

**ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**November 28, 2021**

**8:30 AM & 10:30 AM**

**WORDS TO PONDER**

"Be always on watch."

**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**LEADER:** Long ago, God spoke to the people of Israel through the prophet Jeremiah.

**PEOPLE:** **Jeremiah told us to hope for a descendant of David who would bring justice and righteousness in the land.**

**LEADER:** We, too, long for a world of perfect justice.

**PEOPLE:** **We, too, wait for God's righteousness.**

**LEADER:** We light this candle of hope, waiting with all creation for God's promise to be born among us.

(The candle is lit)

**UNISON:** **O God of hope, we know there is much wrong with the world. We know how far it is from what You intended. Come to us again. Be born among us, that all the world may be made new.**

**OPENING HYMN:** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*, 89 Red

Author: Charles Wesley. Public Domain

**1)** 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;  
Long desired of every nation,  
Joy of every waiting heart.

**2)** Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child, yet God our 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.

## **UNISON PRAYER**

**Guardian of our lives, it is You who remains faithful when all else falls away. Amid the darkening skies of world events, Your vision of righteousness provides a ray of hope. When prophets see empires crumbling, Your promise of deliverance sustains us. We trust not in riches, but in Your goodness alone to meet our daily needs. You have sheltered Your people in the past. We watch for signs of Your presence among us still as we endure the trials that continue to confront us.**

**Grant us a vision of Your will to lead us through the unknown morrow. When choices abound, and voices clamor for attention, show us a clear path. We rely on Your mercy and would be led by Your truth; we yearn to be faithful to the love You have shown.**

**When we are tempted to waiver, help us to step out with confidence. Advent marks a new beginning; we hear anew of the redemption the Messiah brings. Help us to embark on faith's journey in spite of risks. When we are alone, comfort us by Your Spirit's presence. When we hurt, ease our pain with the healing touch of the great physician. When we are confused because the way is uncertain, speak once more those words of reassurance: "Behold, the days are coming when You shall cause a Branch to spring forth who shall execute justice and righteousness in all the land." For we pray in the name of the One who reveals that righteousness, even Jesus the Christ.**

**HOLY SCRIPTURES: Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:25-36**

## **CHILDREN'S STORYTIME**

**SERMON: "Signs"**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into**

**temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION**

O God of all the prophets, You herald the coming of the Son of Man by wondrous signs in the heavens and on the earth. Guard our hearts from despair so that we, in the company of the faithful and by the power of Your Holy Spirit, may be found ready to raise our heads at the coming near of our redemption, in the person of Jesus Christ.

### **UNISON COMMUNION PRAYER**

**God of justice and peace, from the heavens You rain down mercy and kindness, that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before Your marvelous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord and stand without blame before the Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever. AMEN**

### **SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

Behold the Lord whose advent we await, who will come with glory on the day of judgment. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

### **UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Pour out among us the spirit of Your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom You have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

### **UNISON BENEDICTION**

**Nothing we do escapes God's notice, and no act of ours can separate us from God's love. God will direct our paths during the week ahead and provide all that we need to face its choices. We will be watchful and prayerful, lest we miss the work of God all around us.**

**CLOSING HYMN:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, #88 Red

Veni, veni Emmanuel. Translator: J. M. Neale (1851). Source: Latin, c. 12th century;  
Ancient Antiphons (Latin), versified in 18th Century. Public Domain

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| <b>1)</b> O come, O come, Emmanuel<br>And ransom captive Israel<br>That mourns in lonely exile here<br>Until the Son of God appear<br>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br>Shall come to thee, O Israel | <b>2)</b> O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer<br>Our spirits by Thine advent here<br>Disperse the gloomy clouds of night<br>And death's dark shadows put to flight<br>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br>Shall come to thee, O Israel |
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- 3)** O come, desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease  
And be Thyself our King of peace  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel