

**EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2025**  
Praise Worship  
Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM, Austin Campus 10:30 AM

**“When We’re Running Out of Hope, God Is at Work”**

Gather

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**ADVENT VIDEO:** *GOOD NEWS IS LOUDER THAN FEAR*

**GATHERING SONG:** *LIGHT OF THE WORLD*

The world waits for a miracle  
The heart longs for a little bit of hope  
O come O come Emmanuel

A child prays for peace on earth  
And she’s calling out from a sea of hurt  
O come O come Emmanuel

And can you hear the angels singing

Glory to the light of the world, glory  
The light of the world, it is here

The drought breaks with the tears of a mother  
A baby’s cry is the sound of love  
Come down, come down Emmanuel

Here’s the song for the suffering  
Here’s Messiah  
The Prince of Peace has come  
He has come Emmanuel

Glory to the light of the world (4X)

For all who wait  
For all who hunger  
For all who’ve prayed  
For all who wonder

Behold your King  
Behold Messiah  
Emmanuel Emmanuel

Glory to the light of the world (3X)

Behold your King  
Behold Messiah  
Emmanuel Emmanuel

The world waits for the miracle  
The heart longs for a little bit of hope  
O come O come Emmanuel

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## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Family of faith, God is at work

**C: God is healing and creating**

P: Redeeming and dreaming

**C: Calling and sending**

P: Listening and loving

**C: God is at work**

P: May we worship our God who never gives up

**C: May we worship our God who holds onto hope, Amen**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Near the end of his ministry, John the Baptist reached out to Jesus with a heart full of anxiety. John was in jail. He knew he might not get out, so he asked Jesus, “Did I make a mistake? Am I making a difference here? Or did I get it all wrong?”

Like John, let us be fully honest with Jesus about our innermost thoughts. We can pour our heart out to God because God always meets us with grace, tenderness, and mercy.

Let us go to God in prayer.

P: On-the-move God

**C: We have every reason to hold onto hope**  
**We have every reason to believe that spring will come**  
**That flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise**  
**And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers**  
**With anxious hearts we cry out to you**  
**Will change ever come? Will things ever get better?**  
**Will I ever make a difference?**  
**Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where**  
**the sun is shining.**  
**Show us the places where you are on the move.**  
**With open hearts we pray, Amen**

P: Family of faith, in our honesty

**C: We are heard**

P: In our worries

**C: We are held**

P: In our failings

**C: We are forgiven**

P: In our fear

**C: We are not alone.**

P: This is the good news of the gospel

**C: When we're running out of hope, God is still at work**  
**Thanks be to God, Amen**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **SONG OF PRAISE: 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, O Dayspring come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadow put to flight  
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, O come Emmanuel  
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel  
Shall come to thee O Israel  
Emmanuel

Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – PEACE**

P: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?

**C: We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning  
When people shake hands  
When loved ones say they're sorry  
When the church sings together**

P: Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.

Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news.

*(light two candles)*

P: May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it.

**C: Thanks be to God, Amen**

Word

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## **WELCOMING THE CHILDREN**

**FIRST READING: ISAIAH 43:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> *I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*  
<sup>20</sup> *The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches,  
for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people, <sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.*

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**P:** The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 11:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> *Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples,  
he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.*  
<sup>2</sup> *When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing,  
he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him,  
“Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”*  
<sup>4</sup> *Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see:  
<sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are  
cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news  
brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”*  
<sup>7</sup> *As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:  
“What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?  
<sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes?  
Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go  
out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.*  
<sup>10</sup> *This is the one about whom it is written,  
‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’*  
<sup>11</sup> *“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than  
John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A: Insisting on hope this Advent, let us confess our faith.

**C: We have seen the valley**

**We have seen a sky without stars**

**We have seen the longest night**

**And still we believe**

**We believe in a with-us God**

**We believe in the hope of tomorrow**

**We believe that good news is louder than fear**

**We believe this good news is for all people**

**So even when our knees shake**

**Even when our voice trembles**

**Even when fear is all around us**

**We will hold on to that good news**

**We will reach for each other**

**We will look for God in our midst**

**We will sing songs of joy**

**We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born**

**We have seen the longest night**

**And we have seen unimaginable love**

**So still we believe, Amen**

### **SONG OF THE DAY: *COME TO THE WATER***

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water

And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord

Without money, without price, why should you pay the price

Except for the Lord

And let all who seek, let them come to the water

And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord

Without money, without strife, why should you spend your life

Except for the Lord

And let all who toil, let them come to the water  
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord  
All who labor without rest, how can your soul find rest  
Except for the Lord

And let all the poor, let them come to the water  
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord  
Bring the children without might, easy the load and light  
Come to the Lord (4X)

I will run to you, I will run to you, I will run to you my Lord (2X)

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## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** (*after each petition...*)

**A:** God of hope,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**M e a l**

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## **OFFERING:** *PREPARE THE WAY*

Prepare the way, prepare the way  
Prepare the way of the Lord (*Repeat*)

Jesus Jesus

You are the light of the world (3X)  
Jesus(*Repeat*)

You are the King of the earth (3X)  
Jesus (*Repeat*)

Jesus Jesus

Words and Music by Charlie Hall and Louie Giglio © sixsteps Music, worshiptogether.com Songs

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

## 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 and ever. Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*If you are unable to attend worship due to health concerns, please contact the church office to be included on the homebound list.*

*Christ welcomes you to the meal of grace! All who desire to receive Christ's nourishment and grace may join us at the Lord's Table. (9:00) Please come to the table by the diagonal aisle and return to your seat by the center or a front aisle. Communion is by intinction; dip the wafer in the red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available at the front of the center aisle. (10:30) Please come to the table by the center aisle and return to your seat by the front or side aisle. Communion is by intinction; dip the bread in the red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*

## COMMUNION SONG: I SPEAK JESUS

**Verse 1:** I just want to speak the name of Jesus  
Over every heart and every mind  
'Cause I know there is peace within your presence  
I speak Jesus

**Verse 2:** I just want to speak the name of Jesus  
'Til every dark addiction starts to break  
Declaring there is hope and there is freedom  
I speak Jesus



**Chorus:** 'Cause your name is power  
Your name is healing  
Your name is life  
Break every stronghold  
Shine through the shadows  
Burn like a fire

**Verse3:** I just want to speak the name of Jesus  
Over fear and all anxiety  
To every soul held captive by depression  
I speak Jesus (*Chorus*)

**Bridge:** Shout Jesus from the mountains  
Jesus in the street  
Jesus in the darkness over every enemy  
Jesus for my family  
I speak the holy name Jesus (*Sing 3X*) (*Chorus 2X*) (*Verse 1*)

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## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

Send

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### **CLOSING SONG:** *BLESSED BE YOUR NAME*

Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful  
Where your streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be your name

Blessed be your name when I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed be your name

**Pre-Chorus:** Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord still I will say

**Chorus:** Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be your glorious name

Blessed be your name when the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's all as it should be  
Blessed be your name

Blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering  
Blessed be your name (*Pre-Chorus, Chorus*)

**Bridge:** You give and take away, you give and take away  
My heart will choose to say, Lord blessed be your name  
(Repeat) (*Chorus*)

Words and Music by Matt Redman and Beth Redman © 2002 Thankyou Music

## **BENEDICTION**

**P:** In a fearful world, may we look for God's spirit.  
May we reach for each other's hands.  
May we choose courage whenever we can.  
And in all things, may we remember that good news is louder than fear.  
In the name of the one who calls, † the one who sends,  
and the one who journeys with— go in peace and be not afraid.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Serving in Worship

#### Far Hills Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Corey Wagonfield
Assisting Minister:	Jane Lane
Praise Team:	Michele Borns, Gabe Ferraiuolo, Mary Groom, Dick Lane, Bill Norman, Erika & Scott Watamaniuk
Youth Praise Band:	Gwyn Alexander, Connor Cusick, Olivia Donaghue, Danny Fulton, Felicity Glass, Hannah Hendrickson, Madison McGaha, Hannah Shreve
A/V:	Spencer Watamaniuk, Jerry Slaughter
Ushers:	Tom Gariety, Ryan Helbach
Communion:	William Deel, Lori & Mason Watamaniuk, Becky Zink

Austin Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister:	Owen Smith
Praise Team:	Michele Borns, Gabe Ferraiuolo, Mary Groom, Dick Lane, Bill Norman, Erika & Scott Watamaniuk
A/V:	Spencer Watamaniuk, Billy Heaning
Usher:	Kim Brown
Communion:	The Leep Family