

PROVIDENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Zephaniah 3:14-17

SONG ○ COME, ○ COME EMMANUEL

○ come, ○ come Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lowly exile here

Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, ○ Israel

○ come, Thou rod of Jesse, free

Thy children from Satan's tyranny

From depths of Hell Thy people save

And give them victory o'er the grave

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, ○ Israel

○ come, Desire of nations, bind

All peoples in one heart and mind

Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease

Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, ○ Israel

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, ○ Israel

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, ○ Israel

CONFESSION OF SIN A PRAYER OF LAMENT (ADAPTED FROM PSALM 130:1-6)

Out of the depths we cry to you, ○ Lord! Hear our voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of our pleas for mercy! We feel the weight of our broken world—through wars, famines, and disasters; through injustice, hatred, and oppression. We feel the weight of our broken hearts—through anger, envy, and strife; through fear, jealousy, and selfish ambition. If you, ○ Lord, should mark iniquities, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. We wait for the Lord, our souls wait, and in his word we hope; our souls wait for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Psalms 130:7-8

SONG HOW LONG, HOW LONG?

How long, how long must we go on with broken hearts, fumbling in the dark?
How long, how long must we go on with open wounds, that compound the gloom?
How long must we lament? When will our wars and chaos end?
How long till you bring peace? When will you make oppression cease?
When will you make oppression cease?

How long, how long must we go on with death in wait, stealing life away?
How long till joy shall rise? When will you wipe our tearful eyes?
How long till we shall sing? When will you end our suffering?
When will you end our suffering?

We wait, we long, Lord Jesus, come, with aching groans, filling up our lungs
Our hope, our song, come Lord Jesus, come, hear our refrain, crying out your name
For we know, when you arrive, darkness will run from Your great light
Wholeness and justice shall arise, heaven and earth shall reunite
Heaven and earth shall reunite

PROFESSION OF FAITH JOHN 1:1-5, 9-12, 14

We profess and affirm that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PREACHING OF THE WORD

Isaiah 9:1-7

SONG HALLELUJAH, WHAT SAVIOR (CHRISTMAS)

“Man of Sorrows,” what a name for the Son of God who came, ruined sinners to reclaim, Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Shining star in heav’n so bright, lowly tend their flocks by night
Could this be our faith now sight? Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Gift of gifts in manger laid, hope of men no more delayed
God the Just, His love displayed, Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Eternal Word made flesh was He, the promise prophets longed to see
Jesus Christ, our mystery, Hallelujah, what a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King, He shall reign and justice bring
And forever we will sing, “Hallelujah, what a Savior!” And forever we will sing, “Hallelujah, what a Savior!”