



ADVENT 2020

First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto
625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301

ORGAN MEDITATION

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying
Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People
Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Flor Peeters
Flor Peeters
Johannes Brahms
J.J. Keeler

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

CHANT

Emmanuel, God With Us

Robert H. Young

Veni, veni Emmanuel;
Captivum solve Israel,
Qui gemit in exilio,
Privatus Dei Filio.
Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel,
Nascetur pro te, Israel!

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, 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!

*THE BIDDING PRAYER

Pamela Cutkosky

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the
dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the
reign of Christ, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of the Christ Child,
we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us:
how that when we were far off, God came in Jesus Christ,
and how God took our human form, that we might share divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and
hymns of praise, that our lives may be filled with this grace;
that we may bear witness to God's glory and so bring light to
those who sit in darkness.

THE BLESSING

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Open wide, O Lord, the gates of heaven,
and visit thy people in peace.
Send forth thy Spirit from on high
that their hearts may be uplifted unto thee.
O Lord, who for us wast of a maiden born,
make holy thy people, and bless thine heritage.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
who reigns now and forevermore,
be amongst you and abide with you forever. Amen.

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ, Amen.

*CAROL NO. 214

Savior of the Nations, Come

sung by all

Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, here make thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood;
by the Spirit of our God
was the Word of God made flesh,
woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
of the Virgin undefiled!
Human and divine in one,
eager now his race to run!

God the Father is his source,
back to God he runs his course;
down to death and hell descends,
God's high throne he reascends.

Now the manger's halo bright
hallows night with newborn light;
let no night this light subdue,
let our faith shine ever new.

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

David Pickering



Senior Pastor: Reverend Dr. Debra Murray
Director of Music: Mark Shaull
Organist: Diane Keller

ADVENT PROCESSION WITH CAROLS

December 6, 2020

6 PM

In the old English liturgies, Advent services made a vivid preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Much of Procession with Carols for an Advent Sunday is drawn from these old sources, and frequently the words of new carols have a similar antiquity. From the beginnings of Israel through the period of the New Testament and the Middle Ages, people took up the same language and used it afresh to speak of their own experiences. This Advent service draws on varied sources to express the expectations of God's people in many ages, as they prepare for Christmas. We therefore join together in this traditional ceremonial service of processions and carols, expectantly awaiting God's work anew.

Drawing from the models at King's College, Cambridge, England, choral music has been chosen to fit and comment upon the lessons to be read. The music has been chosen and the movements of the Chancel Choir adapted to fit the spaces and acoustics of First Palo Alto United Methodist Church. In the service, the procession moves from the semi-darkness at the Narthex to the light at the Chancel. From the darkness, which precedes the word of Creation in Genesis, our readings progress to the vision of the City of God, which has "no need of sun and moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light and its lamp is the Lamb" (Revelation 21:23). Life apart from God is described as that of an arid desert place. But into this world enters God's mercy as rain, the "constant falling" of divine goodness, which transforms our lives and the world about us: the dew discovered in the morning becomes an image for the secret working of God's mercy. With the birth of a child, born in obscurity whilst the rest of the world was asleep, God intervened in history and gives real hope of lives continuously transformed from fragmentation to wholeness. Into the black despair that our world faces in an age of war, Christ brings light and hope. In this service, as in all of the Advent season, we recall the world's need for Christ's grace.

CAROL UMH 196

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

sung by all

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.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

Colleen Crangle

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHORALE

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

arr. by Paul Bunjes

Comfort, comfort now my people:
"Tell of peace" so says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near.
Calling us to true repentance
since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet Him,
and the hills bow down to greet Him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
And all the flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

SECOND LESSON *Isaiah 35:1-10* Sumith Kalas
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL UMH 202 vs. 1 & 4 *People, Look East* sung by all

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

THIRD LESSON *Isaiah 11:1-9* Nancy Glaser
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth* Richard Shepherd

Chancel Choir & Fiume di Musica
Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin-birth:
let every age adoring fall;
such birth befits the God of all.
Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness glow with new-born light,

life immortal; through the Christ who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

Leader: We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord:
All: In the midst of thy temple.

ANTHEM *Lo How A Rose* Richard Shephard

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming,
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As men of old have sung;
It came, a blossom bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind;
To show God's love aright,
She bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispel with glorious splendour
The darkness everywhere;
True man, yet very God,
From Sin and death now save us,
And share our every load.

ADVENT LITANY

Leader: Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed:
All: Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord will be with you.
Leader: Stand still, and you shall see the salvation of the Lord.
All: Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord will be with you.
Leader: Glory be to God whose mercy is endless.
All: Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord will be with you.

ANTHEM *There Is No Rose* Gerald Near
Chancel Choir and Soloists

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu; Alleluia.
For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space; Resmiranda. (“*A wondrous thing.*”)
By that rose we may well see
That He is God in persons three, Paresforma. (“*Equal in form.*”)
The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gaudeamus. (“*Let us rejoice.*”)
Now leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth; Transeamus. (“*We travel on.*”)
Resmiranda, Paresforma, Gaudeamus, Transeamus, Alleluia.

CHORALE *Wachet auf! ruft uns die Stimme* J. S. Bach
Now let every tongue adore thee!
Let men and angels sing before thee!
Let harps and cymbals now unite!
All thy gates with pearl are glorious,
Where we partake, through faith victorious,
With angels round thy throne of light.
No mortal eye hath seen,
No mortal ear hath heard
Such wondrous things;
Therefore with joy our song shall soar
In praise to God for evermore.

SEVENTH LESSON *Mark 1:1-15* Reverend Dr. Debra Murray
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN CHORALE INTERLUDE
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme J.S. Bach

THE COLLECT FOR ADVENT Pamela Cutkosky, Lay Leader

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light now in the time of this mortal life in which Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; so that, at the last day, when he shall come again in glorious majesty, to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the

no more shall night extinguish day,
where love's bright beams their power display.

O Jesu, virgin-born, to thee
eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

FOURTH LESSON *Isaiah 65:17-25* Bill Davidson
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL UMH vs. 1,3 & 4 *My Soul Gives Glory to My God* sung by all

My soul gives glory to my God,
My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
In many marvelous ways.

From age to age to all who fear,
Such mercy love imparts,
Dispensing justice far and near,
Dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
Promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied;
The rich seem suddenly poor.

ANTHEM *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* Michael D. Costello
Chancel Choir

O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.

Your Zion strews before You
Green boughs and fairest palms;
And I too will adore You
With joyous songs and psalms.

My heart shall bloom forever
For You with praises new
And from Your name shall never
Withhold the honor due.

I lay in fetters, groaning;
You came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning;
You came to honor me.
A glorious crown You give me,
A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me
As earthly riches fly.

Love caused Your incarnation;
Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.
Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
Who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed
And tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you,
He's standing at the door
Who best can help and cheer you
And bids you weep no more.

He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to his foes,
A light of consolations,
And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth your beams most cheering,
And guide us safely home.

FIFTH LESSON *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, 23-24*
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL NO. 213 *Lift Up Your Heads , Ye Mighty Gates* sung by all

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

ANTHEM *The Angel Gabriel* Robert H. Young

The angel Gabriel from heaven came
His wings as drifted snow
His eyes as flame
"All hail" said he "thou lowly maiden Mary
Most highly favored lady, " Gloria, Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be
All generations laud and honor thee
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel
By seers foretold
Most highly favored maid, " Gloria, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head
"To me be as it pleaseth God, " she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria, Gloria!

SIXTH LESSON *Luke 1:26-35, 38* Pamela Cutkosky, Lay Leader
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**