

Prelude

Advent Candle Lighting

...It's getting closer.

We feel it!

The days are shorter, but the lights burn brighter.

We're listening. We're eager to hear good news.

We've gathered together in the House of Joy.

We're here to praise God with our voices.

We're here to praise God with beautiful music.

We're here to praise God with all we have.

Today we light the candle of Joy.

*Hymn 88

(vs 1-4, and 7)

Call To Confession

Prayer of Confession Hymn #83

Verse 1

*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.*

**Lord Jesus, deliver us from the consequences of our sin,
lead us back home to you, and establish your kingdom in our lives.**

Verse 2

*Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

**Our hearts long for your blessing, and our world yearns for your presence.
Come to us now with forgiveness and rule in our lives forever.**

Verse 3

*Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

Hear our prayers in the stillness of our hearts, O God.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Verse 4

*By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

In whatever wilderness you have found yourself, know that you are not distant from God. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. God is preparing a way for you. Thanks be to God. Amen. Rejoice, and share your joy with each other. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Announcements

*Hymn 84

Creator of the Stars of Night

Prayer request cards collected during this hymn

Prayer for Illumination

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture

Ezra 1:1-4, 3:1-4, 10-13

Sermon

The Return of the Jews

Offering / Offertory

*Sabbath Doxology

*Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Communion

*Hymn 101

No Wind at the Window

Benediction

Postlude

Participating in Worship

Rev. Marci Glass - Preaching
Sean Rogers ~ Sabbath Musician