



# A CreatureKind Advent Service

Thursday December 17, 2020

Welcome, thank you for joining us today.

## Order of Service

### Centering Prayer

**Call to Worship** - Rev. Aline Silva

**Welcome & Music** - Sarah Withrow King

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

**Prayers from the People** - Shae Washington,  
Rachel Virginia Hester, Megan Grigorian

**Guided Reflection** - Rachel Virginia Hester

**Scripture Reading and Homily** - Ashley Lewis

**Quiet Reflection** - "Inner Peace" by Beautiful  
Chorus

**Closing Prayer** - Megan Grigorian, provided  
by Margaret Adam

**Benediction** - Rev. Aline Silva



## Call to Worship

"[Beloved] This is not a season for passive waiting and watching. It is a season of wailing and weeping, of opening up our lives and our souls with active anticipation and renewed hope... And so we do not lose heart; rather, we live with our hearts broken open so that compassion, caring, and God's reckless love can find its way to our hearts and the hearths of the world."

~ Patricia E De Jong, in *Daily Feast: Meditations for Feasting on the Word. YEAR B. p. 8, The Week Leading Up to the First Sunday in Advent.*





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## Lyrics

### "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels

O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
O sing, all ye citizens of Bethlehem  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest

O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born one happy morning  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n  
Word of Creator, now in flesh appearing

O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

### "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

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

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

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty power to save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.

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

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here;  
And drive away the shades of night,  
And pierce the clouds and bring us light!

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

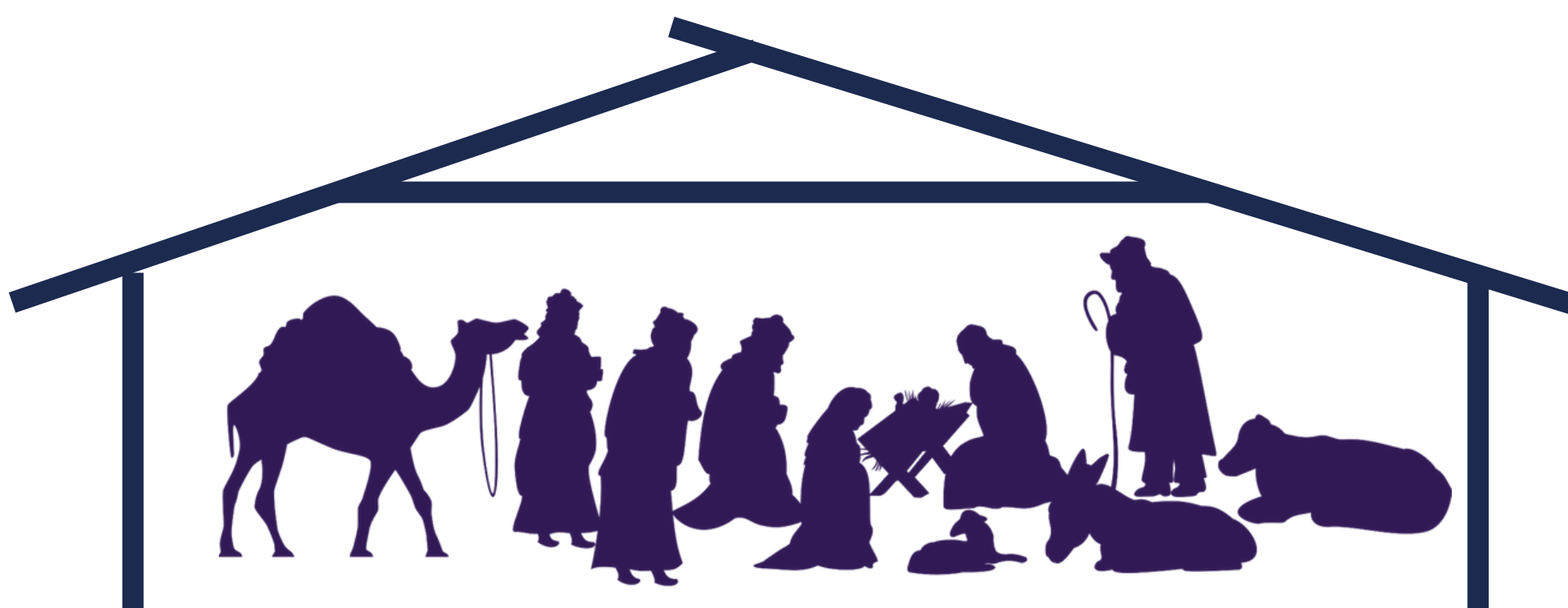
O come, thou key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.

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

O come, Desire of Nations, bind  
In one the hearts of creaturekind;  
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be thyself our king of Peace.

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

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## *Prayers from the People*

Leader: Thank you, our God, for the Good News which awaits our coming to you today, and always. Thank you for the grace and mercy which promise to set us free of all the sins and disappointments of life which yet hinder us on our journeys towards your kingdom. (1)

Holy God, we confess to you that we have not always shown others or ourselves the grace and mercy you show us. Hear our prayers.

*(Time of quiet confession.)*

Leader: Thank you for hearing our confessions, God. Together we affirm:

**Together: God brought me out into a spacious place; God delivered me; God delights in me.**

Leader: Hear us, oh God, as we pray for one another.

*(Leader will offer prayers from the people. After each, respond with: **Lord, hear our prayer.**)*

Leader: Creator God, we pray today especially for our animal kin. For creatures who are near to us, and creatures we do not see. For creatures who are loved and for creatures who are used or abused.

**Together: May all creatures, those beginning to breathe and those ending their breath; those alone and those in herds, flocks, and schools; those ill and those healthy; may all creatures know Your love.** (2)

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for receiving these prayers, and for those unspoken. Give us the faith to believe that it is possible for us to live victoriously even in the midst of dangerous opportunity that we call crisis. Help us see that there is something better than patient endurance or keeping a stiff upper lip, and that whistling in the dark is not really bravery. Bless us with the greatness of humility, that we may feel no shame in expressing our need for a living God. Forgive the pride that causes us to strut about like knights in shining armour. Plant a seed of faith in us today and nurture it that it may grow. Then, trusting in you may we have the faith that goes singing in the rain, knowing that all these things work together for good to them that love you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (3)

**Together: May we be Your people unfolding a new possibility. May we be Your hands to the suffering. May we be Your feet in protest. May we be Your shouts in anger. May we be Your tears in mourning. May we touch Your whole creation and change the world. May we be Your people unfolding a new possibility. Amen.** (2)







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## Guided Reflection

by Rachel Virginia Hester

And so siblings, we find ourselves mourning and shouting in anger after experiencing this difficult year. Our lives have become disrupted by a pandemic whose origins are connected to slaughterhouses, as well as the crisis of habitat and forest destruction in our global economy. We may want to look at one specific party, nation or community to blame for the harm caused during this historical year, but the truth is, we are all deeply entangled in a capitalistic Empire that destroys and displaces our human and animal kin. This violent Empire characterizes the current age we are in, but we know that the world does not have to be this way.

We are righteously angry, and we may feel the desire to blame God for the many losses of life we have witnessed this year. But, in our crying out to God, we may hear God talk back to us and remember how all of this suffering, human and animal, is not God's doing. It is God, after all, that desires a peaceable kin-dom. Perhaps we may wake up from the ways we have walked away from knowing our place as fellow creatures in God's world; we, like all of God's creatures, are deeply dependent, responsible and impactful to and for one another. We must remember our deep dependent upon God as we remember our responsibility to each other.

In our crying out, God may speak to us back, reminding us that this land is being defiled, and thus the land is threatening to spit out a humanity currently ruled by an Empire of Domination. We can work to recognize the parts we may have played in failing to resist this Empire, and then alternatively live into the reality of God's just and interdependent kin-dom.

God, in our grief and anger and disappointment, comfort us! Speak to us and encourage us! But, God, give us, too, the conviction and courage to see our part and to see how we can be transformed by this year, and live differently. Amen.

~ *Inspired by Canticle of the Turning*







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## Closing Prayer

God of hope, we cling to you, for you renew the face of the earth. Through the gift of your Beloved, our Lord Jesus, we follow you on the path of dawn. Enlightened by your love and wisdom, help us, along with other creatures, to find our way, together, back to your open arms. Amen. (4)

## Benediction

May God the Creator, Sustainer of the poor, Rescuer of the abandoned, and the Seer of the forgotten, show us how to be channels of love for all creatures on earth. May the Source of every good, bless our works of mercy and kindness throughout our common home. May Grace, Love, and fellowship of the Spirit be with you all. Amen.

## Attributions

1. Reuben P. Job and Norman Sawchuck, A Guide to Prayer for All God's People
2. Carol J. Adams, Prayers for Animals
3. Carlo Carretto, Letters from the Desert
4. Rachel McCarthy, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

We are so glad you joined us! We welcome you to stay on the Zoom for a little while after the service to connect.

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