

Flowers are given by Bob Procter in honor of Mary Kukainis' birthday.

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

INVITATION:

*OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs. 1, 2, 6, & 7)

#116

**O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and help us in that way to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

**O Come, O Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night, and death's own shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

**O come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

OPENING PRAYER

We know all about longing and waiting and hoping, O God. We long for an end to the pandemic. We wait for reassurance that we can be safe again gathering. We hope, deep in our hearts, that the hymn lyric we just sang, *O come, Desire of nations, bind; All peoples in one heart and mind; make envy, strife, and quarrels cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.* For this world we pray; for divisions and discrimination to cease we pray. We pray we would stop treating Your creation as a means for profit, and see the earth reflecting Your holy creativity. We pray for the possible to be born out of what looks impossible. For our heartfelt and honest prayers, O God, we prepare our lives this Advent season. We know that the road of Advent leads us to the most unlikely, unthinkable, inexplicable place ~ a stable where Your inclusive love was born and laid away in a manger. Let this season of Advent find a fertile place in the soil of our souls to plant the seed of the truth of Emmanuel ~ that You, O God, are with us and for us.

Pregnant Pause to listen for the hope seeking to make a home in your heart.

LIGHTING the CANDLE of HOPE

SUNG RESPONSE

Light One Candle

**Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.
God brings hope to ev'ry heart, God comes! God comes!**

CELEBRATION of BAPTISM for **Stella Marie Marek**, child of Chantel and Matthew Marek

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 65:17-23

¹⁷ For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. ²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³ They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well. ²⁴ Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

SERMON

Making a Home for Hope

ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

arr. Robert Hobby

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe; The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world; Your heavenly will be done by all created beings; Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trial too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Now Is the Time Approaching

#609

**Now is the time approaching by prophets long foretold,
When all shall dwell together, secure and manifold.
Let war be learned no longer, let strife and tumult cease,
All earth a blessed garden that God shall tend in peace.**

**Let all that now divides us remove and pass away,
Like mists of early morning before the blaze of day.
Let all that now unites us more sweet and lasting prove,
A closer bond of union, in blessed lands of love.**

**O long expected dawning, come with your cheering ray!
Yet shall the promise beckon and lead us not astray.
O sweet anticipation! It cheers the watchers on
To pray, and hope, and labor till Christ's new realm is come.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

The Sovereign's Fanfare

Arthur Bliss

Ushers: Chuck Jarman, Phil Swain, and RuthAnn Waid

Liturgist:

Fellowship: 1st UCC Women

Bus Driver: Len Murray