

Midweek Advent Service

December 6, 2023

Welcome to St James! *Our worship here is a tiny fragment of something else: it is part of the worship which is offered to God by Christian people every hour of the day and night, in every part of the world.*

When you come to worship here, it is as if you were dropping in on a conversation already in progress – a conversation between God and his people which began long before you were born and which will continue long after your death. So, do not be surprised or disturbed if there are some things which you do not understand right away. For a brief moment, you step into the continual stream of worship which is being offered today and which will be offered to the end of time.

P The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

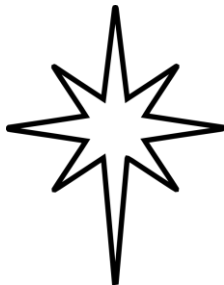
C Amen.

P It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

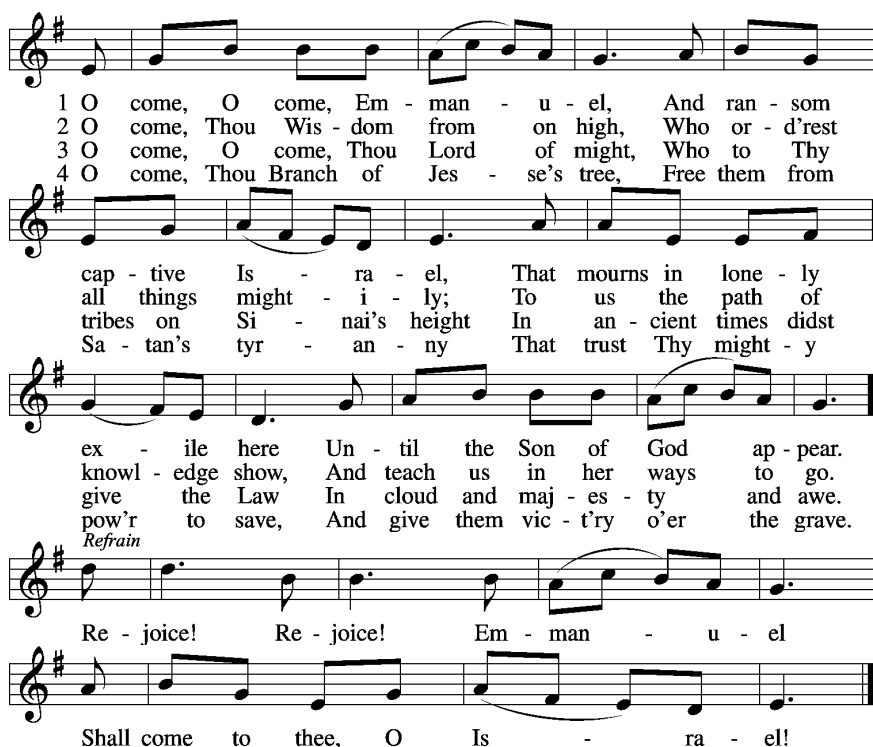
P to herald Your love in the morning,

C Your truth at the close of the day.



Opening Hymn # 357

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
 cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
 ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
Refrain
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
 Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
 And open wide our heav'nly home;
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 And close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination.

P Holy and gracious God,

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

P By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.

C **Amen.**



- P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- C** **Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might
and come to save us!**
- P** Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- C** **O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**
- P** You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- C** **You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.**
- P** Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- C** **You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.**
- P** You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.
- C** **The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.**
- P** It sent out its branches to the sea
and its shoots to the River.
- C** **Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**
- P** The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.
- C** **Turn again, O God of hosts!
Look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,**
- P** the stock that your right hand planted,
and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.
- C** **They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your face!**
- P** But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,
the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!
- C** **Then we shall not turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call upon your name!**
- P** Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!
Let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
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¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.



Sermon Hymn # 711

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we
 2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and
 4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly

need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures
 guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -
 sin - ful though we be; You have mer - cy to re -
 let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly

feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.
 fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.
 lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have

bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 let us turn to You. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,

bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
 bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.
 bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt.; Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68; Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

Please take a moment to sign and pass the “Record of Friendship” booklet or use the QR code located on the inside cover of the booklet.

Prayer

- P** Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C **listen to my cry.**
P Keep me as the apple of Your eye;
C **hide me in the shadow of Your wings.**
P In righteousness I shall see You;
C **when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.**
P Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
C **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 and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.
C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn # 348

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



- When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.; Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth;
Text and tune: Public domain

St. James Guiding Statement

Together we have found healing and hope in Jesus Christ and welcome others to experience these same Gospel promises.

St. James Mission Pillars

**Healing
Community
Restoration**



[St. James Attendance](#)



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