



Keeping Watch for the Child

Advent Devotion – December 9, 2020
Pastor Tom Engelbrecht

The virgin will conceive and give
birth to a son, and will call him
Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:10

OPENING HYMN

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

CW 23 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain

Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el
 Oh, come, O Root of Jess - e, free Your own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny;
 Oh, come, O Day - spring from on high, And cheer us by your draw - ing night;
 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home.

That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 From depths of hell your peo - ple save, And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

CALL TO WORSHIP

P (Pastor): We worship in the name of our God, who was, and is, and ever shall be—

C (Congregation): **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

P: During the season of Advent, we celebrate the faithfulness of God. He promised a Savior, and in a manger, on a cross, and in an empty tomb, he has kept his Word. He promised to pierce our darkness with his light, and he fulfilled that promise by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, as the Light of the world.

C: **Come, Lord Jesus. Fill our lives with the light of your presence.**

P: Let your light shine,

C: **And scatter the darkness of our sinfulness.**

P: Let your light shine,

C: **That others may see you within us.**

P: Let your light shine,

C: And fill us with joy and peace.

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C: The light no darkness can overcome.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(silence)

PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness with the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light for our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 1:1-4

¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

·³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

SERMON HYMN

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

CW 24 Text, Tune: Public Domain Setting: ©1955, ren. 1983 E. H. Freeman Ltd., admin. Hal Leonard

The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His wings as drift - ed snow, his
 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree; A bless - ed vir - gin moth - er
 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleas - es
 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In Beth - le - hem, all on a
 eyes as flame; "All hail," said he to meek and low - ly
 you shall be. Your Son shall be Im - man - u - el, by
 God," she said. "My soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his
 Christ - mas morn, And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will
 Mar - y, "Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
 seers fore - told, Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
 ho - ly name." Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!
 ev - er say, "Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

SERMON TEXT

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights. ”

¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

SERMON – A Sign Like No Other

PRAYER

P: Lord God, give us peace and stillness as we prepare for your coming.

C: Quiet our hearts by the contemplation of what you have given to the world in sending your Son Jesus.

P: Speak above the noise and haste and call us to the quiet meditation of your love for the world.

C: Help us to cherish the forgiveness of sins and lead us to serve you with thankful living.

P: Pour out your Spirit on families as they gather together, and use this special time to bind and heal, to comfort and bless, to encourage and reassure.

C: Reveal yourself to all people and help us to find in this season nothing but Christ who is all in all.

P: Bless all who are in need these dark winter days: those who are hungry and homeless, those who live in oppression, those who feel trapped by the circumstances of life, those who live alone and forgotten, those who are sick, those to whom death draws near, and those who mourn.

C: Do what is best according to your gracious will and help us to rejoice in the opportunity to be your representatives, reaching out to people in any kind of need.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

P: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Come, O Long Expected Jesus”

CW 6 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain



Come, O long-ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set your peo-ple free;
Born your peo-ple to de-liv - er, Born a child and yet a king,



From our sins and fears re-lease us By your death on Cal - va - ry.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now your gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's Strength and Con-so - la-tion, Hope to all the earth im-part,
By your own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;



Dear De-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
By your all-suf - fic-ient mer - it Raise us to your glo-rious throne.

Therefore the Lord himself will give
you a sign. Behold, the virgin
shall conceive and bear a son,
And shall call his name
Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

MISSION MARKET: Thank you to all the ladies who donated for our mission market. Thank you to everyone who helped support our missions by shopping at our market. Through your generous donations, we raised \$850.00. This will support our Befriend-A-Missions Home Missions: Trinity Hmong Lutheran, Manitowoc, WI: Divine Peace, Rockwell, TX and a new mission in Brandon, South Dakota. Thank you all again and see you next year!!

LIVING NATIVITY: December 12th & 13th from 5-7p. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex if you can help with the Living Nativity. Please consider serving to share the Christmas Message to our community.

POINSETTIAS: If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to be used at COR during the Christmas Season and then taken home by you, please contact Teresa Miller 303-969-8143 or teresam11757@gmail.com.



Come and Worship

Christmas Eve

Noon and 6p

Christmas Day 9a

December Events at COR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 8 & 10:30a Worship / Communion 9:00a Voters Meeting 9:15a Sunday School	7 8:30a Tree Trimming	8	9 7p Advent Worship	10	11	12 5-7p Living Nativity
13 8 & 10:30a Worship 9:15a Sunday School & Bible Study 5-7p Living Nativity	14	14	16 7p Advent Worship	17	18	19
20 8 & 10:30a Worship / Communion 9:15a Sunday School & Bible Study	21	22	23	24 Noon – Christmas Worship 6p Candlelight Worship	25 9a – Christmas Day Worship	26
27 9:00a Christmas 1 Worship	28	29	30	31 7p – New Year’s Eve Worship		