

*A*  
*Musical Pageant*  
*on the Life of Christ*  
*Emmanuel Has Come*  
*(Part One)*

December 2, 2007

9:25 a.m. o'clock

*It's an old story. Why tell it again? We know it almost by heart. Some of us have heard it since we were kids. Angels, shepherds, wise men, fishermen, Pharisees, Roman soldiers...we've been there, done that. I know this Christmas you could sing about holly and ivy, tinsel and bows and families gathered around warm fires. And all those things are wonderful. But, decorations get put away. Tinsel fades. Families go back to their busy routines, and the warmth starts to fade. And people still need the hope, the joy, the peace.*

*Every year, churches get out the Pageant sets. Every year, people spend hours learning music and cues, where to stand, what to say. Every year, children's Sunday schools get out the old "bathrobes." And every year, it takes us by surprise; that moment, in the middle of a song, when we realize what it must have been like to really be there. And we see it all new again.*

*There is only one story this Christmas that will last into the New Year. It is the story of a Savior. It is the story of God's love. It changes lives. It holds families together. It brings peace to people who desperately need it. That is why we are telling the story again.*

*So say it again –  
Same old story, same old lines.  
I heard it all before.  
But say it over one more time.  
Say it again –  
Same old story, same old lines.  
It will warm my frozen heart.  
So say it over one more time.  
Say it over one more time.*

(The asterisk (\*) designates when the congregation will please stand.

Worshippers who find standing difficult are invited to remain seated.

**Bold print** is read or sung by the congregation.

Worshippers are encouraged to turn off their cell phones while they are in the sanctuary.))

---

## WE GATHER TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP

---

### THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pads.

When it reaches the end of the pew, please pass it back so that all may note those worshipping today.

Cards are available in the pew for those desiring to request prayer or praise for specific needs, concerns and joys. Please place the card in the offering plate during the offering.

### THE PRELUDE

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (Hymn 196)*

Jay Rouse

---

## WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

---

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: We have come to experience God's grace in our worship and in our lives!**

### \*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT

The congregation stands with the first note of the chimes.

An acolyte brings in the 'Living Flame' symbolizing the presence of God's Holy Spirit.

The Holy Bible is facing the congregation as a reminder that God's Word is open and available to all.

---

## WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD

---

### \*THE HYMN OF ADVENT

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

Hymn 211

Musical Interlude

### THE CALL TO PRAYER

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Liturgist: Let us pray.

All: **We yearn, our Father, for the simple beauty of this Advent and Christmas season – for all the old familiar melodies and words that remind us of that great miracle when He who had made all things was one night to come as a Babe, to lie in the crook of a woman’s arm. Before such mystery we kneel, as we follow the Shepherds and Wise Men to bring You the gift of our love – a love we confess that has not always been as warm or sincere or real as it should have been. But now, during this Advent season, that love would find its Beloved, and from You receive the grace to make it pure again, warm and real. We bring You our gratitude for every token of Your love. Hear us now as we pray, each in our own words and our own way.**

Moments of Silent Prayer

Those desiring to come to the altar for a time of intercessory prayer  
are welcome to come and kneel or stand.

All are invited to spend these moments in silent prayer seated at your pew.

The Pastoral 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 and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

---

## **WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD**

---

EMMAUNEL HAS COME – Part One

Karla Worley

“Jesus Our Emmanuel”

“Emmanuel Has Come”

Quartet, Gospelaire

“One Small Child”

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

“All Is Well”

Soloist, Michelle McKinney

“This Child Is”

Soloists, Ron and Liz Harper

“He is Born, The Divine Christ Child”

Soloists, Katelyn Kingseed and Kasey May

“Emmanuel Has Come”

Quartet, Gospelaire

---

## WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD

---

### THE OFFERING GOD OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

If you are visiting this morning, you are our guest. If Grace U.M. Church is your home, remember that the biblical expectation is that you will give your tithe to your church. May we all remember that giving to God in response to His great love is the most celebrative moment of corporate worship. Today's loose coin offering is dedicated to CAM.

The Giving of our Tithes and Offering

The Offertory

*"One Small Child"*

David Meece, Arr. By Jay Rouse

The Advent Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

To the tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God, all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

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

### \*THE HYMN OF INVITATION TO A LIFE WITH CHRIST

*"Joy to the World"*

Hymn 246

### \*THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT

The acolyte carries the 'Living Flame' from the altar,  
reminding us that we must carry the message of God's grace and love  
out from this sanctuary into the world.

### \*THE BENEDICTION

### \*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

*"What Can I Give Him"*

Altar Choir

Don Cason

### \*THE POSTLUDE

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (Hymn 196)