

Leadership for this Service

Meditation: Glenn Balzer

Worship Leaders: Claudia Aguilar and special guests

Music Coordinator: Charlie Ferguson

Song of the Season: Romaine Anderson (piano), Emily Gingerich (vocals & violin), Andi Gingerich (vocals & guitar), Sonia Graber (vocals & percussion)

Smithsonian Handbell Ensemble: Isabelle King, David Burrows, Maggie Wild, and Stephanie Lewis

Children’s Time: Claudia Aguilar

Sanctuary Arts: Roberta Kandel and Paul Johnson

Video Editing: Glenn Balzer and Charlie Ferguson

Thanks to all who generously shared their attention and talents to make this service a time of encouragement and challenge in our walk of faith.

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**Giving**

**Checks:** Write a check to FMC and mail to 430 W 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, Denver CO 80204.

**Online:** Go to [www.fmcdenver.org/giving](http://www.fmcdenver.org/giving). You can make a one-time contribution or set up a recurring contribution by credit/debit card or through a direct withdrawal from your checking account.

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For announcements, see the **FMC Weekly** on the welcome table or online at www.fmcdenver.org/weekly.

Welcome to

First Mennonite Church

Denver, CO



December 13, 2020

***A Little Good News
Third Sunday of Advent***

*That you may know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

Entering Worship

Hodie Christus Natus Est FMC Choir

Welcome

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime Hymnal: A Worship Book 190

Gesù Bambino FMC Choir

Children's Time

O Come, All Ye Children The Mennonite Hymnal 470

Announcements & Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

O Holy One, we light this third candle, and delight in the sparkle of its outrageous reminder to "rejoice"!

Let its flame cast light into shadowy places and show where work is to be done.

Let a community of builders be formed in the Light of Joy.

Let Joy find home in our hearts, and make space for your presence there,

As we work for justice and peace in the service of Love.

God be with us in this Light of Joy

Pause

Rejoice! The spirit of God is sending us...

To bring good news to the oppressed, to comfort the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to proclaim the year of favor among God's people.

Rejoice! The work of the Spirit is calling us...

To rebuild ancient relationships ruined by injustice, to repair the cities as places of hope, to restore land devastated across generations.

Rejoice! The Glory of the Spirit is leading us...

To cast off any faint spirit and put on the mantle of praise, to take root as the plantings of the Holy One, to display God's glory.

Come, let us worship in Joy!

Invocation

Faith Reflection

Chimes

Scripture Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11

O Come, O Come Immanuel HWB 172

Meditation "A Little Good News"

Song of the Season: *Sing a Different Song* Sing the Story 27

Chimes

Community & Sharing

Offering

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Smithsonian Handbell Ensemble

Pastoral Prayer

What Child is This HWB 215

Benediction

How Brightly Beams the Morning Star HWB 222

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*See insert for hymn lyrics and scripture text.*

## Entering Worship

### *Hodie Christus Natus Est*

By Benjamin Britten from his Ceremony of Carols, 1942

#### *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* (HWB 190)

Vs 1 'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,  
The mighty Gitche Manitou sent angel choirs instead  
Before their light the stars grew dim,  
And wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Vs 2 Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found,  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round.  
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
The angel song rang loud and high:  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Vs 3 The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair  
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt  
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Vs 4 O children of the forest free, O seed of Manitou,  
The holy child of earth and heav'n is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant boy  
Who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.  
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Text: St. Jean de Brebeauf, ca. 1643; tr. JE Middleton, 1926; Music: French melody; Public Domain

### *Gesù Bambino*

Text & Music: Pietro A Yon; ©1919 J. Fischer Bros., renewed 1947  
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### *O Come All ye Children* (MH 470)

Vs 1 O come, all ye children, O come, one and all,  
To Bethlehem haste to the manger so small,  
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night  
To be your Redeemer, your joy and delight.

Vs 2 He's born in a stable for you and for me,  
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,  
In swaddling clothes lying so meek and so mild,  
And purer than angels the heavenly Child;

Vs 3 See Mary and Joseph with love-beaming eyes  
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies,  
The shepherds are kneeling with hearts full of love,  
While angels sing loud alleluias above.

Vs 4 Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,  
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they;  
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,  
And join in the song of the heavenly host.

Vs 5 Dear Christ Child, what gifts can we children bestow  
By which our affection and gladness to show?  
No riches and treasures of value can be,  
But hearts that believe are accepted with Thee.

Vs 6 Our hearts, then, to Thee we will offer today,  
We offer them gladly accept them, we pray,  
And make them so spotless and pure that we may  
Abide in Thy presence in heaven for aye.

Text: Christian von Schmid; Music: Johann Abraham Peter Schulz; Public Domain

## Faith Reflection

### *Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11* (NRSV)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

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For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

***O Come, O Come Immanuel*** (HWB 172)

*Vs 1* O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain* Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Vs 2* O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny.  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

*Vs 3* O come, thy Dayspring,  
come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

*Vs 4* O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home.  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

*Vs 5* 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 thy ways to go.

*Vs 6* O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease. Fill the whole world with  
heaven's peace.

Text: anonymous, ca 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century; tr. John M Neale, 1851 and Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916  
Music: trope melody, 15<sup>th</sup> century; Public Domain

***Sing a Different Song*** (STS 27)

*Vs 1* Sing a different song now Christmas is here,  
Sing a song of people knowing God's near:  
The Messiah is born in the face of our scorn,  
Sing a different song to welcome and warn.

*Vs 2* Shout a different shout now Christmas is here,  
Shout a shout of joy and genuine cheer:  
Fill the earth and the sky with the news from on high,  
Shout a different shout that all may come by.

Vs 3 Love a different love now Christmas is here,  
Love without condition, love without fear:  
With humble and poor, with the shy and unsure,  
Love a different love. Let Christ be the cure!

Vs 4 Dance a different dance now Christmas is here,  
Dance a dance of war on suffering and fear:  
Peace and justice are one, in the light of the sun.  
Dance a different dance. God's reign has begun!

Text: The Iona Community; Music: John L Bell  
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## Community & Sharing

### *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

From "Christmas Carols for Twelve Bells," Arr. Jason Krug  
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### *What Child is This* (HWB 215)

Vs 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping,  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Vs 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

Vs 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C Dix, 1865.; Music: Traditional English Melody; Public Domain

### *How Brightly Beams the Morning Star* (HWB 222)

Vs 1 How brightly beams the morning star!  
What sudden radiance from afar, aglow with grace and mercy  
Of Jacob's race, King David's son,  
Our Lord and master, you have won our hearts to serve you only!  
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing!  
Rule in might, o'er all possessing!

Vs 2 Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,  
And deep within our hearts now shine. There light a flame undying!  
In your one body let us be  
As living branches of a tree, your life our lives supplying.  
Now, though daily earth's deep sadness may perplex us & distress us,  
Yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.

Vs 3 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!  
Our joy be all with music crowned, our voices richly blending!  
For Christ goes with us all the way,  
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day! His love is never-ending!  
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!  
Great is he, the King of glory!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978  
Music: Pilipp Nicolai, 1599

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