

OFFERING

Ushers with offering plates will pass by each pew. Please pass your gift to the usher or place in the box on the table in the rear of the sanctuary.

Ally and Randy Bunnell 8:45 am

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Jill Friedersdorf & Melissa Malvar-Keylock

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.
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
O come desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid every strife and quarrel cease;
and fill the world with heaven's
peace. Refrain

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes 11 am

Hal Hopson

Thou shalt know him when he
comes,
Not by any din of drums,
Nor the manner of his airs,
Nor by anything he wears;
Thou shalt know him when he
comes,

Not by his crown or his gown,
But his coming known shall be
By the holy harmony,
Which his coming makes in thee.
Thou shalt know him when he
comes. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:7-18

HOMILY

Change Agent

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION*

8:45 am *see insert*

Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast 616

We welcome you, as your mask remains on, to come forward to share the Bread and Cup. Upon receiving the Meal, simply remove your mask at that moment, then return to your pew with your mask on. Or, if you would like to remain where you are, we welcome you to utilize the Communion packet at your pew.

HYMN*

For the Healing of the Nations 428

BENEDICTION

Go now in peace.
Stand firm in your faith. Be strong. Be brave.
Let everything you do be done in love.

POSTLUDE

Noel

Louis-Claude Daquin 11 am



Rayne

Memorial United Methodist Church

for 145 years shining the light of God's love and grace

3900 Saint Charles Avenue - New Orleans, Louisiana 70115
504.899.3431 - www.raynenola.org

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021



Geertgen tot Sin Jans

John the Baptist in the Wilderness (1490)

THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOSPEL

Welcome to All!

All are invited to participate in any of our activities,
and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

GATHERING

Rev. Jay Hogewood

God of Yesterday, we knew you then: your promises; your words; your walking among us. But yesterday is gone. And so today, we are in need of change. Change. And change us. Help us see life now, not through yesterday's stories, but through today's. Amen.

Corrymeela Community

PRELUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme 11 am
Marcus St. Julien

CALL TO WORSHIP* *responsively* Rev. Marissa Teauseau Horvath

Let all who love God rejoice.

Let all who thirst for justice draw water from the well of God's saving love.

Let all who long for Christ sing for joy.

Let all who hunger for righteousness return home to the living God.

Let all who seek the Holy Spirit shout aloud.

Let all who yearn for mercy fall on their knees before the throne of grace.

HYMN* *Blessed Be the God of Israel* 209

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Eva Silvestre with Gabriel, Carrie Stuckwisch, & Rachel West 8:45 am
Jared Frank & Larkin Page 11 am

The prophet reminds us that we are to bear fruit worthy of repentance. The Messiah is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire, and all flesh shall see his glory. We light the third Advent candle in preparation for the coming of God's Messiah - the Anointed One, who is Christ the Lord. We prepare by repenting of our sins and living lives devoted to loving God and serving our neighbor.

May we find joy in God's grace that changes our thoughts and actions.

(Lighting of the 3rd candle, which signifies joy.)

Come, Lord Jesus.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

*The People Standing

RESPONSE *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* 196 8:45 am

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE 11 am

Rebecca Sullivant, Laurie Phillips, Joseph Tate, Leonard Raybon

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came Anthony Prower

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!

"For known a blessed mother thou
shalt be, all generations laud and
honor thee, Thy Son shall be
Emanuel, by seers foretold, most
highly favored lady," 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!

Of her, Emanuel, the Christ was
born in Bethlehem, all on a
Christmas morn, and Christian folk
throughout the world will
ever say most highly favored lady,
Gloria!

PRAYER

The love and mercy of Jesus, the Messiah, be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

God of our salvation, you bring mercy to the outcast and conviction to the powerful. We come before you this day to call out for help. Lighten our hearts with your love. Loosen our tongues to sing your praise. Open our minds to change our perspective. You alone are the source of our hope; you alone are the foundation of grace. Be with us now and always.

THE LORD'S PRAYER 11 am

THE RED STEP A Special Time for Our Children

At this time, children age 3 years old through 2nd grade may attend children's church in the education building.

HYMN*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

209

1. Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
 who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
 The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
 God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

2. Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
 a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
 Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
 the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

3. On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
 the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
 to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
 O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

COMMUNION HYMN *Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast* 616

1. Come, sinners, to the gospel feast, let every soul be Jesus' guest.
 Ye need not one be left behind, for God hath bid all humankind.

2. Do not begin to make excuse; ah! do not you his grace refuse;
 your worldly cares and pleasures leave, and take what Jesus hath to give.

3. Come and partake the gospel feast, be saved from sin, in Jesus rest;
 O taste the goodness of our God, and eat his flesh and drink his blood.

4. See him set forth before your eyes; behold the bleeding sacrifice;
 his offered love make haste to embrace, and freely now be saved by
 grace.

5. Ye who believe his record true shall sup with him and he with you;
 come to the feast, be saved from sin, for Jesus waits to take you in.

HYMN*For the Healing of the Nations*

428

1. For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
 for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
 To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,
 help us rise and pledge our word.

2. Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
 that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
 Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,
 fear will die and hope increase.

3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
 pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
 In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span,
 may we hallow life's brief span.

4. You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
 for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
 that by our response and service earth its destiny may find,
 earth its destiny may find.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**All are welcome at the table!***INVITATION**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly
 repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another.
 Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION

**Our God, who seeks the lost and gathers the weary,
 we confess we neglect your loving care. We tend to go our own way,
 even when that threatens the peace you want to grant us.
 We are sorry, and we humbly repent. Lead us back with your light.
 Guide our paths that we might serve you
 and walk in your way that leads to life.**

*(silence)***PARDON**

Jesus, who eats with sinners and collects the wandering,
 still seeks us and forgives the sin of the entire world.
 In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we
 praise your name and join their unending hymn:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are
 full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in
 the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
 we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living
 sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
 as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER