

**Order of Worship**  
December 3rd, 2023 ~ 1st Sunday of Advent

**Prelude**

**Welcome, Announcements, and Peace**

**Call to Worship**

This Advent, we hope and pray for:

**Joy as we journey together,  
Sight for the blind and healing for the sick,  
Freedom for the prisoners and good news for the poor,  
Release for the oppressed with justice for all,  
and love for each other.**

Together we hope and pray for the coming of God's topsy-turvy,  
inside out, upside-down Kingdom.

**Amen.**

~ posted on Third Space

**Hymn of Praise**

*Say He Will Come*  
WS #213

**Verse 1**

Say He will come pray He will  
come  
To a sin filled world with His  
love  
Chosen One sent from our God  
above

**Verse 2**

Say He will come pray He will  
come  
And bring peace to all who  
believe  
Chosen One sent from our God  
in love

**Verse 3**

Say He will come pray He will  
come  
And bring joy to all who believe  
Holy One sent to bring peace  
and love

Robert Lau  
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**Advent 1 Wreath Lighting: *Hope***

**God, these are darkening days with little hope in sight.  
Help us in our fear and exhaustion. Anchor us in hope.  
Show us your heart, how you seek out the broken.  
Lift us on your shoulders, and carry us home – no matter how strong we think we are.  
God, seek us out, we your tired people,  
And lead us to where hope lies,  
Where your kingdom will come and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Emmanuel, Jesus the Christ, come and dwell among us.  
Fill us with your courage. Calm us with your love. Fortify us with your hope.  
Amen.**

~ by Kate Bowler

## Opening Prayer

What will set us journeying in search of the Christ this Advent?  
How far are we prepared to go out of our way  
to look for the signs of His coming,  
and to prepare a path?  
How will we travel through this season?  
will we be burdened by responsibilities and tasks,  
loaded with others' expectations, overwhelmed by their needs?  
Will we be full of joy or weary of grief?  
What will guide our steps in these weeks?  
Will we follow a thread of longing,  
the hint of an alternative pathway,  
the words and music of the gathered community?  
Sisters and brothers in Christ, Advent awaits us.  
Let us place our feet on the road and begin the journey.  
May we find in familiar words, rituals and customs  
the birth of the new thing that awaits us.  
**Amen.**

~ written by Ann Siddall

## Special Music

*Dig Another Well*  
Paul Overstreet and Don Schlitz

## Scripture Reading

### ***Isaiah 64:1-9***

#### **NRSV**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

**Mark 13:24-37**

**NRSV**

Jesus said,

“In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**Sermon**

*Tearing Open the Heavens*

The Rev. Dr. Charla Belinski

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Prayers of the People**

**Offertory**

*World of Wonder*

Darrell Scott

**Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise Him all creatures here below**

**Praise Him above ye heav'nly host**

**Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost**

**Amen**

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Thomas Ken

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**Communion**

**Lord's Prayer**

*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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

## Closing Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
RH #245

### Verse 1

O come O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

### Chorus

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

### Verse 2

O 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

### Chorus

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

### Verse 3

O come Thou Wisdom from on high  
And order all things far and nigh  
To us the path of knowledge show  
And cause us in her ways to go

### Chorus

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

### Verse 4

O come Desire of nations bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind  
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease  
Fill the whole world with heaven's  
peace

### Chorus

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

John Mason Neale, Thomas Helmore

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## Closing Prayer

Lord, nothing is for naught before your eyes.  
Should great difficulty come upon us,  
we believe that blessings will eventually come  
from the apparent ruins of our lives.

When we look back on the hardships of life,  
we marvel how unexpected good has come  
from such apparent setbacks and disappointments.

Lord, as we go forth from this place, remove any heaviness of heart that might weigh upon us  
and deepen within us the assurance that ultimately all will be well  
because you are God.

**Amen.**

~ The Jesuit Prayer Team

## Blessing

## Postlude

### *Our love in action now begins*

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This Sunday's Special Music is brought to you by  
The Colorado Currys,  
Micha Schoepe & Paul Dankers.

*Thank you to all of this Sunday's volunteers!*

Greeters - Aannonson Family  
Altar - Sue de Campo  
Advent Wreath - Striegler Family  
Scripture Reader - Peyton Aanonsen  
Prayers of the People - Lisa Aanonsen  
Collection Plate and Communion - Ellie & Bill Striegler

For current events, visit the "current events" drop-down via the CALENDAR tab on our website, or sign up to receive our weekly newsletter email via the "newsletter sign-up" dropdown under the CONTACT tab at [www.snowmasschapel.org](http://www.snowmasschapel.org).