



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF WORCESTER

*A Welcoming and Affirming Church
A Safe Space for All*

First gathered in 1812

Peace



In Our Time

Order of Worship

The First Week of Advent

December 3, 2017

10:00 AM

Welcome to First Baptist!

Alguien habla español aquí.

Es gibt hier Leute, die Deutsch sprechen.

May nagsasalita nang Tagalog dito.

ဖဲအံ့zၢ်zကတံzၢ်zကညီကံၢ်ၢ်zၢ်zၢ်z

Mizo tawng in tawng kan letling thei reng e.

Temos alguém aqui que fala português.

这里有人说中文。

Kuna mtu hapa anayezungumza Swahili.

يکی اینجا فارسی صحبت میکنه

Ici on parle Français.

Thoughts on Worship

We know Advent to be a season of longing and expectation. The annual tradition of reenacting what the people of God experienced as they awaited God's Chosen One, reminds us that waiting is a spiritual practice for us, too. Some FBC members teach us that in Spanish, the word for *waiting* is also the word for *hoping*. And it's during Advent that we root ourselves in the deep Christian hope that no matter the dark winter of our days, God is coming.

This is also the spirit behind our Advent theme this year: Peace in Our Time. In such a divided and divisive time, we need peace more than ever. But will it ever come, and what is our part as the Church?

For worship this morning, our service has been crafted in an attempt to embrace this spirit of longing and expectation. The service, like many weeks, will begin with the choir and pastor in the narthex behind you. But instead of an immediate processional, the service will unfold like one long processional, amplifying as the parts of worship come closer and embodying God coming nearer to us as Advent progresses. The service will culminate with communion together, the body of Christ partaking of the body of Christ, the Word-made-flesh-made-bread this day.

Allow yourself to sit in the yearning and expectation that may also feel slightly uncomfortable. It's in this tension where so much of life unfolds.

And too, God.

* Indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.

Welcome from the Church

Inside your Order of Worship should be an FBC Connection Card. If you are visiting with us, and if you would like to learn more about our church or ways you can connect more deeply within the life of our church, please fill out the card and place it in the offering plate later on in the service.

The Longing

Veni Veni Emmanuel

Pastoral Prayer

*** O Come O Come Emmanuel**

[Verse 1]

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

[Refrain]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

[Verse 2]

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud, and majesty and awe

[Refrain]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

The Scriptures

Isaiah 64:1-9 (pg. 606)

One: May the Spirit of Wisdom lead us to understanding.

Many: Thanks be to God.

*Mark 13:24-37 (pg. 826)

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

One: May the Spirit of Wisdom lead us to understanding.

Many: Thanks be to God.

* O Come O Come Emmanuel

[Verse 3]

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave

[Refrain]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

[Verse 4]

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

[Refrain]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

The Offering of Our Gifts

The ministries of our church are possible because of the generous gifts you pledge in support. At this time, you are invited to give your offering, as you are able.

* O Come O Come Emmanuel

[Verse 5]

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

[Refrain]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

[Verse 6]

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

[Refrain]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

Reflection

Peace In Our Time

Reverend Brent Newberry

* O Come O Come Emmanuel

[Verse 7]

O come, desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of humankind
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease

And be Thyself our God of peace

[Refrain]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

The Advent Light

Choral Surge Illuminare

Moment of Wonder

Children are invited to come forward at this time.

The Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

** At First Baptist we celebrate open communion. Whatever your faith tradition, you are invited to receive the bread and cup of Christ.*

Passing of the Peace.

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

*** Congregational Hymn**

153 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

Celebrating Our New Members

* Melinda Blanchard

Partnering in Church Life

Just as we arrived this morning in faith, so too, we depart to be faithful partners in the work of God. Listen now for opportunities to connect more richly in the life of First Baptist.

Benediction

Who We're Praying for This Week

- Melinda and family
- John Torrisi
- Evelyn M.
- Rose's Mom, Mary Lou
- Gordon B.
- Nate and his fellow troops, as well as their families, on their deployment overseas.
- Those with unspoken needs that are close to the chest but weigh heavily on their hearts, and our loved ones with various prayer needs..
- Our friends who are unable to join us, whether it's due to traveling, illness, injury, or difficulty of transportation.
- Our church, that we will continue to be a beacon of hope and peace amidst the rancor, and a voice of reconciliation and justice amidst violence and hatred.
- Unity for our nation, and unity and resolve for our church to continue to pursue the Way of Jesus regardless of whom we voted for, by seeking justice, loving mercy, and following God.
- For all those worldwide who have suffered loss, tragedy and pain from recent hazards and attacks.

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The Reverend Brent A. Newberry, Pastor
Wesley Hall, Minister of Music and Art

Thanks for being here!

We are so glad you worshipped together with us this morning! Thank you for being here. Each of you matters to us, and we hope to get to know you better. We are a Welcoming & Affirming Church, and a Safe Space for all people.

What that means: Who you are, and how you're created is a gift to this world and this faith community, and we celebrate the ways your life gives witness to the way of Christ in both. Maybe it's your race or nationality, your age or vocation, your sexual orientation, your gender identity, your faith background, your political affiliation or personal aspirations, you are celebrated here. You are safe here, to fully be who God has created you to be. And if you would like to partner in ministry with us, we have no doubt that your participation will make us a better faith community.

We have weekly opportunities for learning and friendship. Check out our Announcement Flyer or subscribe from our website's home page (www.fbc-worc.org) to our weekly e-newsletter on the happenings of our church.

Following our services each week, we invite you to join us in Gordon Hall for coffee and refreshments, our treat! If you're new, we'd love a chance to get to know you, and if you're a regular, well, you know what to do--make a new friend! Gordon Hall is located through the exit to your right (the pulpit side).

All-Gender Restrooms are available in the rear of the sanctuary or to the exit to your right, near Gordon Hall. If you still aren't sure of their location, ask a new friend--they'll be happy to show you the way!

Last but not least! We have connection card inserts. Fill one out and drop it in the offering plate, and our Pastor will be happy to reach out during the week to answer any questions or give you any more information about our great church!