

FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*



November 30, 2025
10:15 am Family Contemporary Worship

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Divinum Mysterium arr. Carter

Worship Song

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Newton, Tomlin, Giglio

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Confession

P: Our God is patient, merciful, and filled with grace. God desires to be in an all-embracing relationship with creation, yet we fall short. Let us turn towards God with repentance and confess our sins.

(Sitting, kneeling, or standing as you feel called)

P: Everlasting God, you love justice, and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression.

C: O come; o come Emmanuel...

P: We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty.

C: O come; o come Emmanuel...

P: In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone.

C: O come; o come Emmanuel...

P: Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.

C: Amen.

P: Our God sent God's Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to embody forgiveness, mercy, and grace. Our Emmanuel was born for you. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN.

Prayers of the Church

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

(Refrain)

This Advent season, let us lift our prayers for a hurting world, for your church, and for all in need—kneeling, sitting, or standing.

Emmanuel, God-with-us, you are our hope in a messy and uncertain world. In these Advent days, slow our hurried hearts. Help us listen for your voice and focus on what truly matters. As we prepare to celebrate your birth, we place our hope in you.

You entered our world at Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, reveal your presence wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict. Where the world is torn apart, sow your deep and abiding peace.

Let the light of your love shine always in our hearts. As Christmas draws near, we marvel at the depth of your love for us. Transform our lives by that love, and let it touch every person we encounter. Stir your Holy Spirit within and among your church, that we may shine your light to all the world.

And together we sing...

(Refrain)

Emmanuel, God with us,

You heal the sick and give hope to the hopeless. Though we do not command your power, we pray for all who long to be made well. Mend their wounds, soothe their fevers, and make broken people whole again. We remember those on our congregation's prayer list and those we name aloud or in our hearts.

(Pause for congregation)

We lift to you all who grieve and all whose hearts are broken. Your love never fails; you turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Help us receive your word with believing hearts, so that, trusting your promises, we may be lifted from sorrow into the joy and peace of your presence.

In this Advent of expectation, draw us together in unity, that our praise might echo not only within these walls but throughout our lives. Draw us together in mission, that the hope within us becomes the song we sing. Draw us together in service, that the path we follow may lead us to share our gifts with a hurting world.

As we lift these prayers, keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas and the promise of a Savior. In the name of Jesus Christ, we sing our amen...

(Refrain)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

This candle reminds us of the promise that a Messiah would come, bringing peace and love to the world.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." - Isaiah 9:2

(Children may head out for C&C Kids)



This Week's Story: God Will Bring Peace
Icebreaker Question: What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Welcome Home and Announcements (See back page for additional announcements.)

THE WORD

Matthew 24:36-44

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Mike Meath

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

arr. Ferguson

“Comfort, comfort now my people: Tell of peace!” So says our God.

Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning under sorrow’s load.

To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!

Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near.

Calling us to true repentance, since the kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!

Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked. And the rougher places plain!

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign!

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,

And all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

Offertory Response

253 He Came Down (st. 1, 2)

He Came Down



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;
hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Statement of Belief

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Come to the Table—Everyone's Invited!

Holy Communion is a celebration of Christ's love, shared through His body and blood. If you're hungry for His presence, this meal is for you! We commune by taking a piece of bread and dipping it into wine or grape juice. Need grape juice or gluten-free options? No problem—the assistant will gladly help you out. Kids are welcome, too! Just let the assistant know if your child will be receiving Communion or would prefer a special blessing. We're so glad you're here—let's share this joyful moment together!

Communion

Words of Institution

When we gathered for the celebration of Communion last Sunday Pastor Melody said these words. With thanksgiving, we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." We were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

Our Father, who is of heaven,
Holy is your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
OR As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
and deliver us from evil
For yours is the kingdom
And the power, and the glory
now and forever, Amen.

Welcome to the Table

P: Come now and feast on the gifts of God for the people of God.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Song

Lord, I Need You

Verse 1

Lord I come I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus 1

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

Verse 2

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Reeves, Stanfill, Maher, Nockels, Carson

Bridge

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

Chorus 2

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

The Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.
C: Amen.

Benediction

P: May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.
C: Amen.

Sending Song

How Great Is Our God

Verse 1

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

Chorus

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

Tomlin, Reeves, Cash

Verse 2

And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Bridge

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

The Doxology (sung a capella)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!

Sending

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**