

Welcome and Prelude Invocation and Greeting

The offering is collected at the baptismal font.

Advent 2023 WEEK 3

We gather tonight in the hope and promise of our God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the
love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and
the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Stir up our hearts, O God, to prepare a pathway for your
Christ. By his coming speak peace to your people and
turn our hearts toward you, that your saving grace and
splendid glory may dwell in all the earth; through
Jesus Christ, whose day draws near.

Amen.

Silence beginning and ending with a bell.

Opening Song Comfort, Comfort Now my People ELW 256



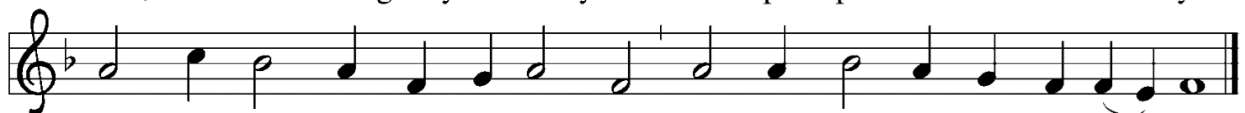
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.

Week 3: Darkness Holds Promise

1 Samuel 3

Reflection: God comes to us in dreams and visions. The long expanse of night, absent the distractions of worries of the day, creates space for us to hear and listen. Three times Samuel hears God's voice as he sleeps; three times he mistakes it for Eli's, unable to comprehend that God might be seeking after him instead. Eli, however, perceives that God is doing a new thing and encourages Samuel to again lie down and be open to God calling to him in the night.

Silence beginning and ending with a bell.

Hymn Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah ELW 240



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

The Offering is Received

Prayer

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need...

each petition concludes...

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Concluding Prayer

Into your wide embrace, O God, we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting that you will receive them into your heart of mercy, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior who taught us to pray:

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257



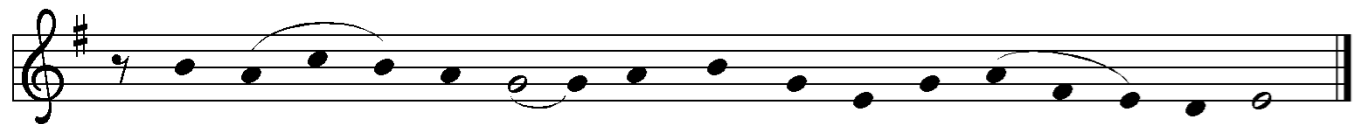
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!
teach us your will and guide our way.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Blessing

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the
Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

Go in Peace, live with hope.

Thanks be to God!