

# SJUMC Online Worship Guide

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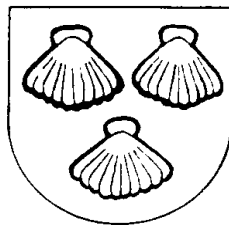


**December 8, 2024**  
**9:30 am**  
**Passion**

## ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

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Administrative Assistant: Kenna Haj      |      Bell Choir Director: Laural Clark  
Director of Music Ministry: Antuan Hairston      |      Organist: Clarice Snyder  
Pastor: Rev. Patricia Abell



**Saint James United Methodist Church**

Marriottsville, MD

410-442-2020 [stjamessec@verizon.net](mailto:stjamessec@verizon.net)

## Prelude

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” setting by Sally Drennan Mossing

**Offered by Clarice Snyder**

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## Welcome

**Rev. Patricia Abell**

## Threshold Song

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (vs. 1 of 4)

**UMH 196**

1. 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

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## Call to Worship

**Barbara Cook**

Children of God, prepare the way! The Word of God is coming!

**We come to listen and receive God's Word among us.**

Children of God, the prophets call to us now and from generations past, urging us to prepare and refine our hearts for the coming of the Word of God. Are you listening?

**We come to listen and prepare to receive God's Word among us.**

Children of God, this is the mark of our preparation: that passion for God's Word would burn within us, cleansing us and renewing us to reflect God's love throughout the world.

**May God ignite our passion for God's Word that has come among us as we listen, prepare, and receive all that God has for us today. Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2024.*

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

**Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

## Gathering Song

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (vs. 2 of 4) (not in hymnal) **UMH 196**

2. Joy to those who long to see Thee,  
Dayspring from on high, appear;  
come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse,  
of Thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing  
news, glad tidings of a birth:

"Go to Him, your praises bringing;  
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

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## Opening Prayer

*Barbara Cook*

**Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day, for we need you. We cannot save ourselves. Though we may be frantic with activity, our efforts do not yield peace, peace as you can give. Today we would be quiet enough to hear your voice. Today we would be still enough to feel your touch. Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, and listen as well as speak. Our whole world needs your peace. Let us come before you and learn your ways, laying down our weapons and feeding the hungry. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Written by Ruth C. Duck in Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2012), 5.

## \*Opening Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*UMH 211*

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

2. 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

3. O come O Come great Lord of might  
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe

### **Chorus**

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

4. O come thou Root of Jesse's tree  
An ensign of thy people be  
Before thee rulers silent fall  
All peoples on thy mercy call

### **Chorus**

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

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## Passing the Peace

*Barbara Cook*

## Children's Time

*Donna Benson*

## Scripture

**Malachi 3:1-4 (NRSVue)  
Luke 3:1-6 (NRSVue)**

*Barbara Cook*

**Anthem** "Prepare the Way" **Praise Team**

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Bethany Wohrle | Chris Cleveland | Dante Bowe | Ethan Hulse | Justin Amundrud  
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**Message** "Passion" **Rev. Patricia Abell**

**Prayer for God's People, Church, & World** **Barbara Cook**

**Lord's Prayer** **Barbara Cook**

**\*Doxology** "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" **UMH 94**  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God All creatures here below  
Alleluia alleluia  
Praise God the source of all our gifts  
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts  
Praise the Spirit Holy Spirit  
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

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**Offering Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn** "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" **UMH 204**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

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**Benediction** **Rev. Patricia Abell**

**Postlude** "Emmanuel" Michael W. Smith arr. by Mark Hayes **Offered by Clarice Snyder**

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*Question for Reflection*

*The prophet Malachi says that God is “like a refiner’s fire and like fuller’s soap” (Mal. 3:2).*

*Reflect on events of the past year.*

*How has God been working to refine and purify your life or your community of faith?*

*Paul writes to the church at Philippi: “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now” (Phil. 1:3–5). Think about people in your life for whom you give thanks, who have been in your prayers, and who have brought good news and joy to you this year. Consider writing them a letter or card to express your gratitude.*

*Household Prayer: Morning*

Blessed are you, Lord God:

by your tender mercy the dawn breaks upon us.

Guide our feet this day in paths of peace;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Household Prayer: Evening*

Blessed are you, Lord God:

for you have smiled on us this day and redeemed us from our sin.

Give light to all who wait in darkness until we rest with you in perfect peace;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Resources:**

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press.

Come, Let Us Adore Him. Advent, Year C Worship Series. UMC Discipleship Ministries, 2024.

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*Saint James UMC is a Lighthouse Congregation of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church.*