



ST. JOHN'S
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Richmond † Texas

ORDER OF WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2025
8:30 & 11:00AM

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVE WORSHIP

You are invited to use this bulletin during our live worship service at 11:00am on Sunday morning. To access our live worship, please [click here](#).

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION

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.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you
with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(All pray in silence.)

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.

SONG OF PRAISE

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

#220

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear'
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven
and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the
Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, dead, and buried;*

The third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into
heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father
almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick
and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
catholic** church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and
the life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
ghost! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever
shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

8:30 *Clarke Family*

11:00 *Hillis Family*

Reader: Our lists are long, even in this strange mess where we live these days. And we want to do it right, we want to be safe, but we also want to be able to enjoy the season. We’ve got work to do as the time of Christ approaches. We need to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what has been broken, to mend our relationships, and to prepare for the company of God that will come.

The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open the door into our lives.

So, we light these candles of HOPE and LOVE as a sign of our faith that the God we worship is not far from us and that we can clear the way for that God to come and dwell with us. We light these candles so that the GIFT of CHRISTmas may point us to His relentless LOVE.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 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.

SONG OF REFLECTION

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” #218

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.

Still thro' 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.

And ye, 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!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
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 send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

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PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHILDREN’S SERMON

OFFERING OUR GIFTS and TITHES
(Thank you for your generosity! To contribute electronically, please see the QR code.)

OFFERTORY

8:30 <i>“Come, Long Expected Jesus”</i>	Chancel Choir
11:00 <i>“He’s Coming Soon”</i>	Children’s Choirs

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 8:31-32, 35, 37-39

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SERMON

"Relentless LOVE"

Rev. Richard Luna

COMMUNION CONSECRATION

SHARING HOLY COMMUNION TOGETHER

COMMUNION SONGS (first and last verses)

"Emmanuel" #204

Emmanuel Emmanuel

His name is called Emmanuel

God with us revealed in us

His name is called Emmanuel

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"Infant Holy, Infant Holy" #229

Infant holy infant lowly

For His bed a cattle stall

Oxen lowing little knowing

Christ the babe is Lord of all

Swift are winging angels singing

Noels ringing tidings bringing

Christ the babe is Lord of all

Flocks were sleeping

Shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new

Saw the glory heard the story

Tidings of a gospel true

Thus rejoicing free from sorrow

Praises voicing greet the morrow

Christ the babe was born for you

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"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" #211 v. 1, 2 & 4

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 Wisdom from on high

And order all things far and nigh

To us the path of knowledge show

And cause us in her ways to go

O come, Thou Root of Jesse's tree,
An ensign of the people be;
Before Thee rulers silent fall;
All peoples on Thy mercy call.

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"Away in a Manger" #217

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

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PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

SONG OF INVITATION

"Sing We Now of Christmas" #237

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Angels called to shepherds, Leave your flocks at rest,
Journey forth to Bethl'hem, find the child so blest.

In Bethl'hem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,
Seated by the manger, watching the holy child.

From the eastern country came the kings afar,
Bearing gifts to Bethl'hem, guided by a star.

Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price
There was never a stable, so like paradise

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SENDING FORTH

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Be Born in Us"

Be born in us, O Holy Child,
And let the light of Your love shine within our lives.
Be born in us, O Prince of Peace,
Let the hope You bring this world be born in me.

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GOING FORTH

Blessed by God's love and strengthened by God's
Grace, let us be the church to the people we are with.
Amen.

*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Jim
Woodfin in honor of my family – to my amazing
parents, James Robert & Bobbie Sue Woodfin, my
loving wife, Beth Woodfin, and my superstar and
incredible daughter, Chloe Woodfin. To you ALL with
much love.*

*The flowers on the piano are placed by Gary & Dory
Tavener for the love of our church family.*

QR Code provided for your tithes and offerings.

Thank you.

