



Common Thread

December 3, 2023 9:15AM

On this first day of Advent, Lord, we are eager for your coming —
at Christmas, at the end of time and in the present moment. Amen.



Song – O Come O Come Emmanuel

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

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thy advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come Emmanuel. God with us, here to rule and reign.
O come Emmanuel. We stand before Your throne in need of grace.
O come Emmanuel. Cleanse our hearts. Fill our minds anew.
O come Emmanuel. We stand before Your throne and worship You. We worship You.

O come desire of nations, bind all peoples in heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease. Fill the whole with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Arr. Brad Henderson © 2007 Hendersongs/PraiseCharts. CCLI#1374588

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Reading

Shan & Amy Biggers

Leader: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64: 1-3)

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

ALL: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Children's Message

Prayer Time & Lord's Prayer

(Prayer cards are available to share your joys and concerns and may be placed in the prayer box by the door, or you may email them to prayerrequests@stjamesraleigh.org, where they will then be shared with our Prayer Chain.)

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.

Song – *The Potter's Hand*

Beautiful Lord, wonderful Savior, I know for sure all of my days are held in Your hand;
crafted into Your perfect plan.

You gently call me into Your presence, guiding me by Your Holy Spirit;
teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life through Your eyes.

I'm captured by Your holy calling, set me apart,
I know You're drawing me to Yourself; lead me, Lord, I pray.

Take me, mold me, use me, fill me; I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Mold me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me; I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Take me, mold me, use me, fill me; I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Mold me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me; I give my life to the Potter's hand.
I give my life to the Potter's hand. I give my life to the Potter's hand.

Darlene Zschech © 1997 Darlene Zschech/Hillsongs Publishing. CCLI# 1374588

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 64: 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Message

Bailey Martin

Song – *Shine on Us*

Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us. Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us.
That we may be saved, that we may have life; to find our way in the darkest night, let Your light shine on us.

Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us. Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us.
That we may be saved, that we may have life; to find our way in the darkest night, let Your grace fall on us.

Lord, let Your love, love with no end come over us. Lord, let Your love, love with no end come over us.
That we may be saved, that we may have life; to find our way in the darkest night,
let Your love come over us.
Let Your light shine on us.

Michael W. and Deborah D. Smith ©1996 Milene Music, Inc. and Deer Valley Music. CCLI# 1374588

Benediction

Sharing Offerings

Out to Discipleship, and Into the World to Serve

Today's Greeters: Keith, Temple, Meredith & Thomas Walkowiak

Today's Sound /PowerPoint Operator: Keith Walkowiak

Next Week's Greeters: William & Dawn Robertson

Next Week's Sound Operator: Matoka Snuggs

Next Week's PowerPoint Operator: Tucker Thorpe

We have a nursery available for infants through age 4. An usher will be glad to direct you. We always welcome children of all ages to join us in worship, and Worship Activity Bags are available at the entrance if your child would like one.

If you are visiting us today, welcome! Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card, (found on the worship table), and return it to the offering basket or one of the greeters.

Thank you for worshiping with us at St. James today!



Scan this code to give your offering online!

Rev. Dan Baer, Lead Pastor.....	dan@stjamesraleigh.org
Martha Brown, Office Manager.....	office@stjamesraleigh.org
LaTonia Tyner & Brenda Smith, Finance Office — Onsite Tuesdays only.....	finance@stjamesraleigh.org
Wanda Ramm, Music Director.....	music@stjamesraleigh.org
Jeff Bottoms, Organist/Accompanist.....	music@stjamesraleigh.org
Sue King, Assistant Organist.....	sue@stjamesraleigh.org
Bailey Martin, Youth Director.....	youth@stjamesraleigh.org

Church Office & Food Pantry Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Church Office: 919-876-5796

Pastor's Cell: 919-801-1647

Church Website:.....	www.stjamesraleigh.org
Church Office Administration email.....	office@stjamesraleigh.org
Children's Ministries email.....	kidsmin@stjamesraleigh.org
Prayer Requests email.....	prayerrequests@stjamesraleigh.org

What to know this week...

Calendar this week:

TODAY, 12/3 Common Thread contemporary worship, 9:15AM in Carson Hall
Discipleship Hour, 10AM throughout church campus
Sanctuary traditional worship, 11AM in the Sanctuary
St. James Youth, 4PM in Montague Hall
NA, 7PM in Saints Hall

Mon, 12/4 Acts Bible Study, 10:30AM in Room 12
GS Troop 4331, 6:30PM in Montague Hall
***UMM Dinner/Meeting, 7PM in Carson Hall**

Tues, 12/5 Library Committee, 9AM in the Library
Staff Meeting, 10:30AM in the Office
GS Troop 4491, 6:30PM in Montague Hall

Wed, 12/6 **Mary Brown Meeting & Luncheon, 10AM in Carson Hall**
Christmas Cantata Rehearsal, 6:30PM in the Music Room
Choir Rehearsal, 7PM in the Music Room/Sanctuary

Thurs, 12/7 New Hope Strummers, 6:15PM in the Music Room
CT Band, 7PM in Carson Hall

Sat, 12/9: Liturgical Dance Practice, 10AM in Saints Hall
Stone Ridge HOA Holiday Party, 5-7:30PM in Carson Hall (private)

Sun, 12/10: Common Thread contemporary worship, 9:15AM in Carson Hall
Discipleship Hour, 10AM throughout church campus
Sanctuary traditional worship, 11AM in the Sanctuary
Food Pantry Discussion, 12PM in Room 12
Johnson Music Recital, 2PM in Carson Hall (private)
Congregational Care, 4PM in Room 12
***Kids Club/Youth Caroling, meet 4pm in Carson Hall**
SPRC, 5PM in Room 12
Finance Committee, 6PM in Room 12
NA, 7PM in Saints Hall

Advent devotionals available! This year's Advent devotional booklet is The Gift of the Present, provided by Society of St. Andrew. It is available today in both worship centers and the counter of the Welcome Center. You can access a digital copy here: [2023 Advent-Booklet.pdf](#) or email Martha to send you a link. We have a limited number of copies available, so please limit one per family.

Our 2023 Angel Tree is ready in the church lobby! This year we will be aiding children in foster care and at Wilburn Elementary. Please sign out your angel on the clipboard under the tree, shop for the requested gift item, and return your presents wrapped with the angel or number attached to St. James by December 17. Thanks for playing Santa to some hopeful, underprivileged children!

Please join the Kids Club/Youth as they go out caroling to our homebound members next Sunday, December 10! Meet at 4PM in Carson Hall, and after we finish, we'll return to Carson Hall for cookies & cocoa! All members of the church are invited to come participate!

The **Christmas Post Office** is open and ready for business in the church lobby! Feel free to drop off Christmas cards to other church members in the designated alphabetical slots, and don't forget to check to see if you have holiday mail! We're accepting donations for cards not picked up by Christmas Eve that will need to be mailed: just place donations in the cardinal box. Thanks!



- 12/10 Kids Club/Youth Caroling to Homebound members - followed by cocoa & cookies, meet 4PM at church - All are welcome to join us!
- 12/17: All Angel tree presents returned to church!
- 12/17 Sanctuary Choir Cantata: *A Weary World Rejoices* 11AM in worship
- 12/17 Youth Christmas Party: Your Favorite Things, 4PM in Montague Hall
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Morning worship, including Kids/Youth Nativity Play, 10AM in Carson Hall
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:
 - Common Thread Candlelight Service, 5PM in Carson Hall
 - Sanctuary Worship Candlelight Service, 7PM in Sanctuary
- 12/31 Combined 5th Sunday Worship: Lessons & Carols, 10AM in Sanctuary