

**December 5, 2021**  
**Sanctuary Worship, 11:00AM**

Welcome to worship today!  
Please remember to follow the directions of our ushers and wear appropriate facemasks at all times inside the building.



**Welcome**

**Hymn – O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

*UMH 211, vv. 1-4.*

**Lighting Our Second Candle**

Leader: During Advent we recall God's promises spoken to us long ago.

**People: For you are great and do marvelous deeds, you alone are God.**

Leader: During Advent we anticipate promises yet to unfold.

**People: For you are great and do marvelous deeds, you alone are God.**

Leader: During Advent we recall God's mighty deeds from ages past.

**People: For you are great and do marvelous deeds, you alone are God.**

Leader: During Advent we anticipate mighty deeds yet to come.

**People: For you are great and do marvelous deeds, you alone are God.**

Diane Lipscomb

# God Is Near

*A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent*

Words and Music by  
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

The musical score is written for a congregation and consists of four staves of music in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change from two flats to one flat (F major). The lyrics are: 'Lis - ten to the an - gels, hear the mes - sage they bring;'. The second staff continues: 'tell - ing the news of a com - ing King; fill - ing the'. The third staff continues: 'world with - hope and good cheer. Je - sus, Em -'. The fourth staff concludes: 'man - u - el, God is near.'

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## Affirmation

**We believe in God Incarnate, in God "with us," in God who was born to be one of us. We believe in the God who took on flesh, who loved and laughed, who wept and prayed. We believe in the man who was fully human and fully divine. We believe in the Savior who sacrificed and suffered, who paid the ultimate price for love. We believe in the Holy One who triumphed over sin and death and who reigns eternally with God. We believe we are called to reign with him, beginning now, today, in our lives. We are called to belong to Jesus.**

## Prayer Time & Lord's Prayer

*(To share your joys and concerns, please text them to Elias at 252-578-1090.)*

**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.**

## Choir Anthem – *Free Us, Emmanuel!*

Come, O come, Emmanuel! Come and set us free!

Come, O come, Emmanuel, and set your people free!

Free us from the heavy chains of our sin and our sadness and body of pain.

Free us, O Emmanuel, from the sorrow and suff'ring of where we dwell.

Free us, free us from the heavy chains of our sin and our sadness and body of pain.

Come and free us, free us, O Emmanuel, from the

sorrow and suff'ring of where we dwell!

Lord, we are calling, how long do we wait  
before the glory of the kingdom we can celebrate? Tell us all!  
Lord, we are calling, will you answer, please?  
Hear the cries of the people calling, Lord, hear your people calling,  
“Free us from the heavy chains of our sin and our sadness and body of pain.  
O come and free us, free us!  
Come Emmanuel, break the bars, tear them down from humanity’s cell.”  
Your light shall break as the morning. Your health shall surely spring up.  
For when You call the Lord of all, He will say, “Here am I.”  
We are calling, Lord, we are calling: “Free us, free us from the heavy chains  
Of our sin and our sadness and body of pain. Free us, free us!  
Come, Emmanuel, throw the doors open wide from humanity’s cell.  
Come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, O come and free us, free us, free us, Emmanuel!”

Pepper Choplin. © 2014 Lorenz Publishing Company. CCLI# 1374588.

### **Scripture Lesson – Luke 1: 68-79**

“Bless the Lord God of Israel because he has come to help and has delivered his people. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David’s house, just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago. He has brought salvation from our enemies and from the power of all those who hate us. He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and remembered his holy covenant, the solemn pledge he made to our ancestor Abraham. He has granted that we would be rescued from the power of our enemies so that we could serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in God’s eyes, for as long as we live. You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way. You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins. Because of our God’s deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace.”

### **Message – God Speaks: Believe**

#### **Hymn – *Hail to the Lord’s Anointed***

Hail to the Lord’s Anointed, great David’s greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression, and rule inequity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;

to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious to his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.  
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

*UMH 203. James Montgomery; Gesangbuchder H.W.k. Hofkapelle, adapt. And harm. By W. H. Monk.*

## **Blessing & Sending Out**

### **Sharing Our Offering**

### **Out to Share the Light of Christ in the World**

*The rosebud on the worship table today is in celebration of the birth of Ava Celeste Jackson on November 22. Parents are Lindsay & Quentin Jackson; grandparents are Dawn & William Robertson and Kim & Tom Lamb.*

*In keeping with our theme for Advent: God Is Near, we have daily scripture readings, a song to click and play/sing, and a prayer focus for the week. Please use this season to draw near to God, and enjoy the scripture and music! Devotions are posted a week at a time on the church website: [www.stjumc.us](http://www.stjumc.us).*

*Get involved! We have multiple ways for you to get connected and volunteer at St. James! Please consider this list of volunteer sign-ups and help where you feel called:*

2021 Angel Tree at [www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49afaa22a75-angel1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49afaa22a75-angel1)

December 11 Produce Packing at [www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49afaa22a75-food](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49afaa22a75-food)

December 19 Live Nativity Cast & Crew at [www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49afaa22a75-live1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49afaa22a75-live1)

*The UMW is offering honorary and memorial luminaries this Christmas. Luminaries will line the walkway in front of the church and burn Christmas Eve 5:30-9:00pm. To place an order, you can find the order form in the December newsletter or online at [www.stjumc.us/members](http://www.stjumc.us/members). The cost for each luminary is \$3; please make checks payable to St. James UMW. Forms and payments can be left in the offering baskets or dropped in the office door drop.*

*Food Pantry Needs for Advent: spaghetti sauce (plastic jar or can), jelly (plastic container), 2 lb. rice (usually available at Dollar Tree), canned fruit*