



December 3, 2023
 First Sunday of Advent
 Hanging of the Greens
 The Reverend Jenny Anderson

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

**All who are able, standing*

ENTRANCE

GATHERING

After the gathering, a bell will ring to signal the beginning of worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let Every Heart Prepare a Throne

Mark Patterson

Let every heart prepare a throne for soon the Child of Light will come.
 Let every voice prepare a song to welcome Christ the Promised One.

Let every hand reach out with love to greet this gift from God above.
 Make ready now, the Savior comes, the Prince of Peace, the Promised One.

So let the flame of Advent glow, each candle shines that all may know
 The hope we need, so long foretold will soon be here for us to hold.

* HYMN

211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

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

Refrain:

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

**2 all 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.**

Refrain

**3 men 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.

Refrain

4 *choir* 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.

Refrain

5 *women* O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
The captives from their prison free,
and conquer death's deep misery.

Refrain

6 *all* O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

7 *all* O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife.

Refrain

* GREETING

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?
With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?
With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?
**With wreaths of holly and ivy,
telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.**

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?
**By hearing again the words of the prophets,
who foretold the saving work of God.**

* OPENING PRAYER

God of justice and peace,
from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness,
that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder
before your marvelous deeds.

Raise our heads in expectation,
 that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord
 and stand without blame before your son, Jesus Christ.
 who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Readers: In the days of exile and uncertainty...
 for you do not know when the master of the house will come.

**We wait as people surprised again and again
 by God who shakes us out of our complacency
 and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.**

... restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. **Amen.**

The first candle is lit.

Response: **O come, O come, Emmanuel!**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Lord, open our hearts and minds
 by the power of your Holy Spirit,
 that, as the Scriptures are read
 and your Word proclaimed,
 we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 64:1-9

Old Testament p. 849

PSALM

Psalms 80:1-7, 14-19

UMH p. 801

***Sung Response: I am the vine; you are the branches
 rooted in faith and love***

Give ear, O shepherd of Israel,
 you who lead Joseph like a flock!
 You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!
 In the presence of Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
 stir up your might, and come to save us!

**Restore us, O God;
 Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

O Lord God of hosts,
 how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
**You have fed them with the bread of tears,
 and given them tears to drink in full measure.**
 You make us the scorn of our neighbors;

and our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Sung Response

Turn again, O God of hosts!

Look down from heaven, and see:

have regard for this vine, the stock which your right hand planted.

They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down;

may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance!

But let your hand be upon those of your right hand,

the ones whom you have made strong for yourself!

Then we will never turn back from you;

give us life, and we will call on your name!

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts!

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Sung Response

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

* GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 13:24-37

New Testament p. 61

SERMON

Keep Alert

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

UMH p. 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION

Christ, our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
 who earnestly repent of their sin
 and seek to live in peace with one another.
 Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Leader to people) Hear the good news:
 Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
 that proves God's love toward us.
 In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

(People to leader) **In the name of Jesus Christ,**
you are forgiven.

(Leader and People) **Glory to God. Amen.**

* THE PEACE

OFFERING

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERING

People, Look East

Text: see hymn 202

arr. Malcolm Archer

* DOXOLOGY

95 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Old 100th

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Clergy*

UMH p.18

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so,

with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might

heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

And so,

In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

All honor and glory and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Clergy*

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

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery

in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world
 in the strength of your Spirit,
 to give ourselves for others,
 in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

* HYMN

706 Soon and Very Soon

Very Soon

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
 soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
 soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

No more dying there, we are going to see the King;
 No more dying there, we are going to see the King;
 No more dying there, we are going to see the King;
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

No more crying there, we are going to see the King;
 No more crying there, we are going to see the King;
 No more crying there, we are going to see the King;
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

* POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude on *Wachet auf* (Hymn 720)

J.S. Bach

*The rosebud in the sanctuary is placed in honor of the birth of
 Theodore "Teddy" Gene Bull,
 born November 23, 2023 to Jessica and Nick Bull.*

Ministry of Worship

Preacher	The Reverend Jenny Anderson
Liturgist	Jeff Pullium
Lay Reader	Di Johnson
Greeters	Paula Matson, Ulrike Arntz
Usher	Chip Matson
Acolyte	Micah Quattlebaum
Crucifer	Emmy Dixon
Organist and Director of Music	Jamie Council Garvey
Choirs	The St. John Choir The St. John Junior Choir, Sawyer Branham, Director
Soloist	Evelyn Thomas
Pianist	Larry Millen
Worship Technician	Donald Tilton
Sound Technician	Tonya Currier
Offering Counter	Mark Barron

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Weekly Stewardship	
Giving this week	\$3,718
YTD Giving	\$403,576
YTD Other Income	\$47,422
YTD Expenses	\$505,540
2023 Budget	\$565,081
Attendance 11/26	Sanctuary: 98 Online: 28

St. John United Methodist Church

St. John is a welcoming and affirming congregation.

736 Greene Street, Augusta, Georgia 30901

StJohnAugusta.org | 706.724.9641

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