

**November 22, 2020
Crosscreek Baptist Church**

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Opportunities to Connect

Centering

A Blessing of Peace

Chiming of the Hour and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Advent Reading (Pam Alford and Cathy Lee)

Reader One: When I look around, I see shadows of hunger. So many people in this city and around the world will go to bed hungry tonight...

Reader Two: When I look around, I see shadows of injustice, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer, everyone saying, "Buy, buy, buy!" - and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight...

Reader One: In the face of hunger, we light a candle of hope...

Reader Two: In the face of injustice, in the face of despair, we light a candle of hope...
(Light the first candle.)

Reader One: Let the light from this candle say to all that God's hope is coming on earth as it already is in heaven.

Reader Two: Friends, be not afraid, God's hope is at hand!

The Lord's Prayer

...Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hearing

Hymn of Praise No. 83- "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

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.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

A Reading from the Gospels – Mark 13: 1-8 (Audrey Booen)

As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?" Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

This is the word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

A Moment for Children (Lindsay Winslow)

A Time of Reflection

"Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up."

--Anne Lamott

Worship in Song– Jessie Bollen

A Reading from the Hebrew Scripture – Isaiah 64: 1-8 (Gary Hyden)

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

This is the word of the Lord...

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Devotion No. 79 - "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.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,

Who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Sermon
Jim Evans

Responding Silence and Meditation

"Waiting on God requires the willingness to bear uncertainty, to carry in oneself the unanswered question, lifting the heart toward God about it whenever it intrudes upon one's thoughts." --Elizabeth Elliot

Hymn of Response No. - "Come Thou Almighty King"

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise.
Father, all glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

To Thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be
Hence evermore.
Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.

Enacting

Benediction and Blessing

Hymn of Parting “An Old Irish Blessing”

May the road rise to meet you, May the wind blow at your back, May the sun shine warmly on your face, May the rain fall softly on your field; And until we meet again, until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.

Postlude