



**LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST**

**December 13, 2020
6th Sunday of Extended Advent**



La Jolla United Methodist Church

6063 La Jolla Boulevard

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www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

Prelude: "There's a Song in the Air" Arr. Pepper Choplin

Musician: Jennifer Lai, Piano

Welcome

Opening Music: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" UMH 211 Vs. 1-4

Musicians: Jayson Coleman, Joyce Theilacker, Jennifer Lai

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

2. 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.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Advent Blessing - Lighting the Candle of Joy

We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, “God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.” No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming.

Scripture: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Message: “Desperation & Hope”

Response to the Word

Confession, Assurance, and Peace

Liturgist: God of the prophets, we give thanks for the voices that cry out and demand our attention. They call us to put our trust and hope in you. Forgive us when we close our eyes to your vision, and when we stop our ears to your promise. Heal our weakness when we give up on ourselves, on one another, and on you. Free us from hopeless living, that we may joyfully love and serve others in your holy name.

Pastor: Know that we are forgiven in Christ’s name. May Love live in us and through us, that all may know God’s peace.

Liturgist: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Invitation to the Offering -

Offertory: “I Want to Walk to Walk as a Child of the Light” UMH 206

Musicians: Jayson Coleman, Joyce Theilacker, Jennifer Lai

Thanksgiving and Holy Communion

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Closing Music: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" UMH 213

Musicians: Jayson Coleman, Joyce Theilacker, Jennifer Lai

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!
2. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.
3. Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in us reveal.
4. Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

Benediction

LJUMC Ministry Team

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Rev. Lea Booth, Pastor of Discipleship;
Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb, Administrative Assistant;
Joyce Drozda, NS & Church Accountant; Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director;
Bridget Musante, NS Executive Director