EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

19285 Holland Glade Road
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VISION: Exploring Faith, Embracing Community
MISSION: Inviting, Belonging, Connecting, Caring

November 29, 2026 10:00a.m. Unified Worship
1st Sunday in Advent (Year B)

~ We Gather in Worship ~

EMMANUEL

Raymond Badham, ©2000 Hillsong Publishing
Praise Team

Together in this place of worship
Your greatness we proclaim.
We stand as one in giving You
all glory and acclaim
To You our hearts are open,
to You our hands we raise.
Come take the place of honor in our lives.
Emmanuel, our God is with us.
Prince of peace, mighty one, the ever-living God.
Emmanuel, our God is with us.
Prince of peace, mighty one, the ever-living God.

See the praises of our Savior rise to open skies.
With the dawning of redemption Your glory will arise.
For You alone are worthy,
here in Zion You are praised.
Our Lord and King forever You will reign.
{Repeat Chorus}

To You our hearts are open,
to You our hands we raise.
Come take the place of honor in our lives.
For You alone are worthy,
here in Zion You are praised.
Our Lord and King forever You will reign.
{Repeat Chorus}

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan, & Paul Mabury
©2013 Sony ATV Timber Publishing
Praise Team / Chancel Choir

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 callin' out from a sea of hurt,
O come, o come, Emmanuel.
And can you hear the angels singing…
Glo-o-ry to the light of the world.
Glo-o-ry the light of the world 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.

He is the song for the suffering,
He is Messiah, the Prince of Peace has come,
He has come, Emmanual, oh…
{Chorus 2x}

For all who wait, for all who hunger,
for all who've prayed, for all who wonder.
Behold your King, behold Messiah,
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.
Glo-o-ry to the light of the world.
Glo-o-ry to the light of the world.
Glo-o-ry to the light of the world.
Behold your King, behold Messiah,
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

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

Welcome Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Announcements Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

EVEN SO, COME (COME, LORD JESUS)

Chris Tomlin, Jess Cates & Jason Ingram ©2015 sixsteps Songs
Praise Team

All of creation, all of the earth
make straight a highway, a path for the Lord;
Jesus is coming soon.
Call back the sinner, wake up the saint,
let every nation shout of Your fame;
Jesus is coming soon.
Like a bride waiting for her groom,
we'll be a Church ready for You.
Every heart longing for our King,
we sing: Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come.

There will be justice, all will be new.
Your name forever, faithful and true;
Jesus is coming soon. *{Refrain}*

So we wait, we wait for You.
God, we wait; You're coming soon.
So we wait, we wait for You.
God, we wait; You're coming soon.
Like a bride waiting for her groom,
we'll be a Church ready for You.
Every heart longing for our King,
we sing: {Refrain}
Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come. {Repeat 3x}

God we wait, we wait for You.
God we wait, You're coming soon.
{Repeat section 4x}
God we wait, You're coming soon. *{Refrain}*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

In a world of war, famine, and disease,
where children grow up as orphans,
where families go hungry
and entire regions face destruction by illness,
God, we call upon you to come.

In a world where so many have lost hope,
we call upon you, Lord of Hope, to come.

In this season of Advent,
we wait for the coming of Hope into our world.
We await the birth of the Christ-child,
the coming of God into our lives in a new way.
Come, Messiah, come, and save us.

Dear God, we pray for the hope that is in Christ
to come into our lives in a new way.
May we become hope that is alive in our world. **Amen.**

Kid's Time — Joy Gordy-Stith

VIEW THE PRESENT THROUGH THE PROMISE

Thomas H. Troeger, 1994 / Traditional Welsh melody
Congregational Hymn

View the present through the promise,
Christ will come again.
Trust despite the deepening darkness,
Christ will come again.
Lift the world above its grieving
through Your watching and believing
in the hope past hope's conceiving:
Christ will come again.

Probe the present with the promise,
Christ will come again.
Let Your daily actions witness,
Christ will come again.
Let Your loving and Your giving
and Your justice and forgiving
be a sign to all the living:
Christ will come again.

Match the present to the promise,
Christ will come again.
Make this hope Your guiding premise,
Christ will come again.
Pattern all Your calculating
and the world you are creating
to the advent you are waiting:
Christ will come again.

Prayers of the People — Carolyn Mohr

Let us pray for the Spirit of Wisdom
to give us a spirit of understanding and knowledge
Help us to live in harmony.
§ May God's mercy prevail.

Let us pray for God's steadfastness to gird our spirit
May peace prevail like lamb and wolf
Help us to live in harmony
§ May God's mercy prevail.

Let us pray, for voices crying out in the wilderness
Women living in fear, children hiding
Grant all a place of harmony
§ May God's mercy prevail.

Let us pray, repent of harm done to the innocent
Clear the chaff of abuse and hurt
Bear the Spirit of harmony
§ May God's mercy prevail.

Let us pray for the God of hope, joy and peace
to fill all hearts as we pray in one voice to glorify You.
God, prepare the way
§ May God's mercy prevail.
And now with the confidence of the Children of God,
let us pray as Christ taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Spoken

GOD, ALMIGHTY, WE ARE WAITING

E. Ann Bell, 2005 / Rowland H. Pritchard, 1906
Congregational Hymn

God Almighty, we are waiting
for a Savior to appear.
Meet us in our desert journey
give a sign that you are near:
burning bushes, parted waters,
food aplenty in the wild.
As we look for signs and wonders,
help us see you in a child.

God Incarnate, we are waiting
for the feast day of Your birth.
Looking back and looking forward
to the Christ's return to earth.
Help us to proclaim the gospel,
'til the world is reconciled.
Let us set Your holy table
for each woman, man, and child.

God the Spirit, we are waiting
for Your presence here and now.
Humbled by our sinful weakness,
at Your mercy we will bow.
Search our hearts and make us ready,
speak in language strong and mild,
help each one of us, Your people,
to receive you like a child.

Lesson: *Isaiah 11:1-10* Joy Gordy-Stith, reader

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

May this scripture inspire us all…

§ to walk in the way that leads to life.

CREATION WILL BE AT PEACE

Words based on Isaiah 11:6-9 by J. Paul Williams
Music by Anna Laura Page ©1992
Chancel Choir Anthem

In the holy mountain of the Lord
all war and strife will cease;
In the holy mountain of the Lord
creation will be at peace. {Repeat section}

The wolf will lie down with the lamb,
the cow and bear will feed,
Their young will play together; a little child will lead,
a little child will lead. *{Refrain}*

The leopard and goat will graze,
the lion will feed on straw.
They will war no more, they will war no more;
A child will lead them all, will lead them all. *{Refrain}*

TAG: Creation will be at peace.

Prayer for Our Pastor Joy Gordy-Stith

Sermon Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Joseph M. Martin
Chancel Choir

Veni, veni, Emmanuel. Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Veni, veni, Emmanuel. Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Deliver us from doubt and fear.
Grant us joy and peace.
Restore our hope, redeem our hearts.
Let our sorrows cease.
Let all our bitterness and hate
surrender to your loving way,
O veni, veni, come, Emmanuel.

Veni, veni, Emmanuel. Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Veni, veni, Emmanuel. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Our longing hearts are waiting Lord,
waiting in the night.
Let all the clouds of sin and shame
give way to truth and light.
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease.
Fill all the world with joy and peace.
O veni, veni, come, Emmanuel.

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

Benediction Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

KING OF HEAVEN

Paul Baloche & Jason Ingram ©2012 Integrity Worship Music
Praise Team / Chancel Choir

Jesus, let Your kingdom come here;
let Your will be done here in us;
Jesus, there is no one greater;
You alone are Savior; show the world Your love.

King of Heaven, come down;
King of Heaven, come now;
Let your glory reign, shining like the day,
King of Heaven, come;
King of Heaven, rise up,
who can stand against us;
You are strong to save, in your mighty name,
King of Heaven, come.

We are children of your mercy,
rescued for your glory;
We cry Jesus, set our hearts towards You,
that ev'ry eye would see You lifted high. *{Chorus}*

Our Church Family

Lay Leader: Doreen Hartley … *Lead Pastor*: Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith
Pastor of Media & Communications: Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith
Deacon: Kristin Weschler … *Minister of Music:* Doug Yetter
Coordinator of Caring Ministries: Mickie McManamon
Coordinator of Belonging Ministries: Gwen Osborne
Office Manager: Tammy Zhang … *Bookkeeper:* Bryan Warner
Production Team: Mike Duer / Shaun Redick / Bryan Warner / Aysha Damir
Director of Youth Services: Joy Gordy-Stith … *Lead Interpreter*: Sandy Roca
Preschool Director: Betsy Plowman … *Kitchen Sexton:* Maureen Knesel
Maintenance: Adam Coursey … *Cemetery Superintendent*: Jay Stevenson

Stephen Ministers, wearing blue name badges, will be at each service if anyone in our Epworth family wants to talk about life challenges.

The special Candle of Peace and Justice on the Altar shines to remind us of God's desire for peace throughout our world and our call to be God's peacemakers.