

*Lacey United Methodist Church
2020 Blue Christmas Service*

***Prelude**

***Hymn #204**

Emmanuel

***Call to Worship**

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by God, and without God nothing came to be. What came to be through God was life, and this life was the light of the world.

ALL: The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

***Hymn #211 Vs. 1,2,6**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

***Scripture ~ Isaiah 40:1, 25-31**

***Hymn #196**

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

***Lighting of the Advent Candles**

We light the first candle remembering those whom we have loved. We pause to remember their names, faces, and voices, the memories that bind them to us in this season. *(Silent Prayer)*

We light the second candle to redeem the pain of loss, the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health, the loss of hopes and dreams. We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God, asking that from God's hands we receive the gift of peace. *(Silent Prayer)*

We light the third candle remembering ourselves this Christmas. We pause and reflect upon the past weeks, months, and years; the disbelief, the anger, the down times, the tears; asking God to help us draw strength from the hugs and handshakes of family and friends; giving thanks for all the support we have been shown. *(Silent Prayer)*

We light the fourth candle remembering our faith and the gift of hope, which the Christmas story offers us. We pause to remember that God shares our life, and promises us a place and time of no more suffering. *(Silent Prayer)*

***Hymn #219 Vs. 1&2**

What Child Is This

***Scripture ~ Revelation 21:1-7**

***Hymn #217 Vs. 1&3**

Away in a Manger

***Scripture ~ John 1:1-14**

***Message ~ "Learning to Walk in the Dark"**

***Sacrament of Holy Communion**

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

From the silence before creation your Word spoke all that is
into being. You saw the darkness and called forth light,
dividing the day from the night,
and giving each its name and your blessing.

We abused your blessing,

choosing to control rather than tend,

to consume rather than nourish,

to turn away from your light,

and turn your darkness into a hiding place,

a place of fear and shame.

Still you chose to bless us and redeem us,
calling us to restored fellowship
through prophets, leaders, and faithful people.

And so, with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join 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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

From the darkness of a stable,
you brought forth the light of the world,
He carried your light into every darkened corner,
calling those kept in darkness to rejoice in your love,
and exposing those who hid from your Truth
to the light of your righteous judgment.

By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you
gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and
death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the
Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new
covenant, poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."
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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them to be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit, make us one with Christ in his sufferings,
one with each other in mutual love,
and one in ministry to all the world with healing grace,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit in your holy church,

All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever. **Amen.**
And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

***The Lord's Prayer**

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, the power and the glory
forever. Amen.

The pastor breaks the bread and says:

Alleluia! In the midst of our longest night, Christ our Savior
dwells among us!

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

***Prayer** Love Incarnate, Love Divine, God of Mercy and
Peace, hear our prayers for ourselves, and for our families
and friends trying to celebrate You this Holy Night. We trust in
You. We believe Your Word to be true. Release us from our
fears and anxieties. Fill our spirits with Your stillness. Assure
us of Your love and eternal rest. We ask strength for this day,
courage for tomorrow, and peace for all that is past. Bless us
and hallow our every thought and action, that the healing
peace of Jesus Christ may be born in us. We pray in His most
holy and precious name. Amen.

***Invitation to Light Candles of Remembrance**

You are invited to post on Facebook names of loved ones you
are thinking of this Christmas season. We will be lighting
candles in memory of them during our closing hymns.

***Hymn #239**

Silent Night, Holy Night

***Hymn #230 Vs. 1,3,4**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

***Blessing and Benediction**

***Postlude**

Emmanuel #204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us.
His name is called Emmanuel. (Repeat)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel #211. vs. 1,2,&6

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel.

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.

O come thou, Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thy justice here.
Disperse the stormy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus #196

Come thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the world , Thou art
Dear desire of every na-tion
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king.
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thy own eternal spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thy own sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

What Child is This? #219. Vs.1&2

What child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping.
This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
Whereof and ass are sleeping?
Good Christians fear, for sinners here,
The silent word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring hi. laud,
The Babe, the son of Mary.

Away in a Manger. #217. vs. 1&3

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The Little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Silent Night #239

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia"
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, loves pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, send thy light.
With the angels let us sing
"Alleluia" to our King
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born

O Little Town of Bethlehem. #230. vs. 1,3 &4

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see Thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years,
Are met in Thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given.
So God imparts to human hearts,
the blessing of His heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

Oh holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, their great glad tidings tell,
Oh come to us, abide with us
Our Lord, Emmanuel.