

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

(One) This is the season of holy waiting.

(All) We wait for the One who will open the heavens and come down to save us.

(One) We watch for the day when God's name will be made known among the nations.

(All) We wait in the shadows for the Light of the World to appear.

(One) Come let us walk in the light of God!

Opening Prayer

Fourth Candle of Advent: Love

(One) Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

(All) We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Lighting of the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy & Love

(One) God of love, out of darkness you bring light.
Renew your love in us, so that we may be assured of Christ among us.

(All) God of Love, into our world come.

May your Spirit comfort us today

*Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(1) O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,



Community Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent
21 December 2025

that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

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

(2) O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. *Refrain*

(3) O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

(4) O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

(5) O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode. *Refrain*

(6) O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light. *Refrain*

(7) O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

Responsive Psalm

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

(One) Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph
like a flock!

**(All) You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine
forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir
up your might, and come to save us!**

(One) Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may
be saved.

**(All) O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry
with your people's prayers?**

(One) You have fed them with the bread of tears and given
them tears to drink in full measure.

**(All) You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our
enemies laugh among themselves.**

(One) Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that
we may be saved.

**(All) But let your hand be upon the one at your right
hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

(One) Then we will never turn back from you; give us life,
and we will call on your name.

**(All) Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face
shine, that we may be saved.**

Prayer of Confession

La Ténèbre

Our darkness is never darkness in your sight;
the deepest night is clear as the daylight.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

PROCLAMATION

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

New Testament Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

***Hymn (191)** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

(1) It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

(2) Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

(3) For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when, with the ever-circling years,
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

RESPONSE

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles Creed*

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 buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is

seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he will come 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 life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory

*Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

Passing of the Peace

Prayers of the People

(One) In Your mercy ...

(All) ... Hear our prayers.

The Lord's Prayer (sins/trespass)

SENDING

Charge

Benediction

Postlude

Wait for the Lord

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.*

Community Presbyterian Church

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Pianist/Worship Leader: Amy Humphreys

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,
7:11

"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven."

7:12

But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test."

7:13

Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also?"

7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.

7:15

He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

7:16

For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

1:2

which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,

1:3

the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh

1:4

and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

1:5

through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name,

1:6

including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

1:7

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit.

1:19

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly.

1:20

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

1:21

She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

1:22

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

1:23

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

1:24

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

1:25

but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.