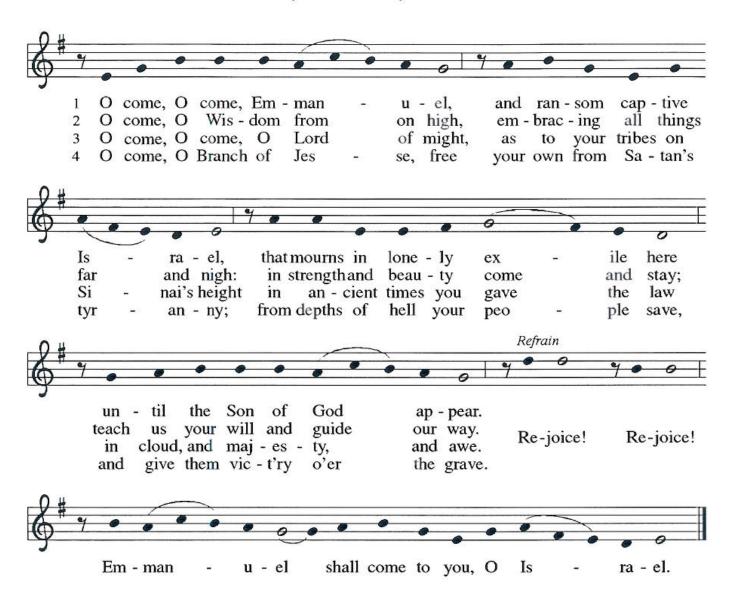
www.riverofhopehutchinson.org Worship on Facebook Premiere, Sundays at 10:30am

Gathering

Music to Prepare Us For Worship

Gathering Song "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Vs. 1-3

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Welcome * Welcome Pads * Post it Notes * Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe God meets you right where you are, and you are welcome here.

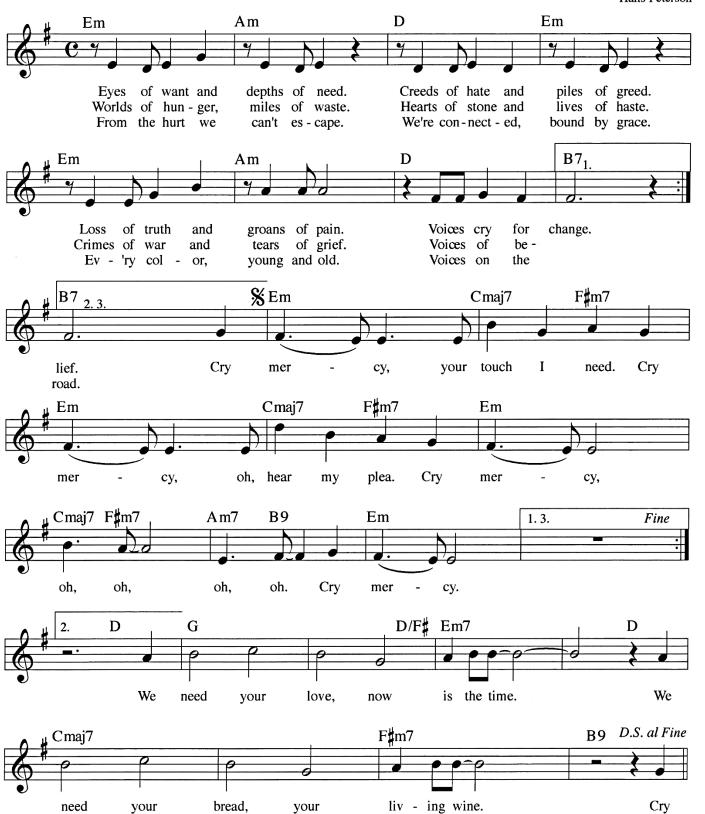
Explanation of Christmas Trees – Rachel Stearns

Greeting

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CRY MERCY



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray

"Prayer of Good Courage"

Text adapted from the Lutheran Book of Worship © 1978 Augsburg Fortress Press

Music by Kent Gustavson © 2002 Kent Gustavson www.kentgustavson.com

Taken from "Mountain Vespers", an evening prayer service dedicated to Holden Village www.holdenvillage.org



Greet Someone New

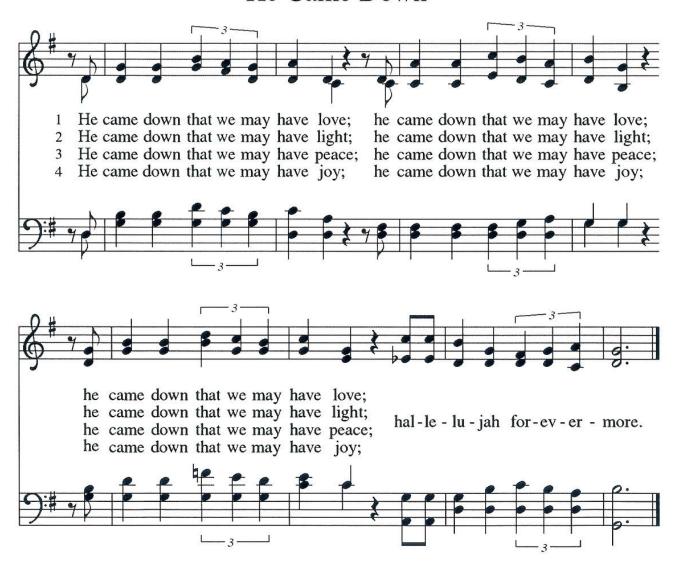
Music to Bring Us Back Together: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Vs. 4

Children's Time / Lighting of the Advent Candle

Song Leaders: Change words of the next song to:

- 1. "He came down that we may have **Hope**"
- 2. "He came down that we may have "Love"
- 3. "He came down that we may have "Joy"
- 4. "He came down that we may have "Peace"

He Came Down



Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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THE STORY

Narrator One: You are invited to follow along in your Bibles as we hear our story and God's story continue today with a reading from the book of Ruth 1:19-2:23.

Narrator One: ¹⁹ So Naomi and Ruth went on until they came to Bethlehem.

When they came to Bethlehem -the city called the house of bread – the whole town was excited on account of them, and the women said,

Woman number one: "Is this Naomi, whose name means Pleasant?"

Narrator One: 20 She said to them,

Naomi: "Don't call me 'Pleasant'

but call me 'Bitter', for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.

²¹ I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me 'Pleasant'

when the Lord has dealt harshly with me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

Narrator Two: ²² So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law,

who came back with her from the country of Moab.

They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Narrator One: (Chapter 2:1) Now Naomi had a respected relative, a prominent rich man of the family of Elimelech whose name was Boaz.

² And Ruth the Moabite (whose name means compassionate friend) said to 'Pleasant,' her mother-in-law

Ruth: "I'm going to work; I'm going out to glean among the sheaves, following behind some harvester who will treat me kindly."

Narrator Two: Naomi said to the one whose name means friendship,

Naomi: "Go, my daughter."

Narrator One: So Ruth went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers.

As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

SING BUILD UP ref/vs.1/ref

Narrator Two: 4 Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers,

Boaz: "The Lord be with you."

Narrator Two: The reapers answered, "The Lord bless you."

Reapers/All?: "The Lord bless you."

Narrator One: ⁵ Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers,

Boaz: "Who is this young woman? Where did she come from?"

Narrator Two: Now the young man who was in charge of the reapers could have answered: "who is she? Well – her name says it all. She is called Compassionate friend. Even though she is from a hated foreign country she gives us a picture of what God's "Hesed" looks like. For those of you listening to the sermon last week you might remember that "Hesed" is the Hebrew word for the fundamental characteristics of God like loyalty, faithfulness, mercy, and steadfast love. And sometimes God's steadfast love shows up in unexpected places and people – like a poor person or a foreigner. But that's not what the young man who was in charge of the reapers said. Let's listen to what he did say:

Young Man/foreman: "She is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She asked for permission to glean she asked if she could gather among the sheaves following after your harvesters.

So she came, and has been on her feet from early this morning until now

without resting even for a moment."

Narrator One: 8 Then Boaz said to Ruth,

Boaz: "Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one,

but keep close to my young women.

⁹Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped and follow behind them.

I have ordered the young men not to bother you.

If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

Narrator Two: ¹⁰ She dropped to her knees, then bowed her face to the ground. and said to Boaz,

Ruth: "Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me,

when I am an immigrant, a foreigner?"

Narrator One: 11 But Boaz answered her,

Boaz: "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before.

12 May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!"

Narrator Two: Now before we finish up the reading let me point out that God's wings are big enough for everyone to find refuge. There are many times when get in the way of God's love flowing through us. We may harm others by what we do or fail to do. But here Boaz God's steadfast love is flowing through him as he shows kindness to a foreigner...we might say that Ruth feels God's steady embrace through the arms of Boaz' kindness...God wants us to remove barriers that keep us from loving each other...

BUILD UP chorus/vs. 2/chorus

Narrator One: 13 Then Ruth said,

Ruth: "Oh sir, such grace, such kindness—I don't deserve it. You've touched my heart, treated me like one of your own. And I don't even belong here!"

Narrator One: 14 At mealtime Boaz said to her,

Boaz: "Come here and eat some of this bread and dip your morsel in the sour wine."

Narrator Two: She sat alongside the harvesters, and he served roasted grain to her.

She ate, was satisfied, and had leftovers.

15 When she got up to glean, Boaz instructed his young men,

Boaz: "Let her glean where there's still plenty of grain on the ground—make it easy for her.

Better yet, pull some of the good stuff out and leave it for her to glean. Give her special treatment."

Narrator One: ¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening. When she threshed out what she had gathered, she ended up with nearly a full sack of barley!

Narrator Two: ¹⁸ She picked it up and came into the town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gleaned. She brought out what she had left over after eating her fill and gave it to her.

19 Her mother-in-law, Naomi or Pleasant said to her,

Naomi: "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you."

Narrator One: So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, saying,

Naomi: "The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz."

Narrator One: ²⁰ Then Pleasant said to her daughter-in-law, aka Compassionate Friend,

Naomi: "May he be blessed by the Lord, who hasn't abandoned his faithfulness with the living or with the dead."

Narrator Two: Naomi -aka Pleasant - also said to Ruth,

Naomi: "The man is a relative of ours, one of our nearest kin."

Narrator Two: 21 Then Ruth the Moabite said.

Ruth: "He even said to me, 'Stay close by my workers until they have finished all my harvest."

Narrator One: ²² Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "That's wonderful, dear daughter!

Do that! You'll be safe in the company of his young women; no danger now of men assaulting you in some stranger's field."

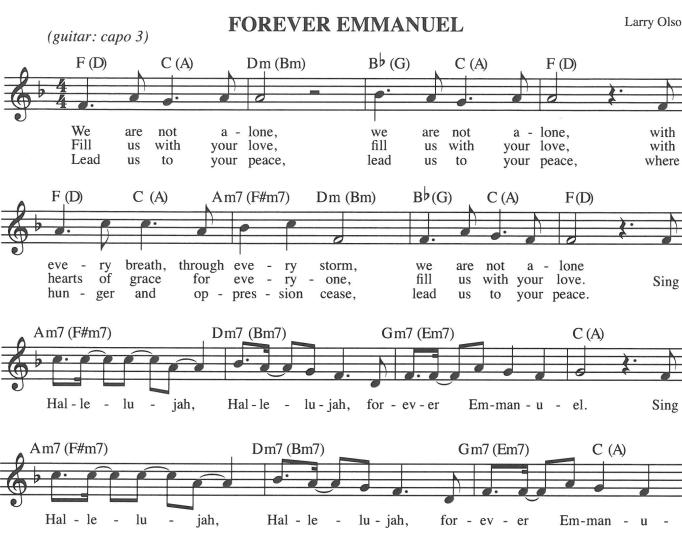
Narrator Two: ²³ So she stayed close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests, and she lived with her mother-in-law.

Narrator Two: Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

(ALL): Thanks be to God.

SERMON - Pastor Hans Peterson

Song of the Day – "Forever Emmanuel"



 $B^{\flat}(G)$

C (A)

Dm (Bm)

last time Fine

C(A)

Dm (Bm)

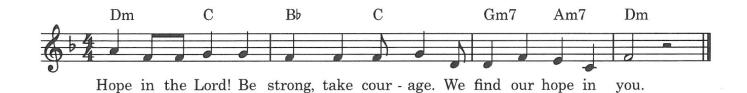
el.

Prayers for the World

Together we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Each petition will close with the words: God, who is mercy: Congregational response: Sing...

Hope in the Lord Prayer Response

Hans Peterson & Larry Olson with members of Faith Lutheran, Glen Ellyn, IL



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THE OFFERING

Thank you for your continued generosity and for all the ways you support God's ministry here at River of Hope. You can contact the church office and sign up for simply giving or give online or drop a check off at the church office. The watering can during December is "Operation Hope". Any children willing to help are Invited to meet Pastor Hans in the back to bring forth the Communion elements.

Offering Song "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



The Feast

(Pastor Hans): Setting the Table the children lead us as we say together:

Gracious God, we thank you for the food before us; the family beside us; the love between us; and your presence among us.

Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord is with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

As we gather in this place, we remember, that in the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me." Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray;

The Lord's Prayer

(Leader): Our Creator, our Mother,

(ALL): 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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...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.

This is Christ's table. It's a table of love and welcome. It's a table of fellowship with the poor and communion with the earth. So, come, those of you with great faith and those of you who wish you had more. Come, those of you who have tried to follow Jesus and those of you who have failed. Come, those of you who depend on this meal for your lives, and those of you for whom it is a strange thing.

The gifts of God are...

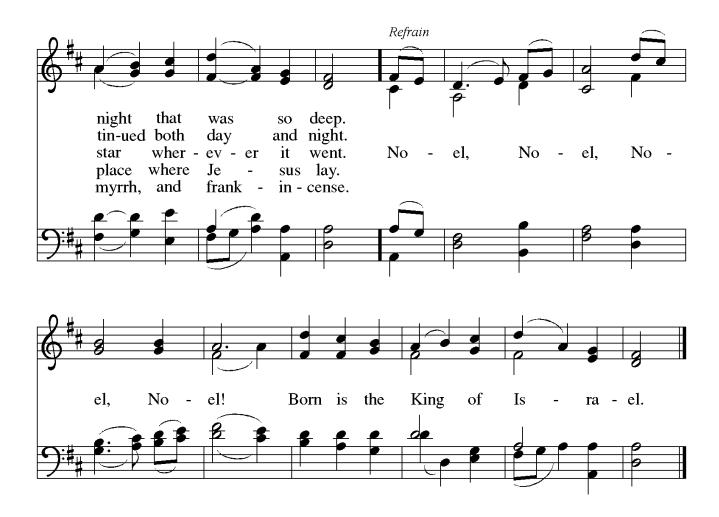
(ALL): Free

Free indeed. And all are welcome to receive the sacrament.

Communion Songs: RIVER OF HORNS: "The First Noel" and "Away in a Manger"

The First Noel





Text: English traditional Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840–1901

Away in a Manger



Text: North American, 19th cent. Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

Blessing after Communion

Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion Let us pray: Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table.

By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be your body in the world, that we may show Christ's love to all people. Amen.

The Sending

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose? We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

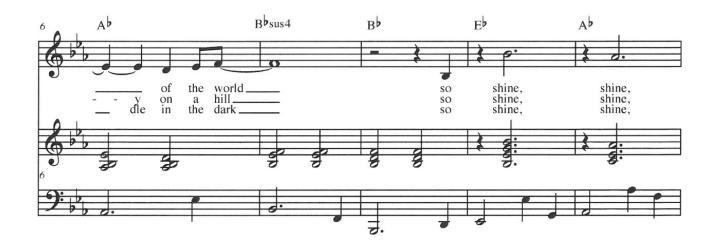
Purpose Sightings

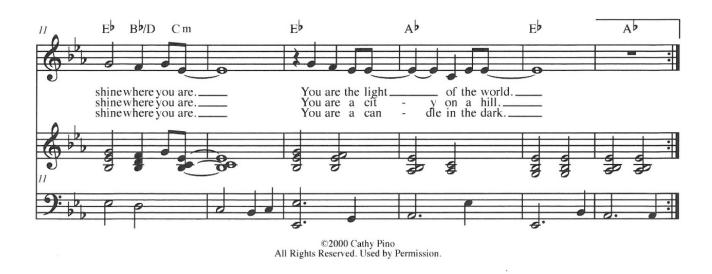
MILESTONES! Sing "Light of the World" vs. 1
It's time for sharing milestones - a time where we join together as a community to share the big, small, good, and hard milestones in our life.

BLESSING

(Leader): May the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge, bless and keep you now and forever.







Sending Song: "Make a Difference" (Invite children of all ages to come forward and play percussion during the Sending Song)

Make a Difference



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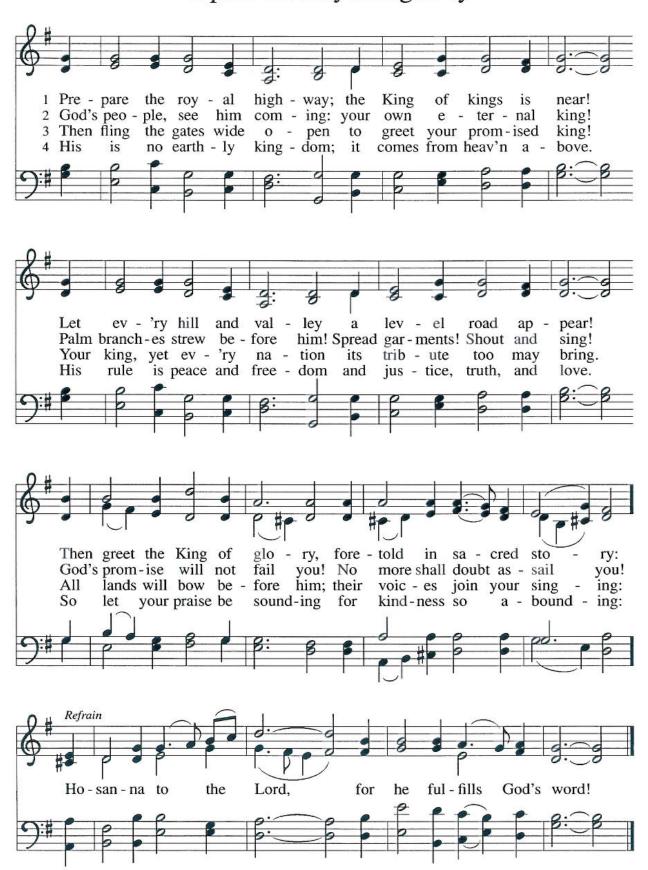
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Music to Send You Out

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Prepare the Royal Highway



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus



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