



CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

WELCOME & INSTRUCTION

Participants are invited to respond with the text in bold type.

In the Name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

ORDER OF CONFESSION

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

**Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.**

Amen.

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on + Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN | O Come O Come Emmanuel, vv. 3 & 4

No. 257

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Sa-tan's
Si-nai's height in an-cient times you gave the law
tyr-an-ny; from depths of hell your peo-ple save,
in cloud, and maj-es-ty, and awe. and awe.
and give them vic-t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
Em-man-u-el shall come to you, O Is-ra-el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING | Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

¹**Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;**
²that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;
³**that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.**
⁴Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. **R**
⁵**May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.**
⁶Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
⁷**In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.**

¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God, the ¹ God of Israel;
you alone do ¹ wondrous deeds!

¹⁹**And blessed be your glorious ¹ name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- ¹ men. Amen. R**

GOSPEL READING | Matthew 24:36-44

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

God is with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This 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.’”

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

⁷But 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? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do 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. ¹⁰Even 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. ¹²His 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE |

Rev. Jim Muratore

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

- How does Isaiah’s image of the peaceable kingdom challenge you in this period of division?
- How does repentance play a part in the healing of our families, communities, and our world?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people that in giving praise together we experience your grace and restoration. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We rejoice as we welcome Mabel Ann Koch-Sahm and Allister Apollo Heeter into the world this week and into our church family. We give thanks for their safe delivery, and pray you bless their parents, especially Jen and Rachel, with rest and recuperation. Continue to teach us of the radical inclusivity of all your beloved children as we await Mabel and Allister's arrival among us. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care. We pray for Bob and Jeanette, Rob and Scott, Ron and Beryl, Luke and Melissa, Mary, Allison, Nathan, Shay, and Zoe, Buddy, Katie, Scott, Roman, Terrance, Angel, Noah, Pam, Jim, Quinn, Charles, Joe, Htet (Tet). God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Offering may be made electronically on the church's website at www.churchontheavenuehampden.org. You can also sign up for automated giving.

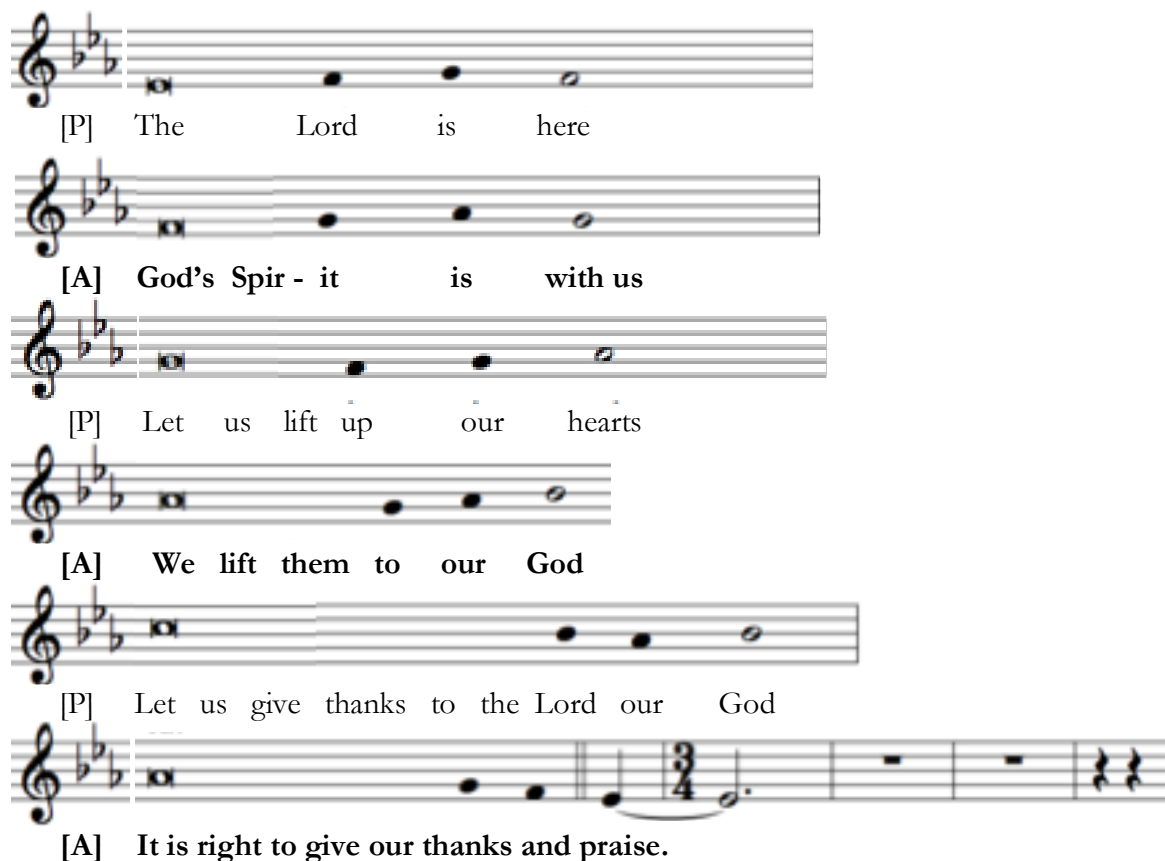
OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

COMMUNION

The assembly is invited to stand in body or spirit.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



[P] The Lord is here

[A] God's Spir - it is with us

[P] Let us lift up our hearts

[A] We lift them to our God

[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

[A] It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff is for the priest (P) and the second for the assembly (A). The third staff is for the priest (P) and the fourth for the assembly (A). The fifth staff is for the priest (P) and the sixth for the assembly (A). The seventh staff is for the assembly (A) and includes a 3/4 time signature change.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

For on the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.

Breathe your Spirit on us, O God, and saturate these gifts of bread and wine in the presence of Christ, that as we await his return, we may grow to love one another. Let us be nourished by this sacrament, this visible sign of your + invisible grace, to live in your abundance.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours Almighty God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

And so we have this meal: simplicity and mystery bound together. Though we cannot fully comprehend its meaning, we share, we remember, and we trust in the promise of Christ's life, death, and resurrection which renew the face of the earth.

Blessed be God forever!

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER | THURSDAYS, 7:30pm

Join us in the Sanctuary and online for Holden Evening Prayer on Thursday evenings leading up to Christmas. The brief musical setting is a great way to rest during this busy time and recall the gift of the incarnation.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES | Saturday December 24th

Children's Christmas Celebration, 4:30pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Vigil, 7:00pm

THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED | Saturdays 11am-4pm

Contact Cheryl Conrad if you would be interested in helping run the thrift shop!

LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS SUPPORT FUND

As we all know, the cost of groceries has been steadily increasing. While they have been able to take advantage of the produce giveaways here at the church, it has still been difficult to stay in budget. You can give to this fund separately from your regular offering through our online giving portal at churchontheavenuehampden.org and by clicking on LVC SUPPORT FUND.

BALTIMORE FOOD RESCUE IS NOW AT ST. LUKE'S | Thursdays, 11:30am

Free produce will be distributed in the courtyard courtesy of the Food Rescue volunteers.

THANK YOU for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry together. You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at

<http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org>.

BENEDICTION

God is with you! **And also with you!**

God, who gives life to all things

and frees us from despair,
bless you with truth and peace.

And may the holy Trinity, † one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

Amen.

SENDING SONG | Freedom is Coming

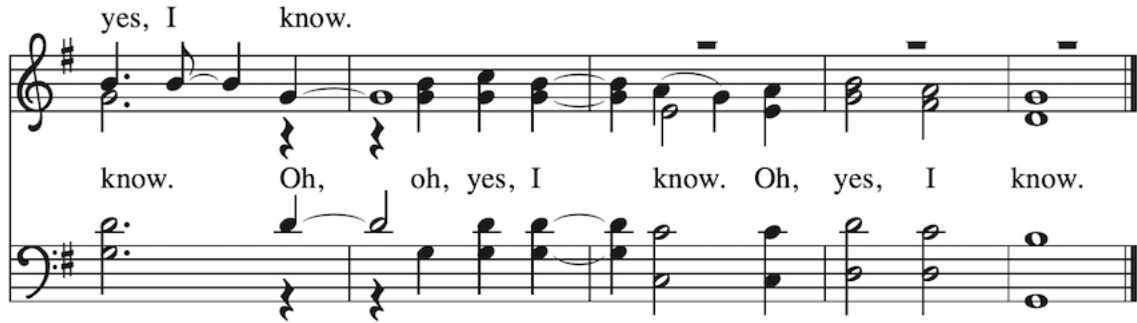
1 Oh, free - dom, oh, free - dom, oh,
1 Free-dom is com-ing. Free-dom is

free - dom. Oh,
com - ing. Free-dom is com - ing. Oh, yes, I

free - dom, oh, free - dom, oh,
know. Free-dom is com - ing. Free-dom is

free - dom. Oh,
com - ing. Free-dom is com - ing. Oh, yes, I

yes, I know.



know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know.

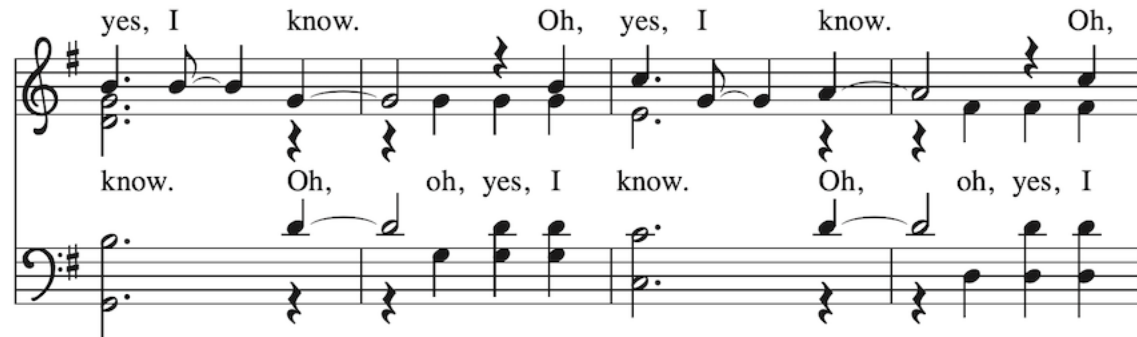
2 Oh, Jesus.
 Jesus is coming.
 Oh, yes, I know.

Text: South African; transc. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984

Music: FREEDOM IS COMING, South African; transc. *Freedom Is Coming*

Text and music © 1984 Peace of Music Publishing AB, admin. Walton Music Corp., a div. of GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know. Oh,



know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, oh, yes, I

yes, I know. Oh,



know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, yes, I

yes, I know. Oh, yes, I know. Oh,



know. Oh, oh, yes, I know. Oh, oh, yes, I

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**