

**A SERVICE OF MEMORY AND LIGHT
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020**



Roberto: Good evening and welcome to this service of memory and light. We will begin the service with a time of reflective silence, followed by three verses of the hymn “Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel”. May God help each of us to participate tonight and throughout the season as we are able.

(Silence for 1 minute)

Roberto: The hymn “Oh come, Oh come, Emmanuel” is a song of people in darkness longing for God’s light. It is not calling us to rejoice in the worldly form of the word, but calling our spirits and souls to reflect the true hope and joy that only God can give.

Hymn 122: Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel (Verses 1, 6, & 7)

Oh come, oh come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Oh come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Oh come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart, one mind; bid envy, strife and discord cease and be thyself our source of peace. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Prayer of Illumination

Scriptures

Isaiah 40: 1, 25-31

Psalms 121

Matthew 11: 28-30

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermonette

Solo - Will There Really Be a Morning?

- Dickinson/Johnson

A LITURGY OF REMEMBRANCE

Lighting of Four Advent Candles

First Candle: The first candle we light to remember those persons whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their name, their voice, their face, the memory that binds them to us in this season. We hold them before God, giving thanks for their lives in ours. Please take a moment to remember those who have died. I invite you to name them, aloud or in the silence of your hearts....

(Silence is held)

Second Candle: The second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs with the security they bring, the loss of health in ourselves or in family members, the loss of joy and peace in our lives from the stresses which surround us, the loss and loneliness we experience when our loved ones do not share our faith. As we gather up the pain of the past we offer it to you, O God, asking that into our open hands you will place the gift of peace. Please take a moment to remember the losses. I invite you to name them, aloud or in the silence of your hearts....

(Silence is held)

Third Candle: The third candle we light for those who experience a loss of direction in their lives. God of the Exodus, you led Moses and your people through the wilderness to a new land. Hear our prayer. We want so much to have a sense of direction, to know where we are and where we ought to be headed. But the darkness and the questions stay. You ask us to be full of faith, to believe deep within that you are our signpost, that you are our wisdom and our guide, and to trust in your presence. Your words to us are clear: "Do not fear, I go before you."

(Silence is held)

Fourth Candle: The fourth candle we light as a sign of hope, the hope that the Christmas story offers to us. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

(Silence is held)

Prayers of the People

Roberto: In the spirit of this season let us now confidently ask our God for all the good things we need: For ourselves as we participate in this Christmas as special people coping with our many different losses. God, hear our prayer.

People: *And in your mercy, answer.*

Roberto: For our families and friends, that they may continue to help and support us. God, hear our prayer.

People: *And in your mercy, answer.*

Roberto: For any person we have loved who has died, for all the losses we know in our lives, that all may be redeemed by your Easter promise. God, hear our prayer.

People: *And in your mercy, answer.*

Roberto: For our family and friends, that you may bless them with love, peace, and joy. God, hear our prayer.

People: *And in your mercy, answer.*

Roberto: For peace throughout the world as proclaimed by the Christmas Angels on

that faraway hillside. God, hear our prayer

People: And in your mercy, answer

Roberto: For greater understanding of the lessons of love and acceptance as taught by Jesus your Christ. God, hear our prayer.

People: And in your mercy, answer.

Roberto: God of great compassion and love, listen to the prayers of these your people. Grant to all, especially the bereaved and troubled ones this Christmas, the blessing we ask in the name of Jesus.

Lighting of Individual Candles

Roberto: Each of us comes bearing our own hurts, sorrows, broken places. I invite each of you to offer your personal wound to the God who loves each of us deeply and wants to carry our pain. God waits patiently, gently calling out: "Give me your pain, come to me... all who labor and are heavy laden, I will refresh you!" I invite each of you to light your candles at this time.

As you light the candle, remember that it is God who lights a candle in our darkness and holds us close until we are able to shine.

In Reflection: It Is Well with My Soul

- Bliss, arr. Raney

Roberto: These lights in their brightness are only symbols, but as they burn and finally go out, we remember that suffering passes, though memory remains forever.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn 293: Come, Thou Almighty King

Come, thou almighty King; help us thy name to sing; help us to praise. Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, thou incarnate Word; gird on thy mighty sword; our prayer attend: come, and thy people bless, and give thy word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, holy Comforter; thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour! Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To the great One-in-Three eternal praises be hence evermore! His sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.

The Great Prayer of 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.

The prayer opens with thanksgiving to God...

And so we raise our voices with your people of every time and place in joyful praise to you:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving continues for the work of Jesus Christ...

We proclaim the blessed mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The presence of the Holy Spirit is invoked followed by the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, the power, and the glory. Forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Prayer after Communion:

Almighty God,

We thank you that in your great love

You have fed us with the spiritual food and drink

of the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ,

and have given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet.

Grant that this sacrament may be to us a comfort in time of affliction,

And a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death,

Neither sorry, nor weeping, but fullness of joy with all your saints; through

Jesus Christ our saviour. Amen.

Hymn 371: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, oh breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest; take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy grace receive; suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee, changed from glory into glory till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

Benediction

(We depart in silence)

