

Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021
9:00am



THE HEART THAT GREW THREE SIZES



ENTRANCE

** indicates to please stand as able*

Gathering & Greeting

*Introit

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

UMH #211

9th c. Latin hymn, Tune: VENI EMMANUEL (5th c. French carol)
verses 1, 2, & 4

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear.

REFRAIN: 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, & teach us in her ways to go.
(Refrain)

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall; all people on thy mercy call.
(Refrain)

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: In a world of conflict, inequality, and violence where social, political, and personal unrest often hide behind falsely reassuring words, and the want for wealth and power overcomes the need for goodwill for all, God, we call upon you to come.

People: In a world where so many cannot rest in safety, we call upon you, Prince of Peace, to come.

Leader: “Peace brings us into hope, and that hope shows us an everlasting peace,”¹ so on this second Sunday of Advent, we relight the candle of hope.

The first candle is lit

We light the candle of peace as we await the birth of the Christ-child, the coming of God into our lives in a new way.

People: Come, Messiah, and save us.

The second candle is lit.

Leader: Dear God, we pray for the peace and reconciliation that is in Christ to come into our lives in a new way. May we become peacemakers in our world. **Amen.**

*Advent Hymn

Come, Thou

UMH #196

Long-Expected Jesus

Hymn by Charles Wesley; Tune: HYFRYDOL

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.
From our sins and fears release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination Advent

UMH #201

Merciful God,
you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance
and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed
their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate
aright the commemoration of the nativity, and may await with
joy the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lessons from the Prophets

Isaiah 40:3-6, NRSV

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Isaiah 60:1; 3-6, NRSV

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

3 Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

5 Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Choral Reflection

If this Child
Were Born Today

Chancel Choir

*If this child were born today in a manger on the hay, would we
see a king? Would we hear angels sing?*

*If the star were shining bright, would we notice in the night?
Would we be the ones to behold God's Son?*

***The Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 3:1-12, NRSV

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of
Judea, proclaiming, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has
come near.” 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah
spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt
around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild hon-
ey. 5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going
out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6 and they
were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their
sins.

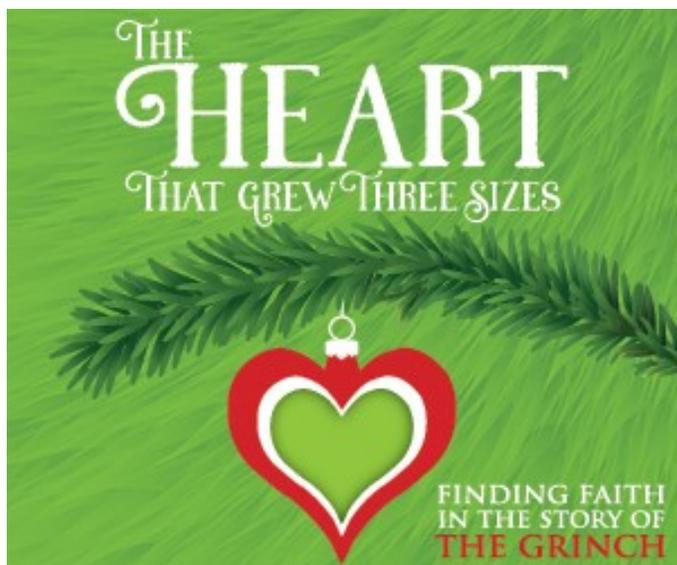
7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for

baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9 Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Small Talk How The Grinch Stole Christmas
Part 2



The Message
“Looking the Part”
Rev. Robert Clark

***Affirmation of Faith** World Methodist
Social Affirmation

UMH #886

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people;
And in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, who died and rose
again; And in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide,
strengthen, and comfort.

We believe; God, help our unbelief.

We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom:

In the upholding of human dignity and community; In every
expression of love, justice, and reconciliation; In each act of
self-giving on behalf of others; In the abundance of God's
gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough; In all respon-
sible use of the earth's resources.

Glory be to God on high; And on earth, peace.

We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or
action:

Through the violation of human dignity based on race, class,
age, sex, nation, or faith; Through the exploitation of people
because of greed and indifference; Through the misuse of
power in personal, communal, national, and international
life; Through the search for security by those military and
economic forces that threaten human existence; Through the
abuse of technology which endangers the earth and all life
upon it. **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the
way of Christ:

To take up the cross; To seek abundant life for all humanity;
To struggle for peace with justice and freedom; To risk our-
selves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God's kingdom
may come. **Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in
heaven. Amen.**

Offering

***“For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given: and the government shall be
upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Won-
derful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting
Father, The Prince of Peace.” ~Isaiah 9:6***

Giving Options

Mobile App: Schertz UMC available on all platforms

Online: www.schertzumc.com/give

Text: 210-361-9146

Mail: 3460 Roy Richard Drive, Schertz, TX 78154

Altar Rail Offerings

*Offerings made at or designated “Altar Rail” during the
month of December will support Heifer International.
Help Schertz UMC fill an ark!*

Offertory

Kim Spivey, piano

*Doxology

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

UMH page 15

A prayer in which presider and congregation give thanks to God, recall God’s mighty works of salvation, remember and reenact the last supper, and call upon the Holy Spirit to bless and transform the communion elements.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Those worshiping in the sanctuary may come forward via the center aisle to receive bread and individual cups of juice. Hold hands open and extended to receive the bread.

Those worshiping elsewhere may take and consume the gathered communion elements, whatever is available and on hand.

**Communion Server: This is the body of Christ, given for you.
This is the blood of Christ shed for you. Response: Amen.**

Communion Hymns Like a Child
 Carol of the Epiphany
 Star Child

TFWS #2092

TFWS #2094

TFWS #2095

Prayer After Receiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Invitation to Discipleship

***Hymn**

People Look East
Hymn & Music by Eleanor Farjeon

UMH #202

People, look east!
The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth & set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way!

Furrows, be glad!
Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way!

Stars, keep the watch when night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim
shining beyond the frosty weather,

bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way!

Angels announce with shouts of mirth
Him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, "The Lord is coming!"
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

***Dismissal with Blessing**

***Closing Hymn** Prepare the Way of the Lord UMH #207
Words: Isaiah 30:3; 52:10; Music: Jacques Berthier & the Community of Taizé

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.



1. The Heart that Grew Three Sizes, page 69
Matt Rawle
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