

December 13, 2020
3rd Sunday of Advent

<https://youtu.be/PiYAxki8lk> - Worship Video

Prelude Song

Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine
CCLI License #246781

Christina Canning

Welcome

Welcome to worship at Movable United Methodist Church.
I am Pastor Jill Clem and I am so happy you are joining me today.
As we worship, I hope you will feel the presence of God

Announcements

- We are following the direction of Bishop Laurie and the Appointive Cabinet in ceasing in-person worship due to the current situation regarding Covid-19 in our county.
- We will return to in-person worship on Sunday, January 17th.
- Advent Devotionals are emailed each Friday for you to use in the comfort of your home. If you would like to receive these emails, please email me at jill.clem@iaumc.net.
- Please note that the church building does remain closed to visitors. If you are in need of speaking to Holli or Pastor Jill please call the church office.
- Please be sure to check for updated information on our Facebook page and our website.
- You can find the full worship videos on our website at movilleumc.org and our You Tube channel under Movable United Methodist Church.
- We encourage you to continue to mail in your gifts and offerings to the church office or you may set up online giving by contacting Holli our administrative secretary. You will need to fill out a form and provide a voided check.

Gathering Words

We have been looking for a sign.
Emmanuel—God with us.
We have been waiting for a savior.
Emmanuel—God with us.
The time is near—can it be?
Emmanuel—God with us.
Come let us worship the God of sign,
wonder, and promise.

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Joy

We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, “God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.” No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vss. 1, 4 & 6)

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1. *O 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.*

4. *O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers' silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

6. *O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Unison Call to Worship

Christmas is a time of anticipation.

We can hardly wait.

Christmas is a time of giving.

We are ready to receive.

Christmas is a time of hope and promise.

We are looking for it.

Could it be? Is it here? Let us come and see;

Let us open ourselves to the wonder of it all.

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,

As we moving ever closer to the coming of the celebration of the Christ-child at Christmas, it is a time to stop and ponder things in our hearts. Like Joseph, you remind us you are close when our hopes and dreams for the future don't turn out as planned. You are never far away when we face heartache and sorrow. You are nearby when family and friends can't be in our lives this holiday season.

Christ, you are near when joy is swallowed up with emptiness. Amid life's disappointments thank you Lord for replacing our hopes and dreams with Your Divine will. Lord Your ways are always good. Your dreams and plans are beyond our imagination.

God, Maker of Miracles, you are nigh when we cannot see your will or scorn holiness. When we say no to your call for obedience. Thanks, Ancient of Days for Your perseverance, Your tenacious grace, and tireless love for giving us second chances.

O Emmanuel, we anxiously await your return.

God be with us all, for we ask these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

Lord's Prayer

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, forever. Amen.

Song

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light – No. 206

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1. I want to walk as a child of the light
I want to follow Jesus
God sent the stars to give light to the world
The star of my life is Jesus

Refrain

In Him, there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

2. I want to see the brightness of God
I want to look at Jesus
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path
And show me the way to the Father

Refrain

In Him, there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ
I want to be with Jesus
When we have run with patience the race
We shall know the joy of Jesus

Refrain

In Him, there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

Words of Preparation

Speak to us, Lord, through these scriptures.

Remind us again of your everlasting power.

May we know your story and our place within it.

May we remember your mighty works and deeds,
that we might know that you are the God of all ages.

May we claim your promise and share your love.

We are listening, Lord; speak to us today.

Scripture – Matthew 1:18-25 (Common English Bible)

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. ²⁰ As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²² Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

²³ *Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,
And they will call him, Emmanuel.*

(*Emmanuel* means "God with us.")

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵ But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

Message

"Why Me?"

Pastor Jill

Responsive Prayer

Lord, as we wait expectantly for Your return, we thank you for loving us personally in spite of ourselves. Renew in us a joyful spirit that we may sing Your praises, especially as we celebrate Your birth. Give us humble hearts and willing spirits that we may obey You, no matter how improbable the circumstances. We offer You our lives today. You alone are worthy of our worship, be glorified in us Christ Jesus, who reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

Special Music

Strange Way to Save the World

Lisa Fouts

Songwriters: David Allen Clark / Donald A. Koch / Mark R. Harris

CCLI: #2467810

I'm sure he must have been surprised
At where this road had taken him
Cause never in a million lives
Would he have dreamed of Bethlehem

And standing at the manger
He saw with his own eyes
The message from the angel come to life
And Joseph said

Why me, I'm just a simple man of trade
Why Him with all the rulers in the world
Why here inside this stable filled with hay
Why her, she's just an ordinary girl
Now I'm not one to second guess
What angels have to say
But this is such a strange way to save the
World

To think of how it could have been
If Jesus had come as He deserved
There would have been no Bethlehem
No lowly shepherds at His birth

But Joseph knew the
Reason love had to reach so far
And as he held the Savior in his arms
He must have thought

Why me, I'm just a simple man of trade
Why Him with all the rulers in the world
Why here inside this stable filled with hay
Why her, she's just an ordinary girl
Now I'm not one to second guess
What angels have to say
But this is such a strange way to save the
World

Now, I'm not one to second guess
What angels have to say
But this is such a strange
Way to save the world
Such a strange way, this is
Such a strange way
A strange way to save the world
A strange way to save the world

Blessing

Go forth with a dream in your soul
and a song in your heart,
knowing that God's promises
are always fulfilled.
The time is almost here.
Get ready for wonder!