



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
First Sunday of Advent November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Community Worship Service – Advent Year A**  
**First Sunday of Advent, November 27<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S\\_Cfg1sWCg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg)

**RINGING OF THE BELL – *Please observe silence as we prepare for the service.***

**PRELUDE**

O Come, Emmanuel Charles Callahan

**GREETING *(Please stand)***

*Come, let's go together to God's mountain —  
a mountain of God's glory and peace.*

*Let's prepare for Christ's arrival —*

***the birth of the prince of peace.***

*Come, let's worship the Spirit of love.*

***Clothed in Christ's love, we are ready to worship and pray.***

**HYMN #211 *(Please remain standing)***

O come, O come, Emmanuel (Stanzas 1- 4)

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

***Reader One:*** "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"  
(Psalm 122:1 NRSV)

***Reader Two:*** We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in. We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation of the kingdom to come.

***Reader One:*** "Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in Gods paths'" (Isaiah 2:3 NRSV).

***Reader Two:*** We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored – our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

*(Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.)*

**OPENING PRAYER** *(Please be seated)*

*Draw near to us, O God, even as we draw near to you. Open our hearts and our minds to your presence and wake us up from the sleep and inattention holding us back. Prepare us to receive your love, even as we prepare our lives to celebrate the joy of Christ's birth. In joyful hope, we pray. Amen.*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** *(Please remain seated)*

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

- 2:1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- 2:2 In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.
- 2:3 Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- 2:4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
- 2:5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

**Psalms 122** *(Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)*

- 122:1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
- 122:2 Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 122:3 Jerusalem built as a city that is bound firmly together.**
- 122:4 To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
- 122:5 For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.**
- 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.
- 122:7 Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."**
- 122:8 For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."
- 122:9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.**

**Romans 13:11-14 (Epistle Reading)**

- 13:11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
- 13:12 the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;
- 13:13 let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.
- 13:14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**Matthew 24:36-44 (Please stand for the Gospel)**

- 24:36 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
- 24:37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- 24:38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,
- 24:39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- 24:40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.
- 24:41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.
- 24:42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
- 24:43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.
- 24:44 Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

*L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.*

***P: Thanks be to God.***

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
(Let us offer our silent confessions.)*

***God, we are ready now.***

***We want peace now.***

***We long to receive the Prince of Peace  
in our world today.***

***But don't delay too long, Holy One,  
for soon we'll be busy with parties,  
and decorating, and baking, and shopping.***

***Our lives are crammed so full,  
we find it hard to calendar you in;  
we find it hard to locate the time  
to welcome the Light of the World.***

***We need your help, O God.***

***Teach us to set aside our party wardrobes,  
and clothe ourselves in Jesus Christ.***

***Guide us into true readiness,  
even though we do not know the date and time,  
when true peace will reign.***

***Wake us up;***

***shake off the cobwebs of our complacency;  
and take us with you  
on the path up your holy mountain.***

***Plant your peace within us,  
so that each day, each moment,  
we may be ready for the harvest of your love. Amen.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*"The light of God's love shines brightly!"*

*The invitation is given:*

*Come, walk in the light.*

*In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.*

*In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.*

***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!***

## **HOMILY**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH # 882 (The Apostles' Creed, Ecumenical Version)**

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

**GLORIA PATRI**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

**HYMN #203**

Hail to the Lord's Anointed  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

**OFFERING**

<https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches>

**OFFERTORY**

Of the Father's Love Begotten Flor Peeters

**DOXOLOGY (Please stand)**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here  
below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy  
Ghost. Amen.***

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*God of peace and justice, in the past year we have once again witnessed the fruits of war: lives cut short, children made orphans, homes devastated, and hearts broken. We pray to see the day that Isaiah saw in his heart, when swords are pounded into plowshares. These gifts we give this morning, may they be used to make human hearts ready for peace and for the reign of your son. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH 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 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. Amen.*

### CLOSING HYMN #213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

## BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE *(Please be seated)*

Veni Emmanuel Wilbur Held

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Flowers on the Altar:**

*The poinsettia plant on the Altar is given by the Klines and Dodsons for the Glory of God.*

### **Thank You Worship Committee:**

*A special thank you to the Worship Committee who decorated the sanctuary for Advent as we prepare for Jesus' birth.*

### **Christmas Concert:**

*A Weary World Rejoices by Joseph Martin, featuring the Cashiers Valley Community Chorus, Accompaniment: Bryan Heller, and Director: Betty Morris **December 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM** at the Lewis Hall at The Village Green.*

### **Next Potluck/Covered Dish:**

*Our next potluck will be **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.*

### **Christmas Around the World:**

*Featuring the Cashiers Valley Children's Chorale **December, 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM** at the Albert Carlton – Cashiers Community Library: 249 Frank Allen Rd., Cashiers.*

**PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

***Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions.***

***Please pray for those having or had a surgery and their recovery.***

***We lift up those who are actively searching for employment and pray for perseverance for them.***

***Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the recent passing of a loved one.***

***Please continue to pray for our student scholars traveling & preparing for final exams, our local students, teachers and staff.***

**STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS**

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, [marcus61dodson@gmail.com](mailto:marcus61dodson@gmail.com)

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Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 and Scott Walter: 314-374-2969

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill: 828-884-3548

Liturgist: Tom Blackstock

***Hymns are located on the next few pages and used with permission via One License #737113-A***

# 211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive  
 2. O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, and or-der all things  
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on  
 4. O come, thou Root of Jes - se's tree, an en-sign of thy

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show  
 Si - nai's height in an-cient times once gave the law  
 peo - ple be; be - fore thee ru - lers si - lent fall;

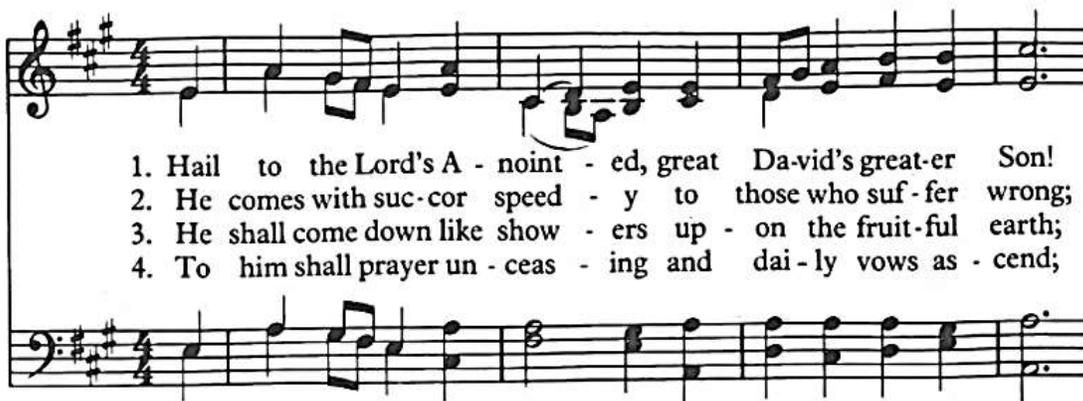
*Refrain*

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-  
 in cloud and maj-es - ty and awe.  
 all peo-ples on thy mer - cy call.

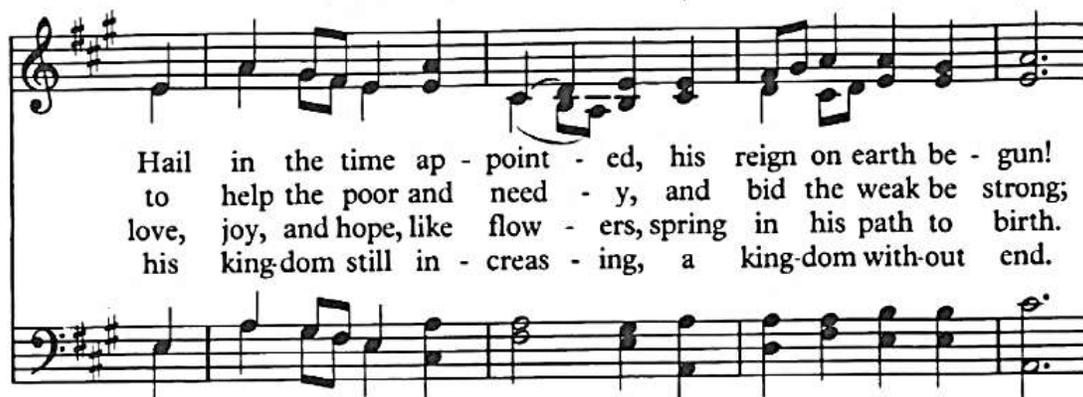
man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986  
 MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854

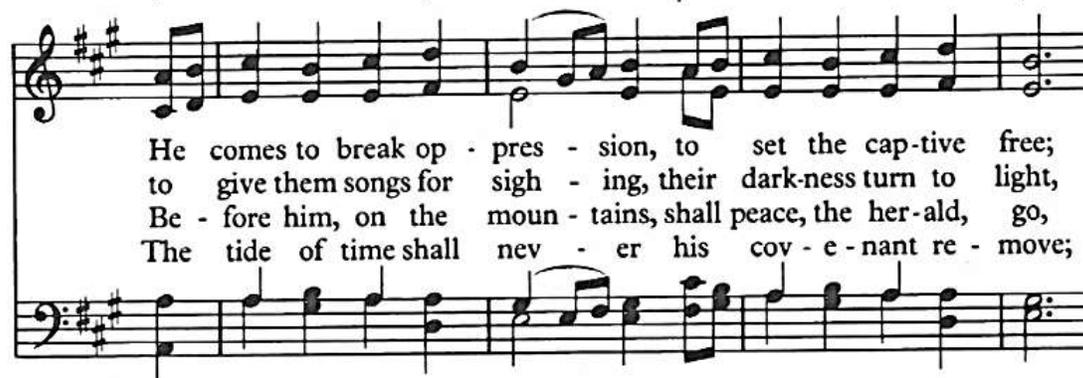
Sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. sts. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict



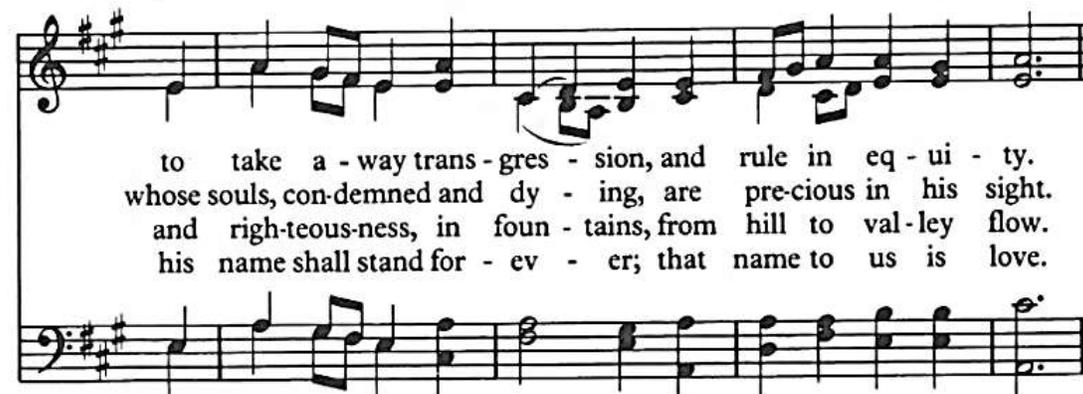
1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da-vid's great-er Son!  
 2. He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong;  
 3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
 4. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;



Hail in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!  
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.  
 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;  
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,  
 Be - fore him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her - ald, go,  
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.  
 and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.  
 his name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is love.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1821 (Ps. 72)  
 MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle*, 1784, alt;  
 adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868

ELLACOMBE  
 76.76 D

## Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 213

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates;  
 2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart;  
 3. Re - deem - er, come, with us a - bid;e;  
 4. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it lead us on

be - hold, the King of glo - ry waits;  
 make it a tem - ple, set a - part  
 our hearts to thee we o - pen wide;  
 un - til our glo - rious goal is won;

the King of kings is draw - ing near;  
 from earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy,  
 let us thy in - ner pres - ence feel;  
 e - ter - nal praise, e - ter - nal fame

the Sav - ior of the world is here!  
 a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 thy grace and love in us re - veal.  
 be - of - fered, Sav - ior, to thy name!

WORDS: Georg Weissel, 1642; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855 (Ps. 24)  
 MUSIC: *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO  
 LM