

**December 13, 2023**  
**Worship for the Weary**  
**Lord of Life Lutheran Church**



**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN:** *Come and Fill Our Hearts*

Come and fill our hearts with your love.  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your love.  
Alleluia!

Come and fill our hearts with your peace...  
Come and fill our hearts with your joy...  
Come and fill our hearts with your hope...

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**LIGHTING OF THE HOPE CANDLE**

*Time for Prayer*

We pray together,  
**may God's hope find them now.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
To those who sit in illness and despair  
For those who are seeking a home  
And everyone who feels alone.  
Take heart, take heart, Emmanuel  
Shall come to you wherever you are.

**LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE**

*Time for Prayer*

We pray together,  
**may God's hope find them now.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
To those who wait for peace to appear  
To those who are not sure what's next  
And struggle to find relief from dread  
Take heart, take heart, Emmanuel  
Shall come to you wherever you are.

**LIGHTING OF THE JOY CANDLE**

*Time for Prayer*

We pray together,  
**may God's hope find them now.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
To all who can't seem to get ahead  
For all who cry more than laugh  
We pray for all who grieve loved ones passed.  
Take heart, Take heart, Emmanuel  
Shall come to you wherever you are.

**LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE**

*Time for Prayer*

We pray together,  
**may God's hope find them now.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
To everyone whose hearts are breaking now  
For anyone who longs for love  
For people who are searching for a home.  
Take heart, take heart, Emmanuel  
Shall come to you wherever you are.

## PRAYER OF THE EVENING

Creator God, for so long we have been bending under the weight of our own grief, exhaustion, and stress. Tonight, we are leaning toward you in hope. Speak a word of encouragement to us now. Help us to see that we are not alone. And warm our weary bones from the inside out. We are listening. We are seeking after you. With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling:  
"In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the Lord<sup>[a]</sup>;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God."<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.  
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out."  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the  
field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.  
Surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever."

<sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,<sup>[c]</sup>  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.  
See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.

<sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

*Pastor's Reflection*  
*Quiet*

### John 14:25-27

<sup>25</sup> "All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

*Pastor's Reflection*  
*Quiet*

## WORDS OF HOPE AND COMFORT

## **PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

God of our joy  
and God of our weariness,  
we have brought our worn-down hearts to you this night—

**hearts full of grief,  
hearts carrying fear,  
hearts, tender to the touch.**

We have brought our weariness to you this night  
because we know that you are present with us in the valleys.

**We know that you were born into a quiet night like this one,  
so surely our tears from the night are not unfamiliar to you.**

Therefore, as we prepare to leave the safe protection of this sanctuary,  
as we prepare to return to the fullness of our lives,

**we ask that you would continue to walk with us.**

**Stay by our side through the valley.**

**Stay by our side as we climb our way out.**

**Just stay close.**

For we cannot move from weariness to joy without you.

**With honesty and gratitude, we give you these prayers of our hearts—  
those named and left unnamed. We give them all to you.**

**Amen.**

## **SENDING BENEDICTION**

*Come and Fill Our Hearts*

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community

Music: CONFITEMINO DOMINO, Jacques Berthier

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