



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



November 27, 2022

9:55 am

AN ASTERISK IN THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT ALL FOR WHOM IT IS COMFORTABLE SHOULD RISE FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Koza

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'

No. 119

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Now, in this place, and among Your people gathered,

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

One: Into this broken world we call home,

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

One: Into this fragile group of Your people,

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

One: Into cold hearts and dulled minds,

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

One: In our joy and in our sorrow,

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

One: Where people walk in darkness,

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

"HOPE"

One: In a world of darkness, we have seen a great light!

All: We join with our siblings around the world, lighting candles to guide our steps in this Advent journey.

One: Today we light the candle of Hope;

All: Hope for peace, hope for love, hope for joy, hope for Christ.

One: We come in eager anticipation for Jesus' presence in this cold and fractured world.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel!

ADVENT PRAYER *(in unison)*

God of Comfort and Hope, we hear the cries of the prophets to a people who were lost and wandering, and we know they are speaking to us as well. Sometimes life seems so uncertain; the world seems darker than it has in the past and I am less sure of myself. Hold me in Your loving arms and let me be comforted by Your strength and filled with hope through the birth of Your Son. May the weariness and sorrow that may come to my heart today, be overcome by the light that shines in the face of Your Son, Jesus Christ, for me and for all the weary world; Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE "When God Is A Child"

*Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.*

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Pastor Ann-Marie

READING FOR YOU ARE WITH ME - I WOULD NEVER LEAVE YOU

SONG OF PREPARATION 'Emmanuel, Emmanuel' No. 134

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 8:21- 9:6

Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

READING "I Wasn't Prepared To Be Comforted"

MUSICAL RESPONSE 'Comfort, Comfort You My People' (vs 1) No. 122

SERMON "Wait With Me" Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick

*HYMN 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear' No. 153

PASTORAL PRAYER

God of waiting and wandering, we join with our siblings around the world, lighting candles to mark our steps in this Advent journey. We know that the world tells us to be joyful and happy, but today, we come seeking the comfort and hope only found in Your embrace. Mary once held the tiny Christ Child in her loving arms, and now, it is He who holds us close. Be with us in this new season, this new journey, this new time in our lives when waiting feels like the loneliest place on earth. Remind us that a light shines in the darkness, a light that has not dimmed, but has gone unnoticed to our closed eyes. As we take our first steps of Advent together, as we prepare ourselves for a season of emotion, take our hand and lead us home; Amen.

Come and Light a Candle...

IMPROVISED MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Anton Faynberg

During this time, we invite you to take a moment for quiet reflection

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

Our Creator (Father) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

'Christmas Is Coming'

Joel Raney

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

OFFERTORY

Duet, Lisa and Jay Sparling

'Here I Am To Worship'

Tim Hughes
arr, David Ebensberger

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

'Thank You, Lord'

No. 531

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN**

'Come, O Long-expected Jesus'

No. 125

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick, Bridge Pastor
Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor
Murray Kidd, Music Director
Anton Faynberg, Organist/Pianist
Alisa Cassola, Soloist
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

119 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Unison

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease;

Refrain Harmony

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and death's deep shad - ows put to flight. Re - jice, re - jice!
 and cause us in her ways to go. fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin hymn (12th century); st. 1-2 tr. John Mason Neale, 1851;
 st. 3-4 tr. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916
 MUSIC: French melody (15th century); arr. and harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854

VENI EMMANUEL
 LM

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Unison C F Dm7 G7 Em

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el,

A7 A/C# Dm G7 C Cmaj7

his name is called Emmanuel.

C7 C F Dm7 G7 Em

God with us, re-vealed in us,

A7 A/C# Dm G7 C F/C C D.C. (final)

his name is called Emmanuel.

WORDS and MUSIC: Bob McGee, 1976

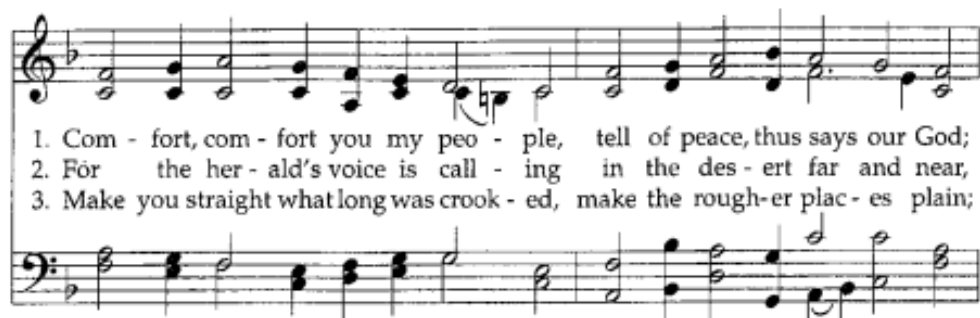
© 1976 C. A. Music (a div. of Christian Artists Corp.); all rights reserved; used by permission

McGEE

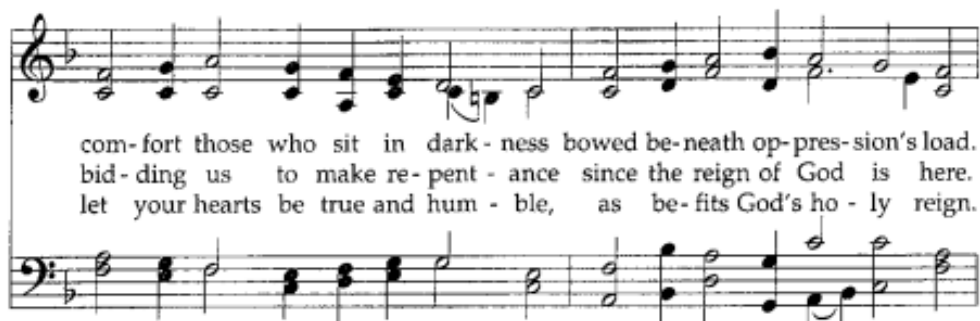
Irr.

♩=84-92

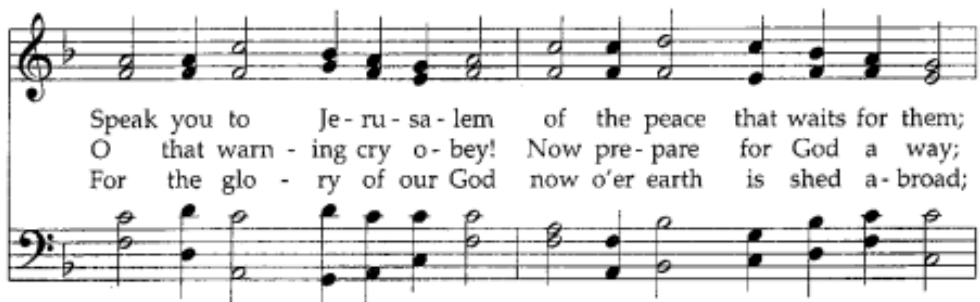
122 Comfort, Comfort You My People



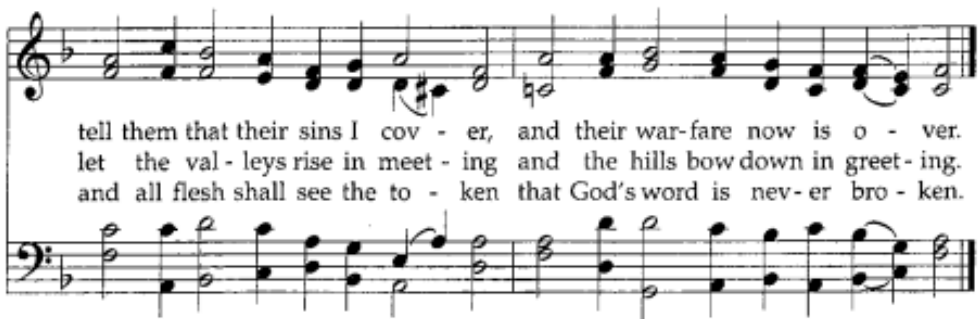
1. Com - fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, tell of peace, thus says our God;
 2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3. Make you straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness bowed be - neath op - pres - sion's load.
 bid - ding us to make re - pent - ance since the reign of God is here.
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of our God now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver.
 let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

WORDS: Johannes G. Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551; harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564

GENEVA 42
 87.87.77.88

♩=140-148

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1. It came up on the mid-night clear, that glo-ri-ous song of old,
2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-furled,
3. And you be-neath life's crush-ing load whose forms are bend-ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
and still their heav-en-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;
who toil a-long the climb-ing way, with pain-ful steps and slow,
when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told;



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gra-cious King."
a-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hover-ing wing,
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;
when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol-ern still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing,
and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
O rest be-side the wea-ry road, and hear the an-gels sing!
and the whole world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.



1. Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you,
 2. Been so good, been so good, been so good,
 3. Been my friend, been my friend, been my friend,

Lord,
 good,
 friend,
 I just want to thank you, Lord.
 I just want to thank you, Lord.
 I just want to thank you, Lord.

WORDS: Traditional African-American song

MUSIC: Traditional African-American melody; harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland and Verolga Nix, alt.

THANK YOU, LORD
 333.7

Come, O Long-expected Jesus 125

1. Come, O long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set your peo-ple free.
2. Born your peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king,

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
born to reign in us for-ev-er, born your grac-ious realm to bring.

You, our strength and con-so-la-tion, come sal-va-tion to im-part;
By your own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;

dear de-sire of man-y a na-tion, joy of man-y a long-ing heart.
by your all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to your glo-rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

HYFRYDOL
87.87D