



Week 1 Worship Resources: God with Zechariah, the Skeptic | Luke 1:5-25,57-80

Call to Worship:

Children of God: Let us praise our God.

We gather in the grace and the peace of God.

When we pray, God is always listening.

We pray not only for change but to be changed.

We are confident that when we pray, God is with us.

When God is with us, everything changes.

Unison Prayer:

Eternal God, you have assured us that you are with us. You will strengthen us and help us. God you are present, living, and active in our lives – not only present, but you are rejoicing in us and calming us with your love. When the future is uncertain, trusting the power of your love is sustaining. We commit our desires to you. We will wait on you to move. Thank you for keeping us in perfect peace. We praise you for your presence and put our trust in you! In Jesus' name, amen.

Offering Introduction:

Even in the midst of doubts, may we give of ourselves. Zechariah doubted, and yet God answered his deepest prayer with an outpouring of grace. May the gifts we give today be the seeds of hope we sing about tomorrow.

Offertory Prayer:

God of Hope,

We, too often, doubt that things can change. We believe we are alone. Help us to trust you more and give, knowing you can use even our doubt-filled gifts to bring waves of grace to those in need of love. Take these gifts, and show us the amazing power of your love and grace. Amen.

Music Suggestions (Traditional):

UMH #211: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

UMH #127: Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

W&S #3047: God Almighty, We are Waiting

Music Suggestions (Contemporary):

O Come, O Come Emmanuel – King & Country – CCLI #7109193

Hope of Israel – Chris Tomlin – CCLI #7139739



Preaching Resources | Additional Components:

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Note: The Sung Response can be adjusted as needed based on most current COVID-19 guidelines. Some ideas include a soloist singing it, people speaking it softly in unison, or people watching a video recording of it being sung.

Reader 1:

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of HOPE.

HOPE is a voice that sings out from broken places.

When, like Zechariah, we cannot speak due to fear or doubt or bewilderment,

HOPE holds onto us and keeps us moving toward a future we can't yet see.

HOPE carries us as we carry our burdens.

HOPE grows from the promise that God is with us.

Light Candle

Sung Response: UMH #204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.**

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

Reader 2:

Let's pray:

Gracious One,

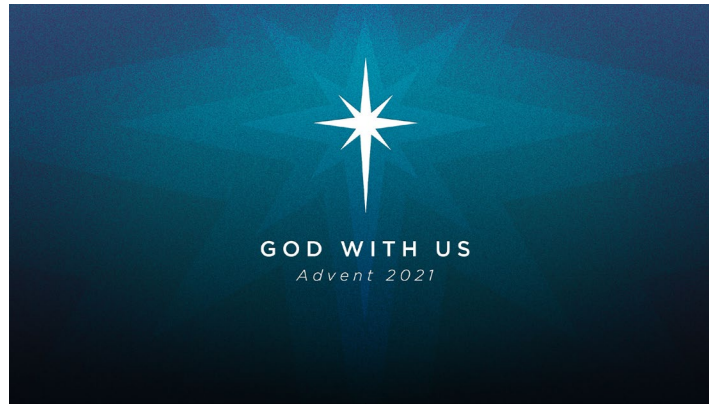
Give us HOPE that sings out beyond skepticism, cynicism, and frustration.

May your presence minister to us when we are at a loss for words.

May your presence speak through us in wordless ways.

May we notice you truly with us, here and now.

Amen.



Week 2 Worship Resources: God with Joseph, the Dutiful | Matthew 1:18-25

Call to Worship:

Welcome to this place of love and grace.

Holy Spirit, show us how to participate in God's plan.

Knowing the will of God is not enough; doing it is what matters.

Loving God, move us from living out of obligation to listening to your dream for us.

Like Joseph, we say 'yes' to playing our part in God's story.

We become dreamers to go beyond what the world expects of us and step into God's bold future.

Unison Prayer:

God, your ways are not our ways. You are not limited by what is possible, for with you all things are possible. Thank you that you are greater than anything we may face in our day. Thank you that your presence goes with us, no matter what we're up against. We ask for your grace to help us walk in confidence and boldness today. We boldly declare that we will not let fear or intimidation stop us from being obedient. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen.

Offering Introduction:

Often in our lives, we have seen our plans fall apart. God, help us, like Joseph, to step out in faith even if we don't completely understand where you are calling us to go. Let our gifts be a statement of our trust to follow wherever God may lead.

Offertory Prayer:

God of Faith,

You know we don't understand exactly where you are calling us. We are afraid we will take the wrong path. Give us the courage with which you blessed Joseph. May this offering be a sign of our faith in you. Help us to boldly step out in faith, because we know you will always go with us. Amen.

Music Suggestions (Traditional):

UMH #214 – Savior of the Nations Come

UMH #399 – Take My Life and Let it Be

Music Suggestions (Contemporary):

Give Me Faith – CCLI #5680939

I Will Follow – CCLI #5806878



Preaching Resources | Additional Components:

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Reader 1:

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of PEACE.
When he does what is good, PEACE covers Joseph like a steady rain.
PEACE leads him step by step forward,
using his presence as a gift and his heart as a guide
to protect those entrusted to him
and nourish the life of God in the world.

Light Candle

Sung Response: #204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel

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

Reader 2:

Let's pray:

Faithful One,

Give us PEACE as a steady companion on our journeys.

May PEACE help us take one step at a time, day by day, hour by hour,
forward into the future you create with us.

May we notice you truly with us, here and now.

Amen.



Week 3 Worship Resources: God with Mary, the Faithful | Luke 1:26-38

Call to Worship:

God has called us to gather as beloved children.

“Here are we, the servants of the Lord.”

God calls us into unknown places that we could never foresee for ourselves.

Even amid uncertainty, we rejoice because God is with us.

In the face of fear, let us take a “leap of faith” into the unknown.

We are ready, “Nothing is impossible with God!”

Unison Prayer:

Eternal God, thank you that you loved us so much that you sent your son to be born of a virgin, to become our savior. Thank you that he died for us and rose again, so that we could have his resurrected life in us. He truly is our salvation. Thank you for his life, his example, and his redeeming work on Calvary’s cross. May the name of Jesus be lifted high today. Amen.

Offering Introduction:

“Nothing is impossible with God!” Mary believed the angel Gabriel; may we do the same. As we give today, believe God will turn our gifts into things we never dreamed possible for our church, our community, and all of creation.

Offertory Prayer:

God of Endless Possibilities,

We often try to put you in a box. We are sure we know how you will work in the world and in our lives. Help us to see you with Mary’s eyes. She simply believed and trusted in your word and your promises. May we give with trusting hearts, believing you will do things with our gifts we can’t even imagine. Remind us, during this Advent season, that you make all things possible. Amen.

Music Suggestions (Traditional):

UMH #196 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

UMH #199 – Canticle of Mary

UMH #382 – Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Music Suggestions (Contemporary):

Oceans (Where Feet May Fall) - Joel Houston – CCLI #6428767

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus – Shane & Shane or Chris Tomlin

Mary, Did You Know? – CCLI #839225



Preaching Resources | Additional Components:

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Reader 1:

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of JOY.

JOY comes to Mary like a jolt in the night.

In her surprise,

in her yes,

in her wild openness,

JOY beckons,

a joy that flows not from what is rational

but what is holy,

a joy that flowers in the night

and bears fruit

that feeds a world in need.

Light Candle

Sung Response: UMH #204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,

his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us,

his name is called Emmanuel.

Reader 2:

Let's pray:

Generous God,

Give us JOY that flowers in the night.

May your presence surprise us and even jolt us as we go through our days.

May your presence open us to say yes to what brings wholeness for us and others.

May we notice you truly with us, here and now.

Amen.



Week 4 Worship Resources: God with the Shepherds and the Dismissed | Luke 2:8-20

Call to Worship:

Come to worship Emmanuel, God with us!

Like the shepherds, we have received the invitation to seek out Jesus and encounter him.

God invites you to seek out Jesus and share him with others.

With open hearts, open minds, and open doors, we share God's good news.

May we be changed and, in turn, change those with whom we share this news.

Like the shepherds, we spread the good news among the nations, may all come to worship God!

Unison Prayer:

Everlasting God, thank you for sending Jesus to be born in Bethlehem of Judea on that astonishing night, while shepherds watched their flocks. Thank you for the good news of great joy, which is for all people who trust in Christ for the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. Thank you for this gospel of grace and for entrusting us, no matter who we are, to ponder, treasure, and share it. In Jesus' name, amen.

Offering Introduction:

There are no bit players in the drama of the birth of Jesus. All of us have a role in helping transform and renew this world through the sharing of God's grace and love. May our gifts today be the beginning of our renewed commitment to proclaim the Good News with our every word and deed.

Offertory Prayer:

God of the Outcasts,

The shepherds were feared and shunned by the "good people" of the community. But you saw them as beloved children of immense worth. Bless us with your vision. Allow us to see those feared and shunned in our communities with your eyes of love and grace. Allow us to not only see them, but listen to, serve, and love them. Use these gifts to bless those we too often forget. Amen.

Music Suggestions (Traditional):

UMH#204- Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH #220 – Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH #230 – O Little Town of Bethlehem

Music Suggestions (Contemporary):

Angels from the Realms of Glory – Paul Baloche – CCLI #7065163

Light of the World – We the Kingdom – CCLI #7163734

Hope Has a Name – Passion – CCLI #7163645



Preaching Resources | Additional Components:

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Reader 1:

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of LOVE.

LOVE calls out to the shepherds and invites them

to be part of the extraordinary within what is ordinary:

animals grazing, a baby being born in the night, stars shining above.

LOVE calls out to the dismissed and says, "You're visible. You're powerful. You're part of this."

LOVE calls out to each one of us, drawing us into a story bigger than ourselves.

Light Candle

Sung Response: UMH #204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,

his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us,

his name is called Emmanuel.

Reader 2:

Let's pray:

God of us all,

Give us LOVE that opens our eyes to see people who are dismissed or on the outside.

Give us LOVE that opens us to see ourselves and others ever more clearly,

like stars in the desert where the city lights don't get in the way.

Give us LOVE that draws us into a story we believe in,

a story that gives us a role in something bigger than ourselves.

May we notice you truly with us, here and now.

Amen.



Christmas Eve

Call to Worship:

Let us all gather around to hear again the story we love,

The story of a baby born in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes.

It is the story of a man, the story of a God,

The story of a God who is with all of humanity.

Did you hear that? God didn't just create us and leave us on our own. God is not far off.

We celebrate today the miracle that God is with us as one of us.

Thanks be to Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel!

Unison Prayer:

God of love, your love broke the boundary between the divine and the human so that you could truly be with us. Help us today to open our hearts to the gift you have given us, the gift of yourself. Help us to see you and to seek you in the ordinariness of our lives. Strengthen us with the knowledge that you have been here too. Help us to stand in compassion and solidarity with all those you came to save, with all the world. Amen.

Offering Introduction:

Tonight is a celebration, not just of the birth of Jesus but the birth of eternal hope. Because of tonight, we know that there will always be light in the darkness. As you give, trust that your gift will be a light in the darkness to someone in need. God is with *all of us!*

Offertory Prayer:

Emmanuel,

Your very presence with us is a gift beyond measure. Tonight, you came to not only be with us, not only to save us, but to redeem and renew all of creation. We could never thank you enough or give you a gift of equal measure. Remind us that all you have ever asked for in return is that we generously share with others the love, grace, and gifts you have bestowed on us. Help us live out of the miracle of Christmas every day in our words and deeds. Amen.

Music Suggestions (Traditional):

UMH #234 – O Come All Ye Faithful

UMH #239 – Silent Night

UMH #240 – Hark the Herald Angels Sing

UMH #246 – Joy to the World

Music Suggestions (Contemporary):

King of Kings – Hillsong CCLI #7127647

What A Beautiful Name Agnus Dei Medley – Travis

Cottrell – CCLI Songs#7068424, 626713

God With Us – All Sons and Daughters – CCLI #6460237



Preaching Resources | Additional Components:

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Reader 1:

On this holy night, we light the Christ candle,
a reminder of the light of the world come to dwell with us and within us.
Christ is the mystery of God taking on a human body to reveal God's wisdom.
Christ is our ultimate hope,
our reason for joy,
our source of peace,
and our evidence that love reigns.

Light Candle

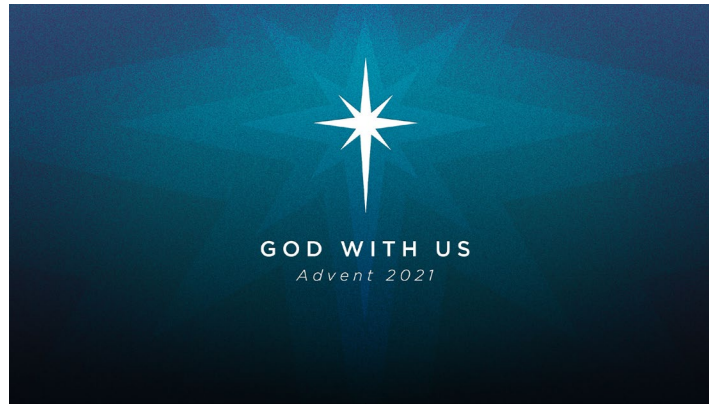
Sung Response: #204 Emmanuel, Emmanuel

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

Reader 2:

Let's pray:

Incarnate God,
May we embrace the mystery of your birth among us this night.
May we let you be embodied in us, too,
through our presence with others,
through our willingness to be born anew,
and through our awe at this sacred story
that reminds us who we are and whose we are.
May we notice you truly with us, here and now.
Amen.



Week 5 Worship Resources: God with the World (Sunday after Christmas)

Call to Worship:

We come to worship, trusting that God's help is here.

We come with joy to this celebration of God's love!

We are a community that embodies God's help for each other.

Open our hearts, Lord, to receive your love. We waited for and have received the "consolation of Israel."

The Holy Spirit will guide us to recognize Jesus when we see him at work in our world.

Like Simeon, God is working in us making us "righteous and devout."

Unison Prayer:

Creator God, we thank you for this day. Teach us your way, illuminate our heart, guide us into all truth. May you align our thoughts to your thoughts so that our lives may honor you. Thank you for your promise to us, that one day we will see Jesus and be made like him. All this we pray in his name. Amen.

Offering Introduction:

This morning it's easy to start to go "back to normal." But the gift of Jesus is always with us even after the decorations are all packed away. Now God is calling us to new opportunities to love and serve. You have been blessed, now you are called to be a blessing.

Offertory Prayer:

God of the Journey,

We so quickly forget the warmth of the Christmas season. It seems, too often after we have blown out our Christmas Eve candles and unwrapped our Christmas gifts, we forget the joy and peace of the season. Help us not to forget the lessons we have learned. Strengthen us to be the light in the darkness for all your beloved children. May our gifts this morning be the sparks that light up our community and world so all will know the warmth of your loving presence. Amen.

Music Suggestions (Traditional):

W&S #3056 – Jesus the Light of the World

UMH #251 – Go Tell it on the Mountain

UMH #238 – Angels We Have Heard on High

Music Suggestions (Contemporary):

Highest Hallelujah – Passion – CCLI #7163642

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy) - Chris Tomlin

CCLI#5607039

Go Tell it on the Mountain – Zach Williams

CCLI#7165586