



~ Welcome Visitors! ~

Guide to the bulletin: An asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit. Text printed in **BOLD** indicates everyone says them together. **NCH** is the New Century Hymnal next to your pew chair.

Children: Children are always welcome here. We know youth grow – in the love of God and the love of others – when they have opportunities to worship in community. After the Message for All, children are invited to remain in the sanctuary. There are a variety of quiet activities and fidgets the youth (and adults!) can do available by the sanctuary doors. There is also a [Prayer Ground](#) set up at the front of the sanctuary. There are several quiet activities prepared for children. We know many of us need to wiggle a bit to be comfortable. Kids do too!!! Adults are welcome to sit in this area as well! #ChildofGod. You and/or your children are welcome to get up during the service to select something to do.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

John Bowring

Welcome and Community Connections

***Opening Song** *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus* NCH 122, vss 1, 3, & 4

***Call to Worship¹**

One: On Sundays and Mondays,

All: on good days and bad days,

One: early in the morning and very late at night,

All: here in this room, and out in the world,

God, we long for you to break in.

One: Meet us in this space.

All: Surprise us with your presence.

One: Fill this room with your good news.

All: With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

*** Candle Lighting—Hope**

*** Call to Confession**

Pastor Kris: Friends, if you long to feel closer to God... join me in this prayer. Join me as we invite God to draw closer, to break in here.

*** Prayer of Confession**

Ever-present God, we long to feel you close.

We long to feel your presence in our lives.

We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world.

However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions.

Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space.

Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

*** Words of Forgiveness**

Pastor Kris: Family of faith, even when we doubt God's presence, even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world, God is always moving closer to us. Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

¹ Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

**All: Nothing can keep God's love away.
We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.**

***Hymn** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*²

NCH 116 (vss below)

*With words revised by Avery Arden centering on the plight of the
Palestinians*

**O come, o come compassionate Divine,
And ransom captive Palestine
That mourns with tears that will not be soothed
Till empires fall and nations' hearts are moved.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! God's justice is at hand
To liberate the people and the land.***

**O come, o bright and ever-burning star;
Bring Gaza comfort from afar!
Dispel from her the shadow of death
That murders dignity and chokes out breath.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! God's justice is at hand
To liberate the people and the land.***

**O come, o King of Peace and Justice, break
All weapons down, and from them ploughshares make.
Let all tears dry, all peoples respond:
"We are each other's magnitude and bond."**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! God's justice is at hand
To liberate the people and the land.***

HEARING THE WORD

Hebrew Scripture

Lamentations 3:55-57

Special Music

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Charles J. Torian, Jr.

² <https://binarybreakingworship.com/2023/12/07/o-come-emmanuel-revised-for-palestines-plight/>

Gospel

Luke 1:5-13

Message for All

Cindy Rosch

Prayer of Jesus

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

After the Message for All, children are invited sit by their family in the sanctuary or at the Prayer Ground

Reflection

TRANSITIONING TOGETHER

Call to Prayer

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Communaute de Taizé

O Lord, hear my prayer,

O Lord, hear my prayer;

when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer,

O Lord, hear my prayer;

come and listen to me. (sing through x2)

Prayers of the People

During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Or you can text prayers to Pastor Kris at 608-438-6307. She will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: pastorkris@memorialucc.org.

Offering

Offertory

When He Comes

Garrett Parker

Doxology

(to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, #116)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here - be-low,
Praise God above, ye heaven-ly host.
Crea-tor, Christ and Spir-it, One.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man—u-el,
Shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Ever-present God, we are ever thankful for your voice, which breaks the silence against the wicked forces of this world. Accept these offerings and multiply these gifts, we pray—that they who receive them will find within them provision and comfort. May they know through these gifts that we, too, are keeping awake in the hope of your coming. Amen.

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD

***Song for Going Out**

All Earth Is Waiting

NCH 121, vss 1-4

Benediction

Postlude

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

Worship Leaders: Jonathan Schroerlucke (Dir. of Music), Jeff Darwin (Pianist), Pastor Kris Gorton, and Pastor Peter Morris

Readers: Barb Gallogly-Turner and John Koeppé

Ushers: Nancy Potter and John Rosch

Media Room: TBD

Fellowship: Dean & Nancy Baumgardner

Memorial UCC uses photographs and video for social media communication with our members and friends. If someone does not wish to be photographed or in a video, ushers will help them find a seat out of camera view.

Memorial UCC's ONE LICENSE for streaming: #A-711042



Hearing Loop and Listening Devices: For those who have hearing aids, Memorial UCC has a t-coil compatible hearing loop. Listening devices are also available for people who are hard of hearing. See an usher if you need assistance.

Bathrooms: There are two bathrooms near the main entrance of the church. A third Gender Neutral and Accessible bathroom is in the hallway by the nursery. If you need assistance finding the restrooms, an usher will gladly help you



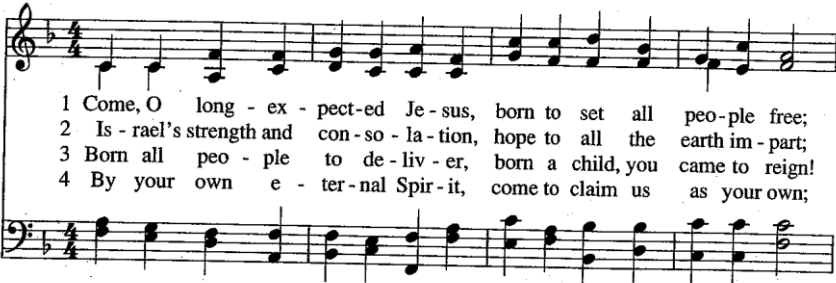
Giving Options—Ever-Widening Opportunities: Checks can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during office hours. Please indicate any special designation in the memo line. You can give securely via PayPal with your credit card, debit card, or direct withdrawals. Visit memorialucc.org and click the "giving" link in the upper right-hand corner or scan the QR code here. If you are interested in monthly automatic withdrawals, please email Cathy Halpin at halpincjo@gmail.com, and she will get you signed up.

Want to Know More About Us? Co-pastors Kris and Peter would be happy to set up a time to chat further. Feel free to contact either of them at pastorkris@memorialucc.org or pastorpeter@memorialucc.org. You don't need to be a formal member to get involved here. There is a lot of information on our website at www.memorialucc.org.

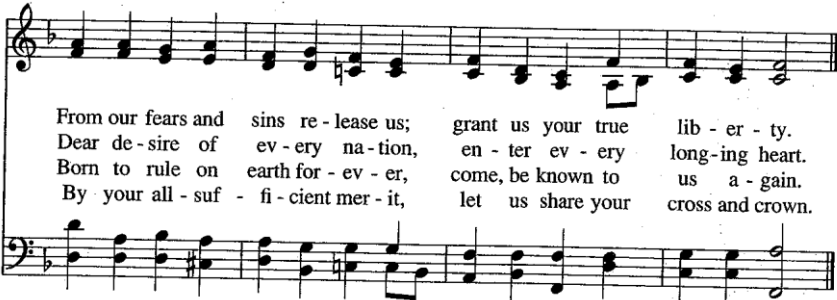
Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.



1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
 3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!
 4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;



From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
 Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.
 Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
 By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was one of the students known as "Methodists" at Oxford University. He wrote hymns for every occasion. This is from his small collection Hymns for the Nativity.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
 Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716)
 from Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715
 Alternate tune: IN BABILONE

Toda la Tierra

(All Earth Is Waiting)

Isa. 40:3-5; Luke 3:4-6; Matt. 1:23

Alberto Taulé, 1972; alt.
Transl. Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987; alt.

Unison
D D/F# Em A7 D F#m

1 To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor y el sur - co a - bier - to, la
2 Di - ce el pro - fe - ta al pue - blo de Is - ra - el: "De ma - dre vir - gen ya
1 All earth is wait - ing to see the Prom - ised One, and o - pen fur - rows, the
2 Thus says the proph - et to those of Is - ra - el, "A vir - gin moth - er will

G A Bm F#m G D

o - bra del Crea - dor; es el mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad,
vie - ne Em - ma - nuel," se - rá "Dios con no - so - tros," se - mi - lla se - rá,
sow - ing of our God. All the world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true lib - er - ty;
bear Em - man - u - el": One whose name is "God with us," our Sav - ior shall be,

Bm F#m 1-3 Em A7 4 Em A7 D

re - cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. (4 dar - nos li - ber - tad.)
con él la es - pe - ran - za al mun - do vol - ve - rá.
it cries out for jus - tice and search - es for the truth. (4 brings us lib - er - ty.)
through whom hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.

Alberto Taulé, composer and author of this new Advent hymn,
has served as a parish priest and music editor for the Roman
Catholic Church in Spain. This hymn was his first to be
published in the United States.

Tune: TAULE 11.11.12.12.
Alberto Taulé, 1972
Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1988

3 Moun-tains and val-leys will
have to be made plain;
o-pen new high-ways,
new high-ways for our God,
Who is now com-ing closer,
so come all and see,
and o-pen the door-ways
as wide as wide can be.

4 In low-ly sta-ble
the Prom-ised One ap-peared,
yet feel that pres-ence
through-out the earth to-day,
For Christ lives in all Chris-tians
and is with us now;
a-gain, on ar-riv-ing
Christ brings us lib-er-ty.
