



PRELUDE

FANTASIA ON "GREENSLEEVES"  
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCES

Into our world as into Mary's womb...

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Into the forgotten places, as into the stable ...

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope;

Into the lives of the powerful, bringing caution;

Into the lives of the weary, bringing rest;

Into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness;

And into our lives and longings, whatever our estate...

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

This is the good news: Christ is coming,

And blessed are those who wait on the Lord.

**Therefore come quickly, Lord.**

OPENING PSALM 121

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive 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 Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine 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, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## WORDS OF LAMENT

A POEM BY ANN WEEMS

## SILENCE: OFFERING UP OUR LAMENT

(You are invited to name your grief, by writing on your stone a name or a loss or a circumstance that causes you to grieve.)

## CHORAL RESPONSE

WAIT FOR THE LORD

TAIZE

90 Wait for the Lord  
(Psalm 27)

*Refrain*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

## WORDS OF HOPE

(After each reading, *The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*)

ISAIAH 40:1-2A, 25-31

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. <sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup> but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

MATTHEW 11:28-29

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

REVELATION 7:15-17

<sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. <sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; <sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

MUSICAL REFLECTION

COVENTRY CAROL  
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

TRADITIONAL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

SUNG RESPONSE

# 294 Within Our Darkest Night

*Dans nos obscurités*

With-in our dark-est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er  
*Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le feu qui ne s'é -*

dies a - way, nev-er dies a - way. With-in our dark-est night, you  
*teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja - mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al -*

kin - dle the fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev-er dies a - way.  
*lu - me le feu qui ne s'é-teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja - mais.*

\* RELEASING STONES

(You are invited to come forward and place your stone in on the communion tables.)

WORDS OF PROMISE

CLOSING PRAYER

HYMN #543

GOD, BE THE LOVE TO SEARCH AND KEEP ME

"GREEN TYLER"

SENDING AND WALKING IN THE LIGHT

\* SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

---

\* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.  
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Alison Peters, First Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Martha McGill, Emmanuel Parish  
Rev. Ryan Viands, St. Paul's Lutheran  
Judith Brown, Director of Music Ministries, First Presbyterian Church  
David Rankin, Director of Music, St. Paul's Lutheran

CHRISTMAS ON THE HILL

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE: Join us at 7:30 PM as we celebrate the birth of Christ with a traditional Christmas Eve service that includes communion, candle lighting and Christmas music.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Thursday, December 23, 2021- Office Open until Noon  
Friday, December 24, 2021- Office Open until Noon  
Monday, December 27, 2021- CLOSED  
Thursday, December 30, 2021- Open until Noon  
Friday, December 31, 2021- CLOSED  
Monday, January 3, 2021- CLOSED

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS: Join us on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary for a Service of Lessons & Carols.

EMMANUEL PARISH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT 5:00 PM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT 7:00 PM