

Ephraim Moravian Church
First Sunday of Advent
10 a.m. November 29, 2020

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Let All Things Now Living” – Traditional Irish Hymn, arr. Card & Duncan

Lighting of the First Candle of Advent: The Sherman Family

Hymn #274 (v. 1 – 3) “O Come, O Come, Immanuel”

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel 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 teach us in her ways to go.

O come, O bright and morning star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night, and turn our darkness into light.

Reflection

Prayers of the Church

Congregational Sung Response (To the tune: Away in a Manger)
Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels; Come, Lord reign alone.
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne. Amen

Scripture Lessons: Psalm 80: 1 – 7, 17 – 19; 1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9

Solo - “My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord” – Randall Thompson

Sermon

Benediction

Postlude – “Sleep My Child” – duet – Welsh Folk Song

Reflection by Cory Kemp

Perhaps this year, more than others in recent memory, we need Advent, not because our world circumstances feel so foreign, but because we are beginning to see ourselves as strangers in a strange land. We are becoming a people without hope or purpose.

We are not alone, but in a familiar place for God's people.

We mourn for all that we lost since last Advent, with the knowledge that we will not reclaim our lives for a while longer.

We are not alone, but in a familiar place for God's people.

We ache to return to traditions, gatherings and activities that mark Advent the way we remember them, not in truncated form.

We are not alone, but in a familiar place for God's people.

Throughout history, God's people have known both disruption and destruction of their lives, their homes and their lands. They have seen their hopes crushed, their dreams deferred and shattered, and their sadness well up in never-ending sorrow.

We are not alone, but in a familiar place for God's people because we are God's people at this time and place.

We are called once again to light candles and pray, "Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved."

"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."

Pastor.....Dawn E. Volpe
Guest Musicians.....Cynthia Stiehl, Hal Halvorsen



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