

Advent

at Saint Miriam



Welcome Home!

Dear Friends, Parishioners and Visitors,

Welcome to Advent! A Holy Season of exploration, penance, and hope. It is a time to reflect and pause as turn to the great expectation of the coming of our Christ! To help us on our journey together, our theme this year will be all about 'Place"! Every destination is a place. Saint Miriam is a place. Everywhere that led to Jesus' coming was place!

This year we will bring back simple chanting, some additional music, a lot of pausing for reflection, and the three wise men from the nativity set will travel through our Sanctuary, following the rotation of the Advent Wreath, moving ever closer to the stable and the Christ Child to remind us of our journey toward Christ.

Seating is arranged to allow for us to focus on the light and meaning of the Advent Wreath, as well as each other, and everyone - adults, visitors, and children - will participate in song, prayer, chant and reading our Advent Calendars! Our theme this year will include Sanctuary, Cities, Fields, and Home!

Blessed Advent!

Monsignor +Jim, Pastor

Entrance: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high, Who or - der all things
3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on
4. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem, From ev - 'ry foe de -
5. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge
Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the
liv - er them That trust your might - y pow'r to
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on



here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
show, And teach us in her ways to go.
law, In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re -
save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
high, And close the path to mis - er - y.



joyce! Re - joyce! Em - man - u - el Shall



The Ministry Team enters the Sanctuary as the introduction to “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” is played. They make their way to reverence the altar; they turn to the Advent Wreath where the liturgy begins as appointed for each Sunday of Advent, as follows:

First Sunday of Advent

Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel - Verse 1 & 2

Speaker 1: Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again.

Speaker 2: “Stir up your might, and come to save us. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved” (Psalm 80:2b-3).

The first candle is lit.

Speaker 1: Light one candle; see it glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How one candle shows the way
Making our darkness bright as God’s day.

Speaker 2: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. All pray: Dear God, on this first Sunday in Advent, let this light shine brightly as the days grow shorter, so that we will be ready for your face to shine upon us at Christmas. In the Savior’s name we pray. Amen.

All pray: **Dear God, Advent is the beginning of a new world, a better world, for us here and for all you People. We long for a place where joy boldly bubbles up in unexpected places and where new life spouts from places the world long thinks are dead. We long for you to renew us, dear Lord. Come, Lord Jesus, Come! In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Second Sunday of Advent

Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel - Verse 3 & 4

Speaker 1: Fire burns. It hurts. It can destroy. Fire also gives warmth and light. The coming of Christ is both a day of judgment and a day of promise. Two candles, flickering brightly, help us remember that the coming of Christ has many meanings.

Speaker 2: “Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky” (Psalm 85:10-11).

The first two candles are lit.

Speaker 1: Light two candles; see them glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How two candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God’s day.

Speaker 2: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

All pray: **Dear God, we have much to do, and we are not sure we will be ready for the day of your coming. In Advent’s light, help us to see what is important: to be who you want us to be, and to do what you would have us do. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Third Sunday of Advent

Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel - Verse 5 & 6

Speaker 1: The light glowing from our Advent wreath is burning brighter. This radiance warms our hearts and fills us with joy! The Lord has done great things for us. Let us rejoice.

Speaker 2: “May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves” (Psalm 126:5-6).

The first three candles are lit.

Speaker 1: Light three candles, see them glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How three candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God's day.

Speaker 2: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

All pray: Dear God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things. Help us to hear your promise in this Advent season, that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit's gift of joy. And may our spirits be kept sound at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel - Verse 7 & 1

Speaker 1: Once God's plan was a mystery, hidden from our sight. Now God has disclosed what was kept secret for so very long; he has brought it out in the light. In the brighter light on this fourth Sunday in Advent, may we see more clearly the glory of God in Christ and sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever.

Speaker 2: "With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens" (Psalm 89:1b-2).

All four Advent candles are lit.

Speaker 1: Light four candles, see them glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How four candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God's day.

Speaker 2: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

All pray: Dear God, your faithfulness has been great, leading us to this day of anticipation and celebration. May the glorious light of your steadfast love shine brightly in us and through us, that all may give you praise and glory. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

Christmas Eve or Christmas Day

Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel - All Verses

The four Advent candles are lit before the service begins.

Speaker 1: The season for watching and waiting is over. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. This is the light of the world, and the darkness cannot extinguish it.

The Christ candle is lit.

Speaker 2: "O sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Tell of his salvation from day to day.
"Declare his glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples" (Psalm 96:1-3).

Speaker 3: "Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
Bring an offering, and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in holy splendor;
Tremble before him, all the earth" (Psalm 96:7-9).

Speaker 4: "Say among the nations, 'The Lord is King!'
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
And the peoples with his truth" (Psalm 96:10a, 11a, 13b).

