



Welcome! Please see the pew card "Welcome to Worship" for more information on our services.

CENTERING WORDS

"I prefer winter and Fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape—the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show." ~ Andrew Wyeth

PRELUDE: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (Michael Praetorius) Timothy Barnes, organ

*CALL TO WORSHIP

As the prophets cry out in the wilderness, God confronts us with truths that set free.
We open ourselves to the holy offerings of those through whom God is speaking.
When we welcome God, we welcome the cause of the suffering.
And so we prepare for the call to courage and we listen for the leading of Justice.
Where the Spirit of God is, there is wisdom and understanding.
Let all who long for liberation receive the message of the prophets.
Thanks be to God who is bringing the Kingdom near.

*OPENING HYMN: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" # 196

* Please rise, in body or in spirit. Bold type indicates congregational response.

*OPENING PRAYER

WELCOME STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

(Please check in on Facebook and/or on Twitter @ChicagoBUMC, wifi password is 7733482679, and pass the friendship pads to register your attendance and any updated contact information.)

Welcome to worship, God’s beloved! **YES, I Am Welcome! Bienvenidas y bienvenidos!**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: “Come, O Come, Emmanuel” # 211 vs. 2



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: “Come, Emmanuel” see insert

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *[You are invited to say this prayer in the language of your heart.]*

Our God in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kindom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kindom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse; from Jesse’s roots, a branch will blossom. The Spirit of YHWH will rest on you—a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and strength, a spirit of knowledge and reverence for YHWH. You will delight in obeying YHWH, and you won’t judge by appearances, or make decisions by hearsay. You will treat poor people with fairness and will uphold the rights of the land’s downtrodden. With a single word you will strike down tyrants; with your decrees you will execute evil people. Justice will be the belt around this your waist—faithfulness will gird you up. Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the lion cub will graze together, and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear; their young will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like the ox. The baby will play next to the den of the cobra, and the toddler will dance over the viper’s nest. There will be no harm, no destruction anywhere in my holy mountain; for as water fills the sea, so the land will be filled with knowledge of YHWH. On that Day, the Root of Jesse will serve as a symbol to the peoples of the world—nations will flock to you, and your home will be a place of honor. On that Day, YHWH will once more raise a hand to recover the remnant of what is left of the people, and gather them back from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Ethiopia, Elma, Shinar, Hamath, and the islands of the sea.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Twelve Minutes of Christmas!

Broadway Choir

“Emmanuel” (Bob McGee)

“Silent Night, Holy Night” (Franz Gruber)

Lamar Adams, soloist

“African Alleluia” (Benjamin Harlan)

“Jesus, What a Wonderful Child” (traditional Gospel tune)

*SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:26-38

Six months later, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman named Mary; she was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, “Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!” Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel’s greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You’ll conceive and bear a son, and give him the name Jesus—‘Deliverance.’ His dignity will be great, and he will be called the Only Begotten of God. God will give Jesus the judgment seat of David, his ancestor,, to rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his reign will never end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have never been with a man?” The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you—hence the offspring to be born will be called the Holy One of God. Know too that Elizabeth, your kinswoman, has conceived a child in her old age; she who was thought to be infertile is now in her sixth month. Nothing is impossible with God.” Mary said, “I am the servant of God. Let it be done to me as you say.” With that, the angel left her.

Here ends the reading of the Gospel. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

MESSAGE: “Sacred People”

Felipe Foucher

MISSION MINUTE: Global AIDS Fund and Heifer International

[see announcements]

THE INVITATION TO OFFERING

[Broadway is committed to the financial support of its identity, vision, and ministry by tithing. Consider making an offering this morning of 10 percent of your income from this past week.]

Beloveds, God is not finished with us. Not as individuals. Not as a community. Not with our future as a collective people. The Spirit of God is stirring. And so let us bring all of who we are and share what we have together, that we might prepare the way for Love.

OFFERTORY HYMN: “Give Thanks” FS 2036 (inclusive language below)

Give thanks, with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks, because God gave us, Jesus Christ, the Son. (2x)

and now, let the weak say, “I am strong”; let the poor say, “I am rich because of what our God has done, for us.” (2x) Give thanks!

* DOXOLOGY [tune # 95]

[You are invited to sing in one of these languages or in the language of your heart.]

[Español:] **A Dios el Padre Celestial Al hijo nuestro Redentor
Y al eterno Consolador Unidos todos alabad. Amen.**

[English:] **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Renewing One, wherever there is heartbreak, wherever there is devastation, wherever
there is loss, be near. Bring your abiding presence close to all who are dwelling in fields of
despair. Bless these offerings to the work of your restoring justice and turn us from all that
keeps us from doing right by another. Amen.**

* CLOSING HYMN: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" # 213 vs. 2-4

* BENEDICTION

Whether we go from here to lands thriving or lands in ruin, **God goes with us.**

Whether we carry with us hope that is alive or feel heavy with despair, **God will see us through.**

Whether we anticipate renewal or are awash in disbelief, **God's Spirit stirs with readiness.**

Remember you go always in the company of Sacred Potential so go in peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (Psalmody Evangelica) Timothy Barnes, organ
[Please remain seated for the postlude, or if needed, leave quietly.]

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*Liturgist: Jon Fallon. Liturgy adapted from enfleshed.com and worshipdesignstudio.com. Scripture from The Inclusive Bible. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2009.*

**BROADWAY'S MISSION STATEMENT:** "God calls Broadway United Methodist Church to be a faith community embracing the diversity of our Chicago neighborhood and larger community. We welcome all persons – celebrating the human family's God-given diversity of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, and physical or mental capacity. We also welcome persons of all social and economic classes and faith backgrounds. At Broadway, we are accepted into God's nurturing family, which invites us into spiritual growth through worship, study, mission, and social action. We are grateful for the opportunities God gives us to experience and share the love of Christ."

