



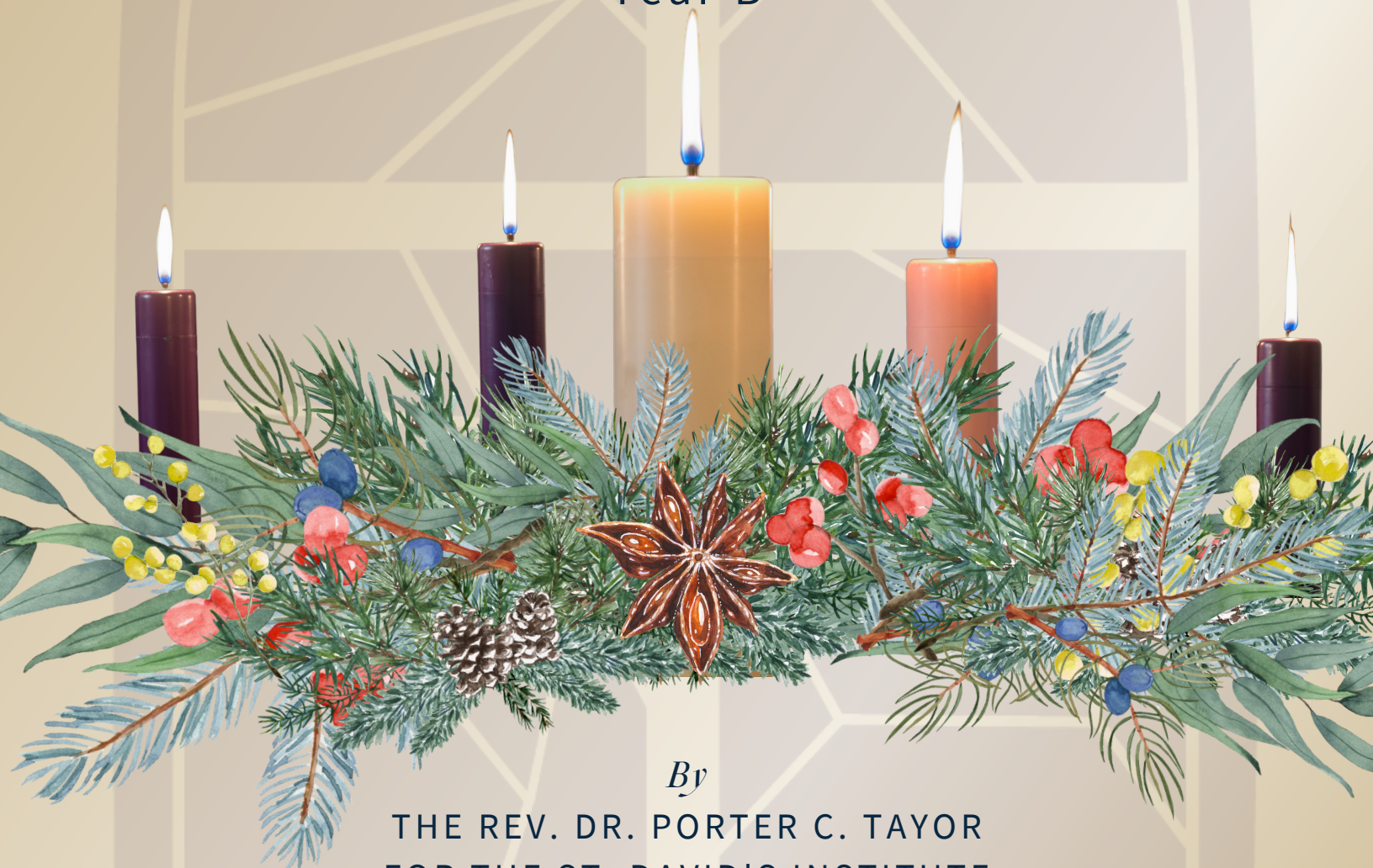
The St. David's Institute

AT ST. DAVID'S BY-THE-SEA

*A Liturgy for the Lighting
of the Advent Candles*

Advent 2023

Year B



By

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FOR THE ST. DAVID'S INSTITUTE

A Message from the St. David's Institute - Advent 2023

Dear Friends,

This short liturgy was designed to be embedded within the celebration of Holy Eucharist (both Rite I and II), occurring after the Processional and before the Opening Acclamation. The goal of this liturgy is to tie together the themes of the Advent lectionary readings, the Advent collects, and the Advent candles.* Additionally, this liturgy contains sung, said, and prayed elements.

The same verse from *O come, O come, Emmanuel* is repeated at the beginning and end of the liturgy with the intention of leaving participants hanging in Advent tension. My parish, St. David's by the Sea in Cocoa Beach, Florida has used this liturgy for the last three years and the congregation wants to sing, *Rejoice, rejoice!* but is forced to wait for Christmas joy until the Feast of the Nativity when we light the final candle. The versicles have been taken from one of the lectionary readings each Sunday. The rest of the liturgy was written by me. While I designed it for congregational participation, individuals and families may adapt it for home use. Our family uses an Advent wreath for our dining table centerpiece each year, and on Sundays we pray this liturgy together before our meal (although we omit the singing).

If you choose to incorporate this in your worship services, please give attribution to the St. David's Institute. It is my prayer that this liturgy will enhance your Advent worship.

Peace,
Porter+

**I have opted to go with the more contemporary version of Advent Candle themes (Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love) for this liturgy. The Rev. Fleming Rutledge, however, has suggested that the "ancient Advent words are Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell." Perhaps I will write a liturgy for those words one day.*

First Sunday of Advent - Hope

This liturgy takes places after the Processional and before the Opening Acclamation.

All (singing): *O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

Reader: Today is the first Sunday of Advent and on this day we light the first candle in our Advent wreath: the Candle of Hope. Our hope is in the Lord, maker of heaven and earth, and our hope is "built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness." We put our hope in Jesus, the faithful Israelite, who is restoring and reconciling all things.

Reader: Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: *Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

The Candle of Hope is lit.

Reader: Gracious Father, kindle in our hearts such a desire for you and your saving works that the flame may never be put out. Guide and direct us as we prepare our hearts to both celebrate the birth of your Son and look forward to his second coming. We long for the day, with hope-filled expectation, when you will put the world to rights, and we thank you for giving us the means of grace and the hope of glory. *Amen.*

Reader: Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: *Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

All (singing): *O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

The liturgy then proceeds with the Opening Acclamation.



Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

This liturgy takes places after the Processional and before the Opening Acclamation.

All (singing): *O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

Reader: Today is the second Sunday of Advent and today we light the second candle in our Advent wreath: the Candle of Peace. God sent us his son, his only son, Jesus, to be our Prince of Peace. We cannot have your peace “which transcends all understanding” apart from him. For he said to his disciples, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.”

Reader: Mercy and truth have met together;

People: *Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*

The reader lights the Candles of Hope and Peace.

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, may your shalom reign in our hearts and in our lives. Create in us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us, that we might know you and make you known in the world. Help us to be heralds of your glory and proclaimers of your peace. *Amen.*

Reader: Mercy and truth have met together;

People: *Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*

All (singing): *O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

The liturgy then proceeds with the Opening Acclamation.



Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

This liturgy takes places after the Processional and before the Opening Acclamation.

All (singing): *O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

Reader: Today is the third Sunday of Advent and on this day we light the third candle in our Advent wreath: the Candle of Joy. Israel rejoiced when she was freed from exile and led back to Zion; Mary rejoiced at the news that she would carry Jesus in her womb; we rejoice because the Father has sent us his son to deliver and reconcile us to him.

Reader: They said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

People: *The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.*

The reader lights the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.

Reader: Holy Trinity, you are the source, cause, and object of our joy. Continue to stir up in us such joyful exultation for your name and glory that we cannot keep silent. May our joy compel us to proclaim your mighty works and saving acts to the whole world that they might know your joy also. *Amen.*

Reader: They said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

People: *The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.*

All (singing): *O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

The liturgy then proceeds with the Opening Acclamation.



Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love

This liturgy takes places after the Processional and before the Opening Acclamation.

All (singing): *O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

Reader: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent and on this day we light the fourth candle in our Advent wreath: the Candle of Love. God's steadfast love has been made known to us through his son, Jesus Christ, who laid down his life for all people. For "God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We cannot comprehend how vast, high, deep, and wide is the love of God.

Reader: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

People: *My spirit rejoices in God my savior.*

The reader lights the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Reader: Ever-loving God, you made us in your image, and you have called us to be your people, marked by your love. Light our hearts on fire with such a love for you, and allow that love to pour into all our relationships, that the world might know your vast and unrelenting love. *Amen.*

Reader: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

People: *My spirit rejoices in God my savior.*

All (singing): *O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

The liturgy then proceeds with the Opening Acclamation.



The Feast of the Nativity

This liturgy takes places after the Processional and before the Opening Acclamation. Please light the four Advent candles before the service begins.

All (singing): *O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

Reader: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” The darkness has not, cannot, and will not overcome the light of Christ.

Reader: For unto us is born this day in the city of David.

People: *A Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

The reader lights the Christ Candle.

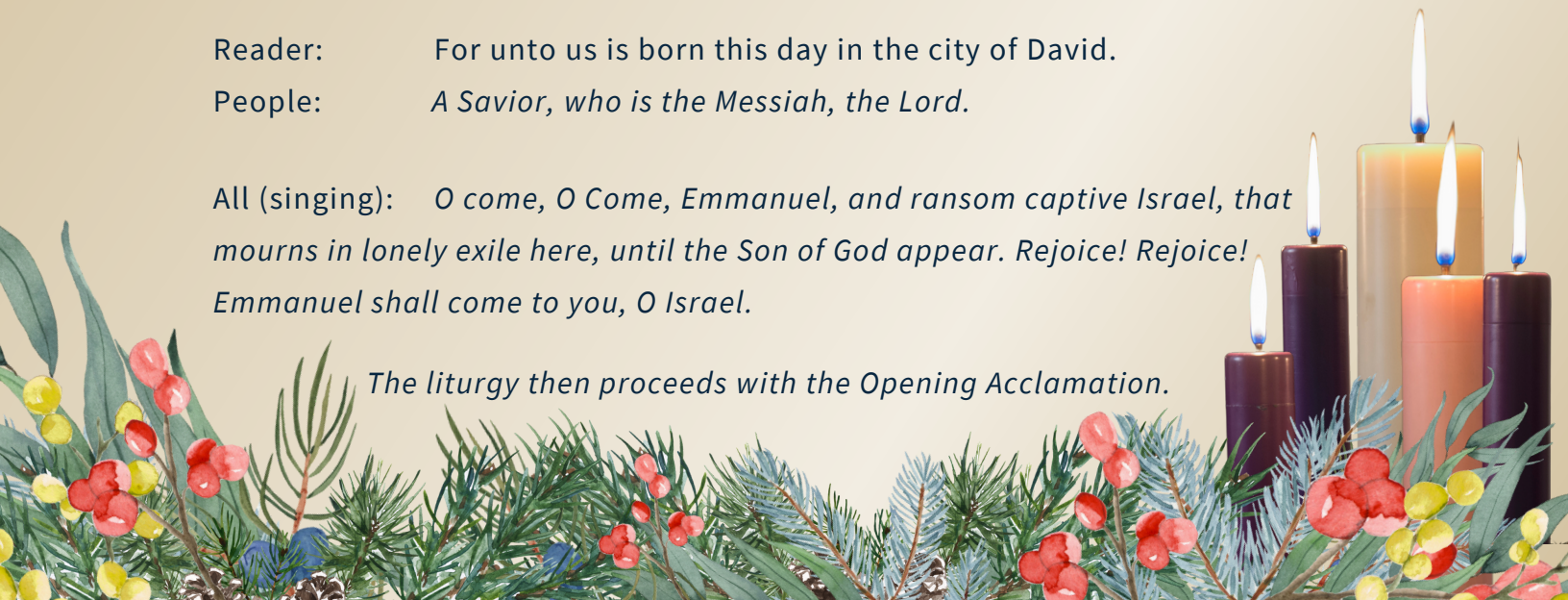
Reader: Almighty God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may make Him known to the ends of the earth; we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Reader: For unto us is born this day in the city of David.

People: *A Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

All (singing): *O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

The liturgy then proceeds with the Opening Acclamation.



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* is one of the most popular Advent and Christmas hymns. Based on the *O Antiphons*, the 1982 *Hymnal* has corresponding dates by each verse. For more information about the *O Antiphons*, visit the SDI Resource page for our *O Antiphons Liturgy* (stdavidsbythesea.org/sdi-resources).

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

Refrain

2 *O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.*

Refrain

3 *O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.*

Refrain

4 *O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!*

*From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.*

Refrain

5 *O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode.*

Refrain

6 *O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light.*

Refrain

7 *O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace.*

Refrain

Refrain:

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



A Liturgy for the Lighting of the Advent Candles was written by the Rev. Dr. Porter C. Taylor on behalf of the St. David's Institute (SDI). To learn more about SDI, visit stdavidsbythesea.org/st-davids-institute