Hope for the Holidays Order of Worship December 2020

Prelude Michael Frank
Listen for His Coming arr. Mark Hayes

(Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence and O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

Gathering Together Steve Wilson

Opening Prayer Barb Wakefield

Advent Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. (Refrain)

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

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) O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. (Refrain)

Words: Latin, c. 12th century/Sts 1-2 trans. John Mason Neale/St. 3 trans. Henry Sloan Coffin Music: *VENI EMMANUEL* adpt. Thomas Helmore/accomp. John Weaver

†

1st Scripture Reading

Psalm 137:1-4

Kathy Bowser

¹ By the rivers of Babylon— there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. ² On the willows there we hung up our harps. ³ For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" ⁴ How could we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?

Introduction of Speaker

Don Ewing

Reflection

On Allowing Our Self to Feel the Pain

Dr. Lin Ewing

Prayer

Dave Geis

Hymn

How Can We Sing a Joyful Song?

How can we sing a joyful song? O God, our sorrows hem us in. When pain and grief seem all too strong, how can we sing a joyful hymn?

The world around finds songs to sing of laughter, mirth and happiness, But these sound false and even sting when what we feel is deep distress.

And yet, O God, we dare to sing for in our grief, we're not alone. You love this world and entered in by sending us your only Son.

You sent us hope — Emmanuel! O God-with-us, you bore our pain. And so we sing, for all is well! In Christ, we will be whole again.

Tune: *O WALY WALY* – Traditional English melody
Text: Copyright © 2009 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.
carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/

†

2nd Scripture Reading

1 Kings 19:11-12 (The Message)

Esther Gass

¹¹ Then [Elijah] was told, "Go, stand on the mountain at attention before GOD. GOD will pass by." A hurricane wind ripped through the mountains and shattered the rocks before GOD, but GOD wasn't to be found in the wind; after the wind an earthquake, but GOD wasn't in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake fire, but GOD wasn't in the fire; and after the fire a gentle and quiet whisper.

Reflection

On Honoring Our Pain at Christmas

Dr. Ewing

Prayer

Ellen Jubeck

Hymn

God is Calling

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs, through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise. Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder: God is calling – can you hear? God is calling, can you hear?

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers, through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair. Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading: God is calling – can you hear? God is calling, can you hear?

Words; Mary Louise Bringle Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY – Polish Carol/harm. Wilbur Lee

†

3rd Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Jan Hepler

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reflection

On Living Into Light and Hope

Dr. Ewing

Prayer Frank Hancock

Christmas Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks
Music: ST. LOUIS – Lewis Henry Redner

†

Benediction Frank Hancock

Postlude Michael Frank

I Will Come to You words and music: David Haas

I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be still and know I am here.

I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night, I will be your light, come and rest in me.

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

The Quartet:

Soprano – Shannon Meyers Alto – Sandy Wahnsiedler Tenor – Jan Hepler Bass - Dave Geis

OPC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilson The Rev. Dr. Donald R. Ewing Michael P. Frank, III Senior Pastor Parish Associate

Director of Music Ministries/Organist

Director of Education for Children and Youth Ronnie Bailey

Maureen Stecik Program Staff Assistant

Dale Remai Custodian

Tracy Messenger Marge Kuhn Financial Secretary of Accounting Financial Secretary of Contributions

Roberta Erickson Handbell Choir Director Tracy Messenger and Carol Huber **Nursery Attendants**

> 415 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139 412-828-5770 (Office) www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org