

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Reverend Stephen Cushing, Worship Leader

Online Worship

Advent Sunday - November 29, 2020

PRELUDE “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” – arranged by Pamela Decker Adam Peithmann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Barbara Papagian

INTROIT “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” – Bob McGee
Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

THE SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

Pip and Cecile Adams

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Can you hear it? Can you feel it? Christ is coming
People: **We place our hope in the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace, the infant lowly.**
Leader: We place our hope in a Middle Eastern child born in poverty.
People: **We place our hope in an infant born in the margins of society.**
Leader: Come friends. The season of Advent begins
All: **We gather to worship Emmanuel, God-With-Us**

INTRODUCTION

On the first Sunday of Advent, we gather at the wreath to light the candle of Hope. Desmond Tutu said, “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.” Hope provides the gift of faith. The gift of Jesus Christ born in a lowly manger. Born to bring God’s message of hope and love to the world. Hear now Paul’s words to the Romans. “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Today we light the candle of expectation and hope. May it remind each and every one of us of God’s great promise to us. He is our hope, He is our redeemer, and He is Savior.

ADVENT PRAYER (Unison)

O God, on this first Sunday of Advent our hearts are full of hope. Hope that something greater is ahead. Hope for brighter futures and a more peaceful world. We know that with hope there is faith. May this Advent season be filled with the hope and faith brought to us by Your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN # 136 “Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming”

PASTORAL PRAYER

TIME OF SILENCE

OUR LORD’S PRAYER

Please note: In these difficult times, we are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers. For those who are able, we are grateful for your continuing contributions to the stewardship of our church.

The Reverend Stephen Cushing has just celebrated his 20th anniversary at New England Seafarers Mission as the Executive Director and Senior Chaplain. As part of the Evangelical Covenant Church, the Seafarers Mission provides physical and spiritual assistance for crew members of commercial ships. During his tenure at NESM, Rev. Cushing has met individuals from 166 nations and NESM as an organization has interacted with 500,000 seafarers. Stephen and his wife Sharon live in Wakefield, MA and have two adult children, Tim and Julia.

Hymn No. 136 “Christians All, Your Lord is Coming”

1. Christians all, your Lord is coming, drawing near in holy birth. Ring the bells and sound the trumpets, let your music fill the earth. Dance and move to show God’s glory; kneel and pause to hear God’s word. Alleluia! Alleluia! Rise and let your songs be heard.

2. Christians all, your Lord is coming, calling you to serve in deed. See the ones who hurt and suffer, hear their cry and act with speed. Set all selfish ways behind you. Purge your hearts of sinful greed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ in you will meet their need.

3. Christians all, your Lord is coming, he will rise up from the dead. Lift the cup, of sin forgiven; bless the host and eat his bread. Mend the ways where peace is broken, give yourselves to true Shalom. Alleluia! Alleluia! Dwell as one in church and home.

4. Christians all, your Lord is coming, hope for peace is now at hand. Let there be no hesitation, walk in faith where life demands. Bear the word that God has given; share the birth that stirs your soul. Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ will come and make you whole.

Prayer Response: Hymn No. 144 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 4)

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.

Closing Hymn No. 125 “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

1. Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free. From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be. You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart; dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.

2. Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring. By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by your all sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.