

Advent by Candlelight

December 2020

THE OPENING MUSIC – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, Roberta Jones*

THE WELCOME, *Tracee Denlinger*

THE OPENING PRAYER, *all together*

Please join me in this prayer written by Clair Brown & Michael T. McRay.

Meet us here, O God of winter and waiting,

O God who struggles with us and kindles our hope.

Come in all your splendor and suffering.

Comfort all who mourn.

Let all who are crushed rise into the blooming of a new and better world.

Teach us to channel our collective lament, longing and love

into a force that can raise the devastations and rebuild the ruined cities.

Show us that the darkness around us and within us is a door.

It is soil and we are seed.

Show us that we are wick, and your spirit is flame.

Alone, we flicker. Together, we blaze. Amen.

A CALL TO BEGIN OUR ADVENT JOURNEY, *Ellen Werner & Sharon Kahle*

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!

AN INTRODUCTION TO ADVENT, *Betsy DeGory*

A CAROL – Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, *all together*

**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.**

THE FIRST CANDLE – Darkness

THE SCRIPTURE TEXT – Psalm 139: 7-12

Leader: Here ends the Scripture reading.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

A CAROL – Watchman, Tell Us of the Night, *all together*

**Watchman, tell us of the night,
what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight:
see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
promised day of Israel.**

**Watchman, tell us of the night;
higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
see, it bursts o'er all the earth.**

**Watchman, tell us of the night,
for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight;
doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, you may go your way;
hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today,
for Emmanuel has come!**

THE SECOND CANDLE – *Desire, Melanie Wardrop*

THE SCRIPTURE TEXT – Psalm 42: 1-4

Leader: Here ends our Scripture reading.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

INSTRUMENTAL – *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

THE THIRD CANDLE – *Preparing a Space*

THE SCRIPTURE TEXT – Isaiah 40: 3-5

Leader: Here ends our Scripture reading.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

A SOLO – *Be Born in Me, Julia, Sophie & Emma Runge*

THE FOURTH CANDLE – *Hope*

THE SCRIPTURE TEXT – Luke 1: 39-45

Leader: Here ends our Scripture reading.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SOLO – *Born in the Night, Mary's Child*

THE ADVENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER, *all together*

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

THE LIGHTING OF INDIVIDUAL CANDLES

A CAROL – Silent Night, Holy Night, *all together*

Silent night, holy night!	Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,	Son of God, love's pure light
Round yon virgin mother and child!	Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,	With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Sleep in heavenly peace,	Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Sleep in heavenly peace.	Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

THE BLESSING

A CAROL – Joy to the World, *all together*

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

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