

# The Well

*Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7, 2025*

## **We Gather**

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Celebration

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel;  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by Thine Advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home.  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

Welcoming One Another

Lighting of Advent Candle: Peace

Reader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.

Reader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

Song

*Blessed Be Your Name*

Blessed be Your name  
in the land that is plentiful,  
where Your streams of abundance flow,  
blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name  
when I'm found in the desert place,  
though I walk through the wilderness,  
blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out  
I'll turn back to praise.  
When the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say,

“Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord.  
blessed be Your glorious name!”

Blessed be Your name  
when the sun's shining down on me,  
when the world's all as it should be,  
Blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name  
on the road marked with suffering,  
though there's pain in the offering,  
Blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out  
I'll turn back to praise.  
When the darkness closes in, Lord,  
still I will say,

“Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your glorious name!”

“Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your glorious name!”

You give and take away,  
you give and take away;  
my heart will choose to say,  
“Lord, blessed be Your name.”

You give and take away,

you give and take away;  
my heart will choose to say,  
“Lord, blessed be Your name.”

Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your glorious name!

Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
blessed be Your glorious name!

### **We Hear God’s Word**

Sharing Faith with God’s Children

Chris Fulkerson

*Care for children up to age 5 is in Room 121. Worship Kits for children, containing crayons and puzzle sheets based on Scripture, may be found in the entrance area.*

Song of Preparation

#### *Only a Holy God*

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?  
Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?  
Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises?  
What other splendor outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice?  
Only a Holy God.

Come and behold Him,  
the One and the Only.  
Cry out. Sing, “Holy!  
Forever a Holy God!”  
Come and worship the Holy God.

What other glory consumes like fire?  
What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated?  
Only a Holy God.

Come and behold Him,  
the One and the Only.  
Cry out. Sing, “Holy!  
Forever a Holy God!”  
Come and worship the Holy God.

Come and behold Him,  
the One and the Only.  
Cry out. Sing, “Holy!

Forever a Holy God!"  
Come and worship the Holy God.

Who else could rescue me from my failing?  
Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father?  
Only a Holy God.  
Only my Holy God.

Come and behold Him,  
the One and the Only.  
Cry out. Sing, "Holy!  
Forever a Holy God!"  
Come and worship the Holy God.  
Come and behold Him,  
the One and the Only.  
Cry out. Sing, "Holy!  
Forever a Holy God!"  
Come and worship the Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.

Come and behold Him,  
the One and the Only.  
Cry out. Sing, "Holy!  
Forever a Holy God!"  
Come and worship the Holy God

#### Scripture Lesson

#### [Matthew 3:1-12](#)

<sup>3</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,<sup>2</sup>  
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."<sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the  
prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.'"

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and  
his food was locusts and wild honey.<sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea  
were going out to him,<sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan,  
confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he  
said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

<sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance.<sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have  
Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up  
children to Abraham.<sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree  
therefore that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is  
coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the

Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Message

“The Gift of Judgment”

Pastor Duane

*If you would like to discuss today's message after the service is over, join the Reflections group in Room 114.*

Offering Our Gifts

### **We Come to the Table**

Invitation to the Table

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, as we come to share in the richness of Your table, we confess our reluctance to share Your blessings. We cannot take bread and forget those who are hungry. We cannot drink the cup and forget those who are thirsty. We cannot hear Your words of peace and forget a world at war. We cannot celebrate the feast of Your family and forget our divisions. Put our prosperity at the service of the poor. Put our fullness at the service of the empty. Turn our desire for power into a desire for peace. Heal Your church in every brokenness. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation.

You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom com,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Giving the Bread and Cup

Communion Song

*Glory (Let There Be Peace)*

One star  
burns in the darkness,  
shines with the promise, Emmanuel.  
One child  
born in the stillness,  
living within us, Emmanuel.

We're singing, "Glory! Glory!  
Let there be peace. Let there be peace."  
Singing, "Glory! Glory!  
Let there be peace. Let it start in me."

One voice  
speaks for the voiceless,  
hope for the hopeless, Emmanuel.  
One love  
brings us together,  
now and forever, Emmanuel.

We're singing, "Glory! Glory!  
Let there be peace. Let there be peace."  
Singing, "Glory! Glory!  
Let there be peace. Let it start in me."

Do not be afraid.  
His love is strong enough to save us.  
Nothing stands in the way.  
His love is strong enough to lead us.

Do not be afraid.  
His love is strong enough to save us.  
Nothing stands in the way.  
His love is strong enough to lead us.

We're singing, "Glory! Glory!  
Let there be peace. Let there be peace."  
Singing, "Glory! Glory!  
Let there be peace. Let it start in me."

Singing, "Glory! Glory!  
Let there be peace. Let there be peace."  
Singing, "Glory! Glory!  
Let there be peace. Let it start in me."  
Let there be peace. Let it start in me.

Prayer after Receiving

### **We Are Sent to Serve**

Closing Song

*Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble?*

Did you feel the mountains tremble?  
Did you hear the oceans roar  
when the people rose to sing of  
Jesus Christ, the risen One?

Did you feel the people tremble?  
Did you hear the singers roar  
when the lost began to sing of  
Jesus Christ, the saving One?

And we can see that, God, You're moving,  
a mighty river through the nations,  
and young and old will turn to Jesus.  
Fling wide, you heavenly gates.  
Prepare the way of the risen Lord.

Open up the doors and let the music play.  
Let the streets resound with singing—  
songs that bring Your hope,  
songs that bring Your joy,  
dancers who dance upon injustice.

Do you feel the darkness tremble  
when all the saints join in one song,  
and all the streams flow as one river  
to wash away our brokenness?

And here we see that, God, You're moving.  
A time of jubilee is coming  
when young and old return to Jesus.  
Fling wide, you heavenly gates.  
Prepare the way of the risen Lord.

Open up the doors and let the music play.  
Let the streets resound with singing—  
songs that bring Your hope,  
songs that bring Your joy,  
dancers who dance upon injustice.

Open up the doors and let the music play.  
Let the streets resound with singing—  
songs that bring Your hope,  
songs that bring Your joy,  
dancers who dance upon injustice.

The Blessing