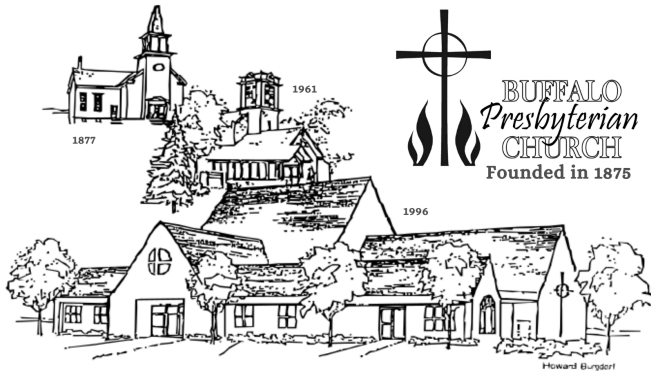


# 150th Celebration

**December 7, 2025**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent**  
**w/ Holy Communion**



## **Worship Leaders:**

Pastor Brian Entz & Chuck Klaassen

## **Music Leaders:**

Ralph Johansen, Mike Agre, & BPC Choir

*Please read along with all **Bold** text*  
*All are invited to stand when there is an \**

**Larger Print:** Please see an usher if you would like larger print hymns and/ or bulletin.

**Children's Bulletins:** Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

Nun Komm dear Heiden Heiland bww659

*J. S. Bach*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*First let us say a blessing upon all who have entered here before us.*

*You can see the sign of their passage by the worn place where their hand rested  
on the doorframe as they walked through, the smooth sill  
of the threshold where they crossed....*

*So lay your palm against the frame that those before you touched  
place your feet where others paused in this entryway.*

*Say the thing that you most need and the door will open wide*

*and by this word the door is blessed and by this word  
the blessing is begun from which door by door all the rest will come.*

*-Blessing the Door, by Jan Richardson*

## GATHERING

CHORAL INTROIT

Joy to the World!

*setting by Raney*

Pat Olsen, Piano Ralph Johansen, Organ

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

For generation upon generation, God has been our way and salvation.

**Over the last 150 years God has called us to be Jesus' hands and feet in Buffalo.**

As in years past God calls us to come and follow.

**In celebration of the past and with hope for the future, let us move with the Spirit of God.**

\*OPENING HYMN

#82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

\*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

O Peace, we need your presence, we rely on your resolution.

**Fill us with your peace, O God, that we might make it through the discord of these days and experience your coming kingdom.**

This candle represents the light of Christ's peace, shining in our lives.

\*ADVENT RESPONSE

Come, Emmanuel

Agre

## Come, Emmanuel

Agre

Quoting, "Come, Thou long Expected Jesus"  
Charles Wesley (1744)

$\text{♩} = 95$

We are wait-ing for Em-man-u-el, we are wait-ing for the Lord. Bring us

5 peace, peace, peace in our hearts; o-pen eyes that we may see. O, come, come Em-

10 man-u-el born to set us free, from our fears and sins re-lease.

15 We'll find our rest in you. Come, Em-man-u-el.

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\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The grace of God overflows for us through Jesus Christ who came into the world to save us from sin. Trusting in Jesus let us confess our sins.

**Merciful God, you have called us to be disciples of Jesus, but far too often we put our trust in the history and legacy of our ancestors instead of in your love made flesh. Forgive us for the times when we sit in the comfort of our traditions instead of dropping our nets and following Christ. Have mercy on us for the times we put more effort and intention in maintaining the**

**church instead of being the church. Soften our hearts and embolden our spirits that we might be bold in our faithfulness to you and your good news. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.**

*As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Trusting in God's grace I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Alleluia, Amen!**

**\*RESPONSE**

**#581 The Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture,  
signs of peace and reconciliation.*

**WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Holy God, through the reading and preaching of your word, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 11:1-10 (NRSVue)

- 1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- 2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- 3 His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

- 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- 5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

- 6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

- 7 The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- 9 They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN

**#305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12 (NRSVue)

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9 Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Rev. Brian Entz


RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

The Peace to Come

*Marrolli*

Thomas Bazan, Tpt  
Ralph Johansen, Piano

<p>Where the fires of conflict burn mighty trees to root, a bloom of hope shall surely rise. We will tend the forests and nature all that grows. We will be the peace to come.</p>	<p>Where the chill of darkness falls over weary skies, a star of justice shall appear. We will hail its radiance and travel in its light. We will be the peace to come.</p>
<p>Justice shall flower like a rose in bloom, and the sun of peace will rise! All those who hunger shall be filled with joy, for the Lord will hear their cries!</p>	<p>When the noise of hatred drowns out the suffering voice, breath of righteousness shall sing. We will be the chorus that lifts a song of love. We will be the peace to come.</p>
<p>Broken hearts shall be mended, the voice of the voiceless restored. Light shall triumph over darkness, and the desserts bloom, bloom out of thirst and destruction. And, with Christ as our guide, we will be the gardners, and the healers, and the mirrors of light in this world! We will be the peace to come.</p>	

*"Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life."  
To contribute to our mission and ministry online, please scan the QR code.*

#### \*DOXOLOGY

#### #606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

**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. Amen.**

#### \*OFFERING PRAYER

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

#### The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

## THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is such a good and right thing to praise you...

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: And now as Christ our Savior taught we are bold to pray,

**People: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

### SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*The Lord's Supper is for the hungry and thirsty. It's a feast for those seeking God, in Christ, to be nourished for the life of love to which God calls us all. So come, eat, drink, and meet our Lord Jesus.*

*Holy Communion will be served by passing trays through the pews. The servers will serve the bread first and once everyone has been served we will eat together at the invitation of the pastor. Then the servers will pass out the cups containing grape juice, after all have been served we will drink together at the invitation of the pastor. **All bread is gluten/peanut/tree-nut/dairy/egg free.** We trust that as we are gathered at Christ's table we are also gathered in the Spirit with Christ and surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious and abundant God, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your creation, you meet us in Christ at this table, in this meal. We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. Now send us out into the world by the power of your Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all whom we meet. Amen.**

### SENDING

#### \*CLOSING HYMN

More Than Conquerors

*Bauder*

Pat Olsen, Piano

Ralph Johansen, Organ

Thomas Bazan, Tpt

**You cannot be defeated by trials in this life.**

**The conquest is completed o'er satan, sin and strife.**

**No pain, no tribulation, no danger, famine, sword,**

**no nothing in creation can conquer those in God.**

No pain, no tribulation, no danger, famine, sword, no nothing in creation can conquer those in God.

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Colin Mawby

***Our Mission is:  
Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus***

### WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship comes from The Saint Helena Psalter, by the Order of Saint Helena (2004).

The Prayer of Confession is taken from Courage to Love,

Compiled by Geoffery Duncan, published by The Pilgrim Press, 2002.

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

**Joy to the World!** setting by Joel Raney ©2012 Hope Publishing Company

**Come, Emmanuel** Mike Agre ©2025

**#82 Come Thou Long Expected, Jesus** | TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744 | MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 | Public domain

**#305 Come Sing, O Church, In Joy!** | TEXT: Brian Dill, 1988 | MUSIC: John Darwall, 1770 | Text © 1989 Brian Dill

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**More Than Conquerors** lyrics by Johnathan Landry Cruse Music by Josh Bauder (ASCAP) Music © 2024 Josh Bauder Text © 2015 Johnathan Landry Cruse

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month the money collected in the basket during coffee time is designated for the Deacon's Good Neighbor Fund. This is a discretionary fund that provides Congregational Care throughout the year. This care includes, but is not limited to, care packages for first year college students and gas/food cards for those connected to BPC in need. Your generous donations allow the Deacons to continue this important mission.**



**Rivers of Hope Gift Card Drive: Please turn in your gift cards to the office by *THIS WEDNESDAY!* Thank you!**

**Adopt-a-Family:** We have the family that we have adopted for the holidays! Items that are donated need to be turned in **TODAY BY NOON**. There is a bin in the Narthex that is collecting the items for this. Thank you so much for supporting and blessing a local family in need this holiday season!

**Congregational Meeting:** Please join us on **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** following the worship service for a special congregational meeting.

## UPCOMING THIS WEEK

<b>Today December 7th</b>	9:30am: 150th Anniversary Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30am: CCC~150th Anniversary Celebration
<b>Tuesday December 9th</b>	9:00am: Crafty Ladies 9:00am: Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe 5:00pm: Missions Committee Meeting 6:30pm: Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom
<b>Wednesday December 10th</b>	7:00pm: Adult Choir
<b>Thursday December 11th</b>	7:30am: People of Faith via Zoom 10:00am: Women of Faith 5:30pm: Racial Justice Reading Group via Zoom
<b>Sunday December 14th</b>	9:30am: Worship Congregational Meeting 10:30am: CCC~Pastor Brian



## ***How Can We Pray for You?***

*Scan the QR code to submit prayer requests.*

### **BPC Prayer List:**

- Family of Larry Pattee
- Milla Spike, Kevin's granddaughter
- Rich Dahl
- Mary Gillis, fighting cancer
- George, Elaine, and the Thole family following George's brother's death
- Dennis Stanley, fighting cancer
- Arthur James, Tanya's niece's baby
- Diane Ellis
- Family of Don Olsen
- Anne Marie Wille, Bonnie Morek's daughter
- Daniel & Gloria Elliot, Bonnie Morek's brother & sister-in-law
- Family of Lisa Johnson
- Dennis Sletten, friend of Diane
- Sherry Sletten, friend of Diane
- Lois Lindstrom
- Theresa
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has a terminal illness
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jim and Jodi Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins

For peace in Ukraine and Russia, Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.

For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.


## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



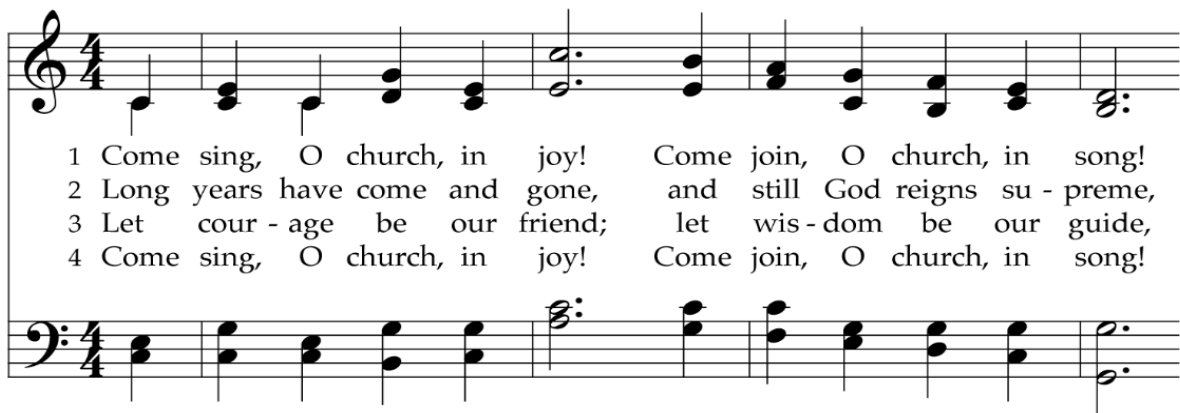
Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



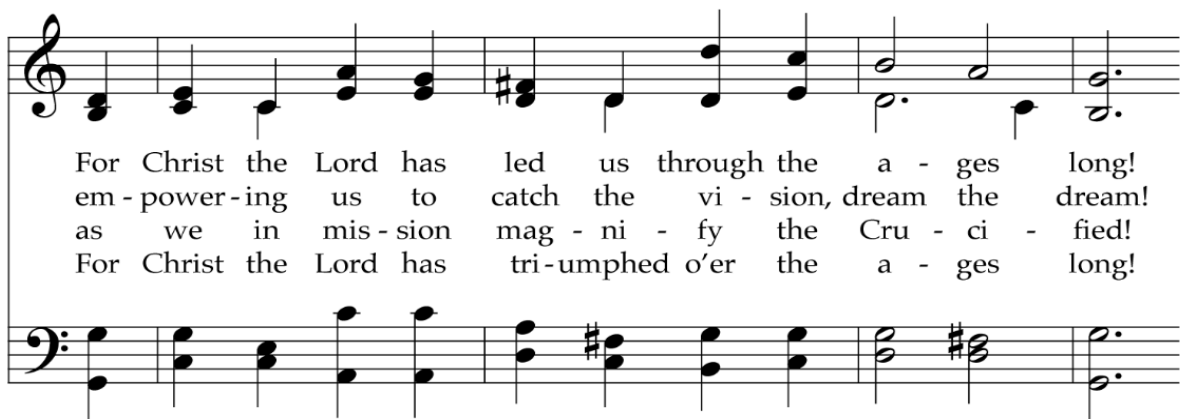
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

## 305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!



1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
 2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,  
 3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,  
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!



For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!  
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!  
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!  
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!



In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988–1989 observance, which had the theme “Celebrate the Journey.” The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.