SEEKERS CHURCH
A Church of the Saviour Community
Advent 2026

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

GATHERING TIME

REFLECTION

Our troubled times, shaped by all manner of injustice, cause continued suffering, making the loud cries of lament and cries for peace timely, as they are answered by advent. . . .

The Incarnation positions Jesus among the most vulnerable people, the bereft and threatened of society. The first advent shows God wrestling with the struggles common to many the world over. And from this disadvantaged stance, Jesus lives out God's peace agenda as a counter-testimony to Caesar's peace.

This is the story of advent: we join Jesus as incarnations of God's peace on this earth for however long it takes. God walks in deep solidarity with humanity, sharing in our sufferings and moments of hope. Amid our hardship, God is with us. Emmanuel remains the name on our lips in troubled times.

Kelley Nikondeha, *The First Advent in Palestine: Reversals, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexity of Hope*, pp. 181, 182–183

LIGHTING THE ALTAR CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Advent candles count
the days and weeks of waiting.

People: In Advent the cries of lament
seem more poignant;
the cries for peace more urgent
than in any other season.

Leader: In times of suffering and in times of hope,
Emmanuel, God with us, restores our souls.

People: We wait again for the coming of Christ,
who is already here among us.

Leader: We hear the call to join Jesus
as incarnations of God's peace.

All: We are called to be the Body of Christ,
in deep kinship with all who wait for peace on earth.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

SILENCE

PRAYERS

CONFESSION

Leader: Holy One, We wait again
for the coming of Christ,
who is already here among us.

People: Our cries for peace and justice
seem to go unanswered and we lose hope.

Leader: You walk with us in deep solidarity,
sharing our suffering and our hope.

People: We forget that we join Jesus
as incarnations of your peace on Earth.

Leader: This is the story of Advent:
amid our hardships you are with us.

All: Forgive us Holy One,
when in the midst of our suffering
we forget that you are always with us

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE

Leader: God is with us and forgives us.

People: O come, o come Emmanuel.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

INTERCESSION AND PETITION

COMMITMENT

All: O Holy One, we come today
to claim our relationship with you.
We pray for the commitment to grow together,

sharing the gifts you give us with others
here and in the wider world.

Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted
and help us forgive those who have hurt us.

Give us strength and discipline
to nurture our relationship with you;
to care for every part of your creation;
to foster justice and be in solidarity with those in need;
to work to end all war, and violence, and discord;
and to respond joyfully when you call,
freely giving our selves as you have shown the way.

We open our hearts to you and your creation
in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.

HYMN

THE WORD
SCRIPTURE
SERMON
SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

COMMUNION
PREPARATION
Leader 1: This is the table of the heavenly feast,
the joyful celebration of the people of God.

Leader 2: We gather now as one body, joined around the table.
Here we celebrate God's presence among us,
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at once.

All: Nourished and hungry, loved and loving,
sinner and forgiven, we make one circle
of knowing, believing, rejoicing, being,
as God lights and rests among us.

GREAT THANKSGIVING
Leader 1: Holy Creator, we thank you for this world,
filled with unexpected opportunities
to love and care and co-create with you.

People: We thank you for your Holy Spirit,

sometimes nearly hidden,
but always present and available.

Leader 2: We thank you for our brother Jesus,
whose promised coming anew
fills us with hope.

All: We thank you for your Holy Church,
the human expression of your divine presence,
where we learn to expect the blessing of your love.

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Leader 1: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life,
to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Leader 2: Jesus said, I am the bread of life.
You who come to me shall never hunger;
you who believe in me shall never thirst.

Leader 1: On the night he gave himself up, Jesus took bread,
and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,
This is my body,
broken for the healing of the world.
Whenever you eat it, do so remembering me.

Leader 2: After supper, Jesus took the cup and said,
This is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for all.
Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

All: O Holy One, send down your Spirit
that these gifts of grain and grape,
and work of human hands
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.
Unite us with Christ forever
and bring us with the whole creation
to your eternal realm.

SHARE THE ELEMENTS

Leader 1: The body of Christ, broken for all of us.
Feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Leader 2: The cup of the new covenant,
poured out for the healing of the world.
Drink deeply of it.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

All: God of abundance and mercy,
we give joyful thanks
for your eternal love and healing presence
in our celebration of bread and cup.
Bless this Body of Christ
that we may attend faithfully to our call to be your servants,
with each other and throughout the world. Amen.

SHARED REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go now and walk
in the light of the Holy One.
Stay alert for our God is near.
Put on the armor of light
and live openly and honorably.
Pray for peace for all God's people.

May God clothe you in the light of Christ;
may Christ Jesus teach you their ways;
and may the Holy Spirit keep you alert and prepared
as we count the weeks of Advent.

All: Amen