

Peace on Earth?

Peace in the World



Advent Evening Prayer

December 20, 2023 6:30pm

Scripture Readings

Psalm 46

John 14:23–31; 16:32–33

Advent 2023 – Peace on Earth?

A Prayer before Worship

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

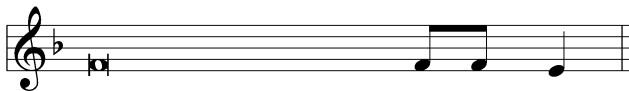
Prelude: CONSOLATION (“What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”), D. Maxwell

Stand. Candles will be lit from the pastors as they pass by.



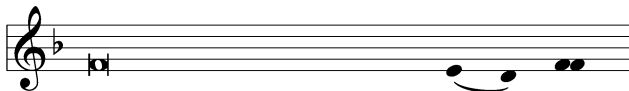
L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

[John 8:12]

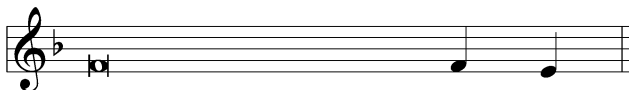


C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

[John 1:5]

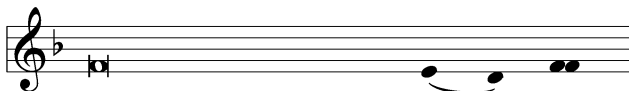


L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C and the day is almost o - ver.

Luke 24:29



L Let Your light scatter the dark - ness

1 Corinthians 4:5



C and il - lu - mine Your Church.

[2 Corinthians 4:6]

Phos Hilaron



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:
C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,
bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the
set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.
We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:
You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -
ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:
the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

Thanksgiving for Light

L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



C A - men.

Sit



C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



II Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



I Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.



II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.

Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in
the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.
Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



L Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C Amen.

Candles are extinguished at this time.



Office Hymn: What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

LSB 342



- 1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
- 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da - vid's line,
- 3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
- 4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword— Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

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Tune: Public domain



The First Reading *Psalm 46*

- ¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
- ³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
- ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
- ⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- ⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
- ⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
- ¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”
- ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.



God is our
refuge
and
strength,
a very
present
help in
trouble.

Psalm 46:1

The Second Reading *John 14:23–31; 16:32–33*

²³Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here. . . .

³²Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Silence for reflection on God’s Word

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**



The Small Catechism: *The Apostles' Creed—The First Article—Creation*

L As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household:
The Apostles' Creed, The First Article, Creation.

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

L What does this mean?

C I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

The
Apostles'
+ Creed +

Sermon Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

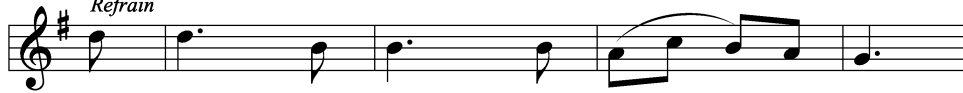


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
 Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 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. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

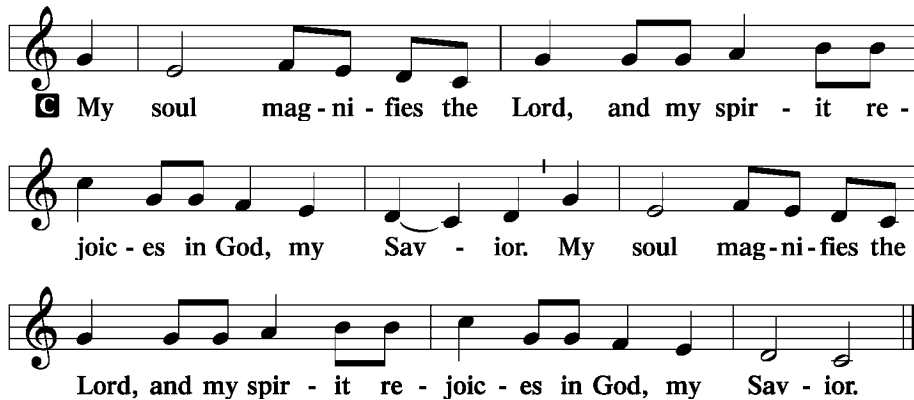
Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

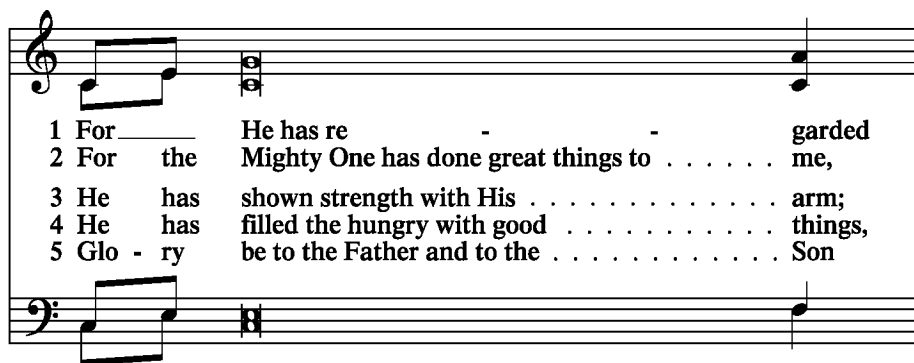
Stand

Magnificat

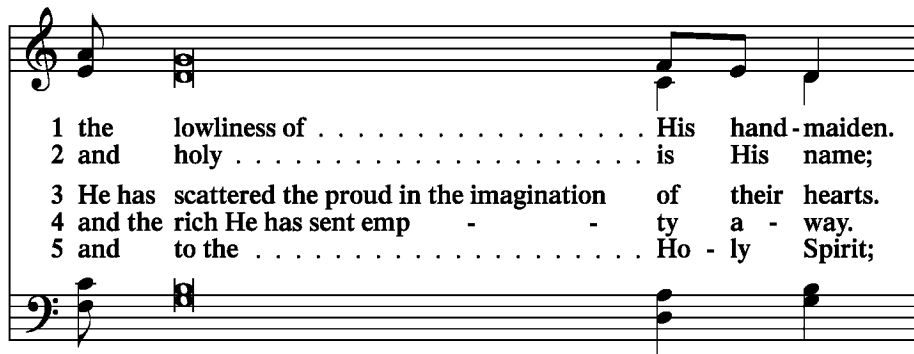
Luke 1:46-55



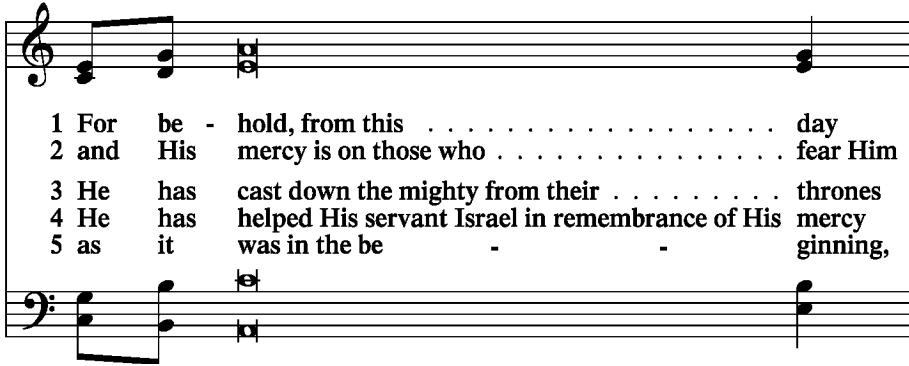
My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag - ni - fies the
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



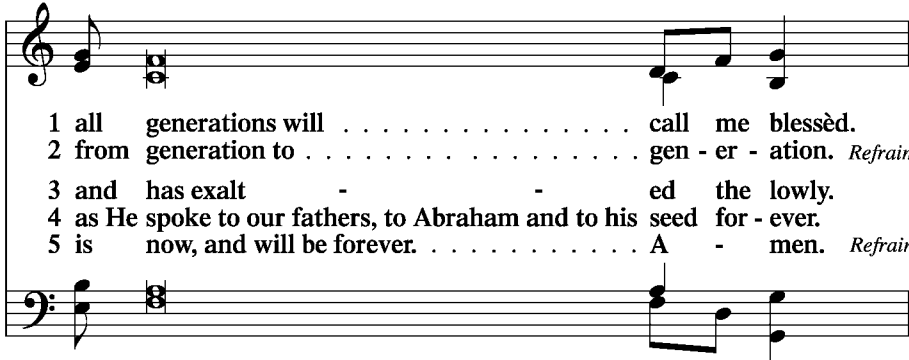
1 For He has re - garded
2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
3 He has shown strength with His arm;
4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son



1 the lowliness of His hand - maiden.
2 and holy is His name;
3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
4 and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.
5 and to the Ho - ly Spirit;



1 For be - hold, from this day
 2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,



1 all generations will call me blessed.
 2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
 5 is now, and will be forever. A - men. *Refrain*

Thank you for continuing to support the Lord's Work here at Bethany. Offering plates are available at the back of the sanctuary, or consider giving through the Vanco Mobile app or online at www.bethanylcs.org.



Litany

The congregation's response begins just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.



L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.

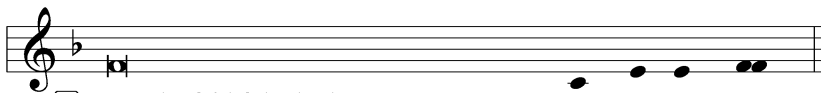
L For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

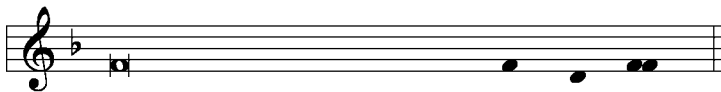
A brief silence is observed. The following petitions and responses do not overlap.



L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

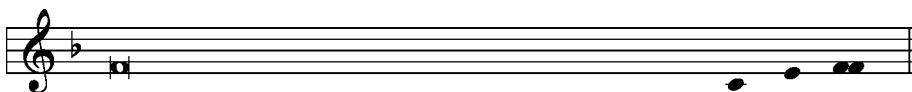


C Al - le - lu - ia.

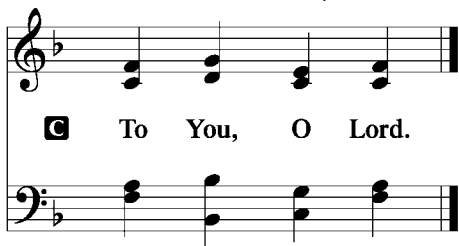


L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



C To You, O Lord.

Collect For Peace

- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

- L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C 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.

The
LORD'S
Prayer

Benedicamus



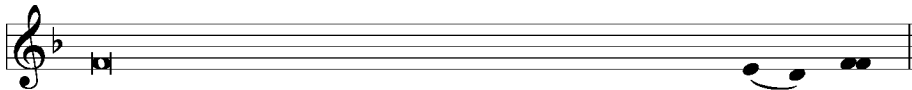
L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

[Psalm 103:1]

Benediction



P The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.



Closing Hymn: Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

LSB 352



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”),
K. Hildebrand



A Prayer after Worship

Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Those Serving You Today

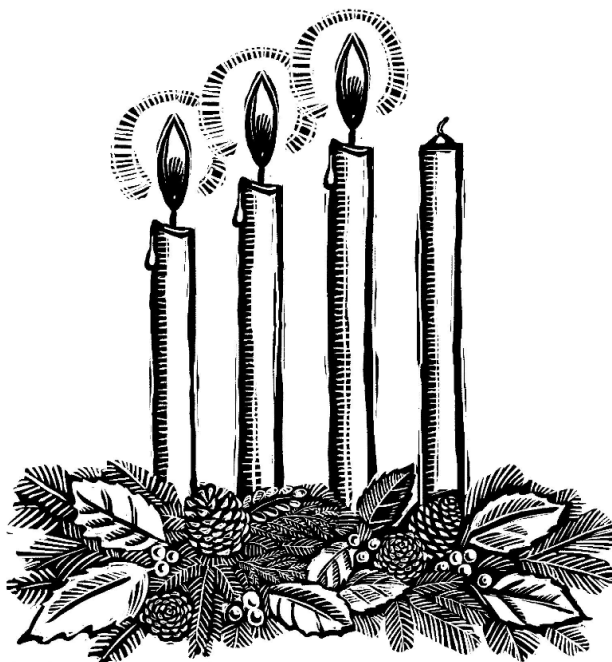
Pastor: Rev. Seth Clemmer

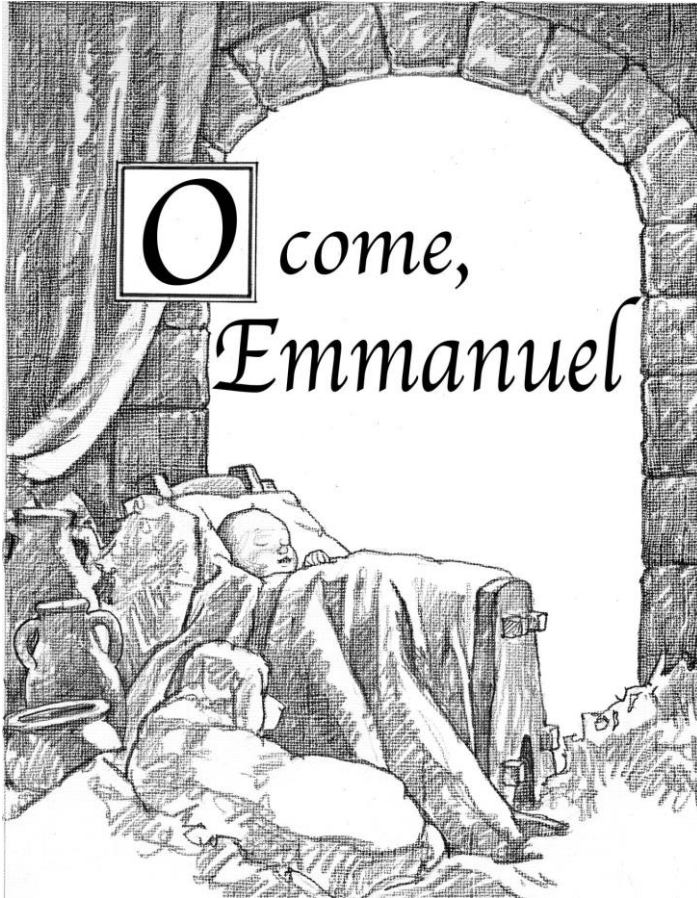
Organist: Tom Mueller

Live Stream Tech: James Blasius

Acolytes: Gabriel Koenig, Henry Daskas

Ushers: Andy Crouse, JJ Stehle





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www.bethanylcs.org

630-355-2198

Pastor Seth Clemmer

Pastor Stephen Schumacher

Pastor Emmett Bartens

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