



**WEST BRIDGEWATER**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, December 17, 2023

*Join us live on our Facebook or YouTube page beginning at 9:15 a.m.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn: “Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery”**

*Words and music by Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, and Michael Bleecker*

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King;  
He the theme of heaven’s praises, robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come;  
look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of Man;  
in His living, in His suffering never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man;  
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree,  
in the stead of ruined sinners, hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption, see the Father’s plan unfold;  
bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the God of life;  
but no grave could e’er restrain Him, praise the Lord, He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope;  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.

**Advent Reading and Candle Lighting**

**Isaiah 9:1–3 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.

- <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

### **Zephaniah 3:14–17 (ESV)**

- <sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!
- <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.
- <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.
- <sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.”

### **Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

*Words: Latin Hymn, trans. J. M. Neale, H. S. Coffin. Additional words by S. Cook, B. Kauflin.*

*Music: Plainsong (“Veni Emmanuel”)*

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

O Come, Thou, Dayspring from on high and cause Thy light on us to rise;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death’s dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, O come, true prophet of the Lord, and turn the key to heaven’s door;  
be Thou our comforter and guide and lead us to the Father’s side.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall by His word our darkness dispel.

O come, our great High Priest, and intercede; Thy sacrifice, our only plea;  
the judgment we no longer fear; Thy precious blood has brought us near.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has banished every fear of hell.

O come, Thou King of nations bring an end to all our suffering;  
bid every pain and sorrow cease; and reign now as our Prince of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come again with us to dwell.

**Hymn: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

*Words: 15<sup>th</sup> century German hymn; translated by T. Baker and K. Spaeth. Music: German hymn.*

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as men of old have sung.  
It came, a flower bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half-gone was the night.

Isaiah ’twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God’s love aright she bore to men a Savior,  
when half-gone was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;  
true man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us,  
and lightens every load.

**Sermon: “The Dawn of Redemption”**

**1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV)**

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

**Hymn: “Joy to the World!”**

*Words: Isaac Watts. Music: George Frederick Handel.*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

**Benediction**

**1 Timothy 6:21b (ESV)**

Grace be with you.