

Our Common Prayer (MKT, 2020)

O come Emmanuel, break through our isolation and swaddle us in the warmth of your love. Remind us of your steadfast, abiding presence and that nothing, nothing is able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Lighting of Advent Wreath

A: In the midst of unsettled times, it is good to return to familiar traditions, like our Advent wreath where we light a new candle each week.

B: During Advent, we have journeyed with the verses of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” as we have considered what each of the designations for the Messiah mean — Wisdom, Key of David, Radiant Dawn, and Desire of Nations.

C: This evening, we light the center Christ candle on our Advent wreath as we remember the birth of our savior, Jesus the Christ, also named Emmanuel, meaning God-with-us.

D: “O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver, the awaited hope of the nations, and their Savior: come and save us, O Word of God.”

The three purple candles, the pink candle, and the center white candle are lit while singing verse one of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”: “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.”

Children’s Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Carol

Away In A Manger

Megan Forbes & Dylan Teut

Scripture Lesson - Luke 2:1-20

The Birth of Jesus

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of God stood before them, and the glory of God shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Christ.

¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”
¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”
¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which God has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* **Seward UMC Virtual Choir**

Meditation *Longing for Emmanuel - O Emmanuel* **Pastor Mary Kay Totty**

Carol *O Holy Night/Silent Night* **Jamie Axthelm & Wess Robotham**

Pastoral Prayer

Carol *Angels We Have Heard on High* **Praise Team**

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:
Glo - ria, in excelsis Deo!
Glo - ria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *(Refrain)*

Offering

We give generously of our time, talents, gifts, service, and witness.

*To make a gift in support of our continued ministry during the global pandemic,
please place your offering in the box near the front door, or visit sewardumc.org
and click on the ‘donate’ button.*

Offertory *Joy to the World* **Seward UMC Virtual Choir**

Lighting of the Candles

Stille Nacht

Pam McConnell & Sarah Rodocker

(4:00 & 6:30 p.m.)

Silent Night

Alex Sommerfeld

(9:00 p.m.)

The Pastor will light the first candle from the Christ candle of the Advent wreath. The Pastor and ushers will then light the first candle of each pew. Please pass the Light of Christ to those sitting beside you. Once all candles are lit, we will pause to take in the moment, then move outside (distanced and masked) to sing our final carol.

Benediction

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Carol

Silent Night

Jay Ferris

Lyrics to "Silent Night" can be found on the blue Christmas Eve bookmark in your Christmas Eve kit. Be sure to take it, and any belongings, outside with you. Place your unlit candle in the bin by the door as you exit.

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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