



December 17, 2023  
Third Sunday of Advent

### Preparation & Praise

*\* = Stand if you are able*

Prelude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - arr. McLean  
(harpsichord)

Welcome & Orientation

\*Call to Worship

*Come people waiting in darkness.*

**Lord, open our eyes to the coming of your light.  
Emmanuel God With Us, lift the burden from our  
lives.**

*Come people whose hearts are chilled by sin and selfishness*

**Lord, open our hearts to the warmth of your coming.  
Emmanuel God With Us, melt the hardness that keeps  
us from loving you and each other.**

*Come people whose branches and stems are crumpled under weight of  
frost of sin and gripped in winters death, yet awaiting rebirth.*

**Lord, open our hearts to Emmanuel God With Us,  
renew in our hearts your call to new life.**

\*Hymn of Advent “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

(organ) #154 (1-3)

## Gathering the Flock

\*Greeting Others

*Worship is a spiritual discipline that is shared with others. Take a moment to meet and greet those around you who will be assisting and amplifying your own efforts to relate to God*

Personal Prayers

*It is our custom to share unspoken prayer requests by lighting candles during this portion of the worship service. If you have a matter you wish to include in our prayers but do not wish to publicly disclose, feel free to come forward during the instrumental interlude and light a candle.*

Prayer Concerns

*Is there a praise or petition that you are aware of that we can include in our prayers? If so, jot it down on a prayer card and hand to one of the attending ushers who are standing in the aisle.*

The Great Prayer

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 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 and ever.  
Amen

### Receiving Tithes & Offerings

*We believe that God's greatness is discerned in how God continually gives Godself away to others. When we choose to give ourselves away, we bear witness to God's presence and how God is assisting us in becoming our true selves. All are welcome to join us in sharing and enacting this belief as together we share our tithes and offerings.*

\*Doxology

\*Offertory Prayer

## Feeding on the Word

### Preparing for the Word

We make ourselves ready  
For the King of Glory to enter life.  
Enter Christ through the doors of our  
Hearts, Minds, and Souls.  
We make ourselves ready  
For the King of Glory to enter life.  
We open our selves  
Fully and completely  
With our imperfect will and you perfecting  
strength.  
Immanuel, come and dwell among us now.

Reading from the Old Testament: *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Reading for the Gospel: *Luke 1:46-55*

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God.**

Homily

\*Hymn of Response “Lead Me, Guide Me” #498 (1&2)  
(piano)

## **Following the Spirit**

“Family News”

\*Benediction

\*Postlude “Noel” -

Daquin (organ)