



PREPARE HIM ROOM

Advent 2022



Advent is a special time of year when we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. It's a season of waiting and anticipation, of longing for that great day when all Old Testament prophecies will be fulfilled: the wolf will lie down with the lamb and all tears shall be wiped away. It's also a season of clearing space, of making room for Christ's present arrival in our hearts, making margin for mystery. We light candles to remind us of the light of Christ, which grows ever brighter as we approach Christmas.

PRELUDE

O Come Let Us Adore Him

O come let us adore Him (3x)

Christ the Lord

CALL TO WORSHIP

Father, as we enter this season of Advent we come scattered. It is difficult to focus on the coming of your son Jesus into our lives. We yearn for your presence to not only break into the world, but into our lives.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

At times our hearts feel closed to you.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

In the midst of our worries, loneliness, strained relationships, illness, and grief.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

In the midst of the hollowness of our consumer society, we find it difficult to share the good news of the coming of Jesus.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

Deliver us from aimless chatter and from fear of silence.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

In this season of heightened demands and expectations we yearn for your peace.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

In the midst of the frenzy of purchasing gifts, visiting friends and family, and arranging activities.

Open my heart, O Lord.

As we find ourselves surrounded by pressures at work or lack of work.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

In the midst of a suffering world with so many fleeing and seeking refuge, like Mary & Joseph long ago.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

In the same way that you prepared Mary and Joseph's hearts for the birth of Jesus.

Open my heart to you, O Lord.

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

Public Domain

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

*Rejoice rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel*

O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

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

O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
From dust Thou brought us forth to life
Deliver us from earthly strife

CANDLE LIGHTING

Isaiah 7:10-16

Loving God,
we thank You that You have fulfilled Your promise.
Emmanuel has come. We rejoice in Your faithfulness.
Give us courage to respond with love and compassion.
Amen.

COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS

Sandra McCracken

*For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait
For You O Lord our souls in stillness wait
Truly our hope is in You
Truly our hope is in You*

O Lord of life our only hope
Your radiance shines on all who look
To You in the dark, Emmanuel come
Come light our hearts

O joy above all other loves
In You we find more than enough
We come as we are O heal and restore
Come light our hearts

KIDS CAROLS & DISMISSAL

Angels We Have Heard on High
O Come All Ye Faithful

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:21-40

SERMON

Emmanuel in Your Arms | Simeon and Anna
Matt Tinken

PRAYER PRACTICE

Immanuel Prayer

COMMUNION

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

MAKE ROOM

Community Life Music

Here is where I lay it down
Every burden every crown
This is my surrender
This is my surrender
Here is where I lay it down
Every lie and every doubt
This is my surrender

*And I will make room for You
To do whatever You want to
To do whatever You want to*

Shake up the ground of all my tradition
Break down the walls of all my religion
Your way is better
Your way is better

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Phillips Brooks

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see Thee lie
Above Thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in Thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth

How silently how silently, the wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATIONS

- **Christmas Eve Worship:** December 24th, 5pm
- **No Gatherings:** December 25th or January 1st
- **Desserts for Schneider House Christmas Party**

VISIT OUR CENTRAL HUB

To give of tithes & offerings, see important announcement details, and take next steps — use the url below:

bit.ly/3VrftL

COVER ART

A Road Runs Through It by Jan Richardson



First Evangelical Free Church of Chicago | firstfree.com