

A Time for Meditation

“Emmanuel”

**Welcome
to
Kirkwood!**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Opening Hymn

“Lord, Be Glorified”

#186

**In my life, Lord,
be glorified, be glorified.**

**In my life, Lord,
be glorified today.**

**In our home, Lord,
be glorified, be glorified.**

**In our home, Lord,
be glorified today.**

**In your church, Lord,
be glorified, be glorified.**

**In your church, Lord,
be glorified today.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Be vigilant, praying at all times for strength so that we may pass through all troubles.

People: We will be ready to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Time to Go Home”

We feel like tired and scared shark hunters,
alone on a boat in the middle of sea. We
don't know if we have the strength to face
what is before us, hunting us, hurting us.
We huddle around a table in this hold of a
leaky vessel, and we sing what comes to
mind.

Show me the way to go home, I'm tired and
I want to go to bed. Wherever I may roam
on land or sea, you can always hear me
singing a song: show me the way to go
home.

Home. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of a branch that will be raised. Jesus spoke of a Son of Man that will descend. Both point to a hope – a hope that calls us home. Our true home, where we're welcomed and loved and included, where there is justice and equality and peace. It's time, this Advent season, time to go home.

We light this candle, as a sign of our hope,
our strong hope that there is a way to go
home. To the home in Christ, and it starts
with us, and it starts here, and it starts now.
It's time to go home.

[Light the first candle on the Advent wreath]

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

People: God of all history, the passing of time sometimes escapes us. We live from payday to payday, from party to party, from crisis to crisis. We lose sight of our spiritual state of health until illness or tragedy forces us to take stock again.

Forgive our frequent indifferences to the social problems of the world. Help us to mature in our faith for the sake of your perfect Son, Jesus of Nazareth.

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! God is confirming your heartfelt belief

People: so that we will stand faultless before our Maker.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

A Time for Children

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved and
Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the
name by which it will be called: “The Lord
is our righteousness.”

New Testament Reading

Luke 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap.

For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

“People Get Ready”

Second Hymn

**“Open My Eyes
That I May See”**

#563

**Open my eyes
that I may see
glimpses of truth
thou hast for me;**

**Place in my hands
the wonderful key
that shall unclasp
and set me free.**

**Silently now
I wait for thee,
ready, my God,
thy will to see;**

**Open my eyes,
illumine me,
Spirit divine.**

**Open my ears
that I may hear
voices of truth
thou sendest clear;**

**And while the wave
notes fall on my ear,
everything false
will disappear.**

**Silently now
I wait for thee,
ready, my God,
thy will to see;**

**Open my ears,
illumine me,
Spirit divine.**

**Open my mouth
and let me bear
gladly the warm
truth everywhere;**

**Open my heart,
and let me prepare
love with thy children
thus to share.**

**Silently now
I wait for thee,
ready, my God,
thy will to see;**

**Open my heart,
illumine me,
Spirit divine.**

Baptism and

Welcome of New Member

Affirmation of Faith

(Apostles' Creed)

**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 Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell;

the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on

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 Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory Song

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom
all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures
here below;**

**Praise God above,
ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son
and Holy Ghost.**

Amen.

(repeat Amen 6 times)

Prayer of Dedication

People: God our Savior, we stand before you as those who are ready to be led by you in your way, to use what we have for your goodness in full measure, through Jesus and in the Spirit of the Christ.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

**“Come Thou Long
Expected Jesus”**

#244

**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
earth thou art;**

**Dear desire of
every nation,
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 thine own
eternal Spirit,
rule in all
our hearts alone;**

**By thine all
sufficient merit,
raise us to
thy glorious throne.**

Charge and Blessing

