

WORSHIP GUIDE for NOVEMBER 28, 2021

SETTING YOUR SPACE

Hello, friends, and happy Advent! Tomorrow we enter into that season of waiting, expectation, attention to our history and hope for our future, that season of calling on the promises of hope, peace, joy, and love to be made real in our midst right here and in our wide world, too. And some (extra) good news for this season - after careful consideration and consulting with the best experts we know, the Church Board has given the ok for us to sing together as a congregation again! We'll keep our masks on, but we'll get to join in now, in time for our favorite Christmas songs. Thanks for being patient and understanding as we continue to discern the safest ways for us to be in community.

Advent bags will be available after worship for you to pick up, so if you come in person tomorrow, don't leave without one! If you're not coming in person, someone will deliver your bag early in the week. I'm excited to enter into this meaningful season with you.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude - Geoff Clayton, Pianist

Welcome - Rev. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor

Gathering Song: *Comfort, Comfort O My People* (NC #101)

**- Jesse Cromer, Director of Music Ministries, Emily Kerrigan,
Heidi Reinker, Geoff Clayton**

**"Comfort, comfort O my people,
tell of peace," thus says our God.**

Comfort those whose hearts are shrouded,
mourning under sorrow's load.
Speak unto Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over.

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble,
for Messiah's holy reign.
For God's glory evermore
shall be known o'er all the world;
And all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

Advent Candlelighting Liturgy - the Wilkins Family

The First Sunday of Advent: The Sunday of Hope

One: Advent is a time of expectation
and honesty.

**All: So even when we are weary and discouraged,
we remember the promise of God-With-Us.**

One: And while we wait and work for
this promised hope,

**All: we repent of the ways we have
dismissed the good,
diminished our own dreams
and those of others
as though they couldn't
make a difference.**

One: We know that things need not always be
what they are now,

All: and the deep longing of our hearts is hope.

One: We light this candle and we pray:

All: May hope inspire us this Christmas.

Children's Time – Sean P. Williams, Children's & Youth Minister

Scripture: Matthew 1:1–17

This is the family record of Jesus the Christ, descendant of David, descendant of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac; Isaac begot Jacob; Jacob begot Judah and his sisters and brothers; Tamar and Judah begot Perez and Zerah; Perez begot Hezron; Hezron begot Ram; Ram begot Amminadab; Amminadab begot Nahshon; Nahshon begot Salmon; Rahab and Salmon begot Boaz; Ruth and Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse; Jesse begot David, the ruler.

Bathsheba – who had been the wife of Uriah – and David begot Solomon; Solomon begot Rehoboam; Rehoboam begot Abijah; Abijah begot Asa; Asa begot Jehosephat; Jehosephat begot Joram; Joram begot Uzziah; Uzziah begot Jotham; Jotham begot Ahaz; Ahaz begot Hezekiah; Hezekiah begot Manasseh; Manasseh begot Amon; Amon begot Josiah; Josiah begot Jeconiah and his sisters and brothers at the time of the Babylonian captivity.

After the Babylonian captivity, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel; Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel; Zerubbabel begot Abiud; Abiud begot Eliakim; Eliakim begot Azor; Azor begot Zadok; Zadok begot Achim; Achim begot Eliud; Eliud begot Eleazor; Eleazor begot Matthan; Matthan begot Jacob; Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary. And from her, Jesus was born.

Thus there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David; fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian captivity; and fourteen generations from the Babylonian captivity to the Messiah.

Sermon: “Hope Inspires Us” – Rev. Erika Marksbury

Response Song: *All Earth is Waiting* (NC #121)

– Jesse Cromer, Emily Kerrigan, Heidi Reinker, Geoff Clayton

Toda la tierra espera al Salvador
y el surco bierto, la obra del Creador;
Es el mundo que lucha por la libertad,
Reclamma justicia y busca la verdad.

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
And open furrows, the sowing of our God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
It cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”:
One whose name is “God with us,” our Savior shall be,
Through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
Open new highways, new highways for our God,
Who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
And open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

Pastoral Prayer – Rev. Erika Marksbury

Closing Words

Going Forth Song: *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus* (NC #122)

– Jesse Cromer, Emily Kerrigan, Heidi Reinker, Geoff Clayton

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.

Israel’s strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;

Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.

Born all people to deliver, born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever, come, be known to us again.

By your own eternal Spirit, come to claim us as your own;
By your all-sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.

Benediction

One: Friends,... may the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Postlude – Geoff Clayton

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