

**First United Methodist Church of Toms River
Sanctuary Worship ~ November 28, 2021**

*First Sunday in Advent
The Candle of Hope*

PRELUDE

Emmanuel

Joel Raney

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 93:1-5

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord

Ministers: Thanks be to God!

*HYMN No. 211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we suffer today because of sin, both the sins we have chosen and the sins committed against us. We have done things we should not have done, and we have neglected to do those things we should have done. Save us from ourselves; save us from the forces of evil in this world. We do not have the power to undo what has already been done, so grant us grace to bear present burdens and courage to change things that can be changed. Teach us how to live in this Advent season as we worship the one who came as a child so that our faith might grow up to fullness. We ask all this in the name of Jesus, the Christ of God...

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE LORD'S PRAYER No. 895

*RESPONSIVE READING (Isaiah 40)

Pastor: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

**Ministers: A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

Pastor: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,

**Ministers: For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
God will tend his flock like a shepherd;**

Pastor: God will gather the lambs in his arms;

**Ministers: He will carry them close to his heart,
and gently lead those who are with young.**

*PRAISE RESPONSE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen

* AFFIRMATION From Romans 8 - No. 887

Leader: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

Ministers: No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, Will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM – *Cecilia Grace McVoy*

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround *Cecilia* with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her service to others. We will pray that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

*CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE No. 204

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel,
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel (2x)**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Cross of Jesus

Ashley Grote

PRESENTATION OF OUR TRUST, TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY No. 95

*HYMN No. 218

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

MESSAGE

How to Prepare

John 1:19-31

*HYMN

No. 203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Gilbert M. Martin

* Indicates that those who are able, please stand