

Sunday, December 18, 2022, 9:30am

Prelude by the Shofar Brass

Welcome

*God's Greeting

*Call to Worship:

One: O God, You are our God; earnestly we seek You;
our souls thirst for You, our bodies long for You,
in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**All: Almighty God, during this Advent season, we are weary.
Our days are hectic, and our minds run ahead long into the night.
We rush from one Christmas activity to the next,
and can't find rest after each long week.**

One: Jesus speaks these words to us today:
"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls."

**All: When we feel overwhelmed,
when we are filled with worry,
when our activities lack purpose and our tasks seem endless,
instill within us Your peace, O God.
We long to rest in Your presence.**

*Songs: "O Holy Night"

1 O, holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope - the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

2 Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
in all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need — to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

3 Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.

Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
and in His name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!

His power and glory evermore proclaim!

His power and glory evermore proclaim!

John S. Dwight, Placide Cappeau

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"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

3 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

4 For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Edmund H. Sears

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"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #245

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

Chorus

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem, unto Your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell Your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

6 O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.

7 O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease and be Yourself our King of Peace.

Traditional

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Offering
Offertory by the Shofar Brass

Moment for Missions: David and Jill Martin

Time for Prayer

Bible Reading: Isaiah 40:27-31, Galatians 6:7-10

Sermon: **"We Are Weary"**

Prayer

Advent Candle reading

*Song: **"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins 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.

2 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.

Charles Wesley
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*God's Blessing