

NPC Celebration of Worship  
Sunday— November 27, 2022

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship** - *(responsively)*

One: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**All: and ransom captive Israel**

One: that mourns in lonely exile here

**All: until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.**

*(continue as hymn, singing verses 2-7)*

† **Hymn #88** (*Glory To God Hymnal*)

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

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

**Refrain:**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in its ways to go. **Refrain**

3 O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times did give the law

in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

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. Refrain

5 O come, O Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home.  
Make safe for us the heavenward road  
and bar the way to death's abode. Refrain

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. Refrain

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. Refrain

A time for meditation

† Response to meditation (# 582 *(Glory To God Hymnal)*)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Reception of New Members *(see insert)*

- Michael Lawrence Spears
- Gena Ginn Spears

## Introduction of New Members

### Questions to New Members

Who are you?

◇ **My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a child of God.**

What does it mean to be a child of God.

◇ **That I belong not just to myself, but to the creator of life, and that belonging to the creator of life means caring for others**

Will you seek in your life to follow the teachings of Jesus, to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God? **I will.**

And will you seek to honor the journey that has brought you to this day, and will you continue to seek the wisdom of God as you journey through the life that yet awaits you?

◇ **I will.**

### **Question from a Member of Session to the Congregation:**

Do we all, as members of this body, promise to welcome and challenge each other, as we work together as co-creators of the Kin-dom of God?

◇ **We Do.**

† **Affirmation of Faith—** (*congregation in unison*)

**I believe in God, the maker of all things good and bad. The lover of saints and sinners. The lover of all things holy and unholy. I believe in the unity God brings us. This God calls us to be one with each other, even with people we don't know, or don't like, even our enemies. God is not an entity, contained by a body, God is the spirit of life. We are called to make decisions in the name of promoting life. When we do this, we practice loving others as ourselves. As we join together in community we experience the presence of God. So be it.**

**Welcome to New Members**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### † Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Speak again your Word of Truth, O God. Speak it in a new way that we may hear it afresh. Speak it with power that we might be moved to new thoughts and renewed resolve to action. Speak again your Word of Truth, O God. Amen.

### † Hymn #82 (*Glory To God Hymnal*)

#### *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

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.

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.

### First Reading

Isaiah 2.1-5

### Second Reading

Romans 13.11-14

### Third Reading

Matthew 13.31-32

**Post-Reading Rubric - (*responsively*)**

One: May we approach that which is sacred through this reading and in this time.

**All: Now and always, let us so do.**

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Fry

† Hymn #751 (*Glory To God Hymnal*)

*From the Nets of Our Labor*

**1 From the nets of our labors,  
through the noise and confusion,  
from the city or seashore,  
Jesus summons us all.**

**Refrain:**

**We will rise up and follow,  
Christ before and beside us,  
loving pattern to guide us,  
as we answer the call.**

**2 When we faint and grow weary  
from the bearing of burdens,  
with a message of comfort,  
Jesus summons us all. [Refrain]**

**3 In the eyes of the stranger—  
tearful, joyous, or frightened—  
in the face of each neighbor,  
Jesus summons us all. [Refrain]**

**4 When we hear words of hatred  
spreading fear or false witness,  
words that cry to be challenged,  
Jesus summons us all. [Refrain]**

**5 In each moment of courage,  
steadfast even through trembling;  
in the yearning for justice,  
Jesus summons us all. [Refrain]**

6 Like disciples before us,  
from the city or seashore,  
risking selfless compassion:  
Jesus summons us all. [Refrain]

† Affirmation of Faith—*The Apostles' Creed*—(unison)

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### Pastoral Prayers

Silent Prayer

Corporate Prayer

The LORD's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

#### Offertory

† Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all creatures here below!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise Holy Spirit evermore!

Praise Triune God whom we adore!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† **Prayer of Thanksgiving** *(responsively)*

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**This season is full of grace, full of mercy, full of love. We give these so that the world would be more full of grace, mercy and love throughout the year at all times. Accept them, we humbly pray, from our sense of gratitude. Amen.**

SENDING

† **Hymn #101** *(Glory To God Hymnal)*

*No Wind at the Window*

No wind at the window, no knock on the door  
No light from the lamp stand, no foot on the floor  
No dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear  
Just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear

Oh, Mary, Oh, Mary don't hide from my face  
Be glad that you're favored and filled with God's grace  
The time for redeeming the world has begun  
And you are requested to mother God's son

This child must be born that the Kingdom might come  
Salvation for many, destruction for some  
Both end and beginning, both message and sign  
Both victor and victim, both yours and divine

No payment was promised, no promises made  
No wedding was dated, no blue print displayed  
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess  
Replied with conviction, "tell God I say yes."

† **Charge and Blessing**