

**November 28, 2021**

**The Gilford Community Church**

The Reverend Michael C. Graham, Pastor

Scott Hodsdon, Director of Youth and Family Programs

Carolyn Ames, Music Director/Organist

AJ Coppola, Choir Director

**Gathering Time**

As we arrive for worship, let us greet and make new friends, and be alert for guests as we celebrate the fellowship of our faith community.

**Time for Prayer and Meditation**

The ringing of the church bell and lighting of the candles calls us to sit down and allow ourselves to forget the hurry and worry of the world. Center your heart, mind, and soul on God's love for you and all creation.

**Opening thought for the day**

The winter solstice time is no longer celebrated as it once was, with the understanding that this is a period of descent and rest, of going within our homes, within ourselves and taking in all that we have been through, all that has passed in this full year which is coming to a close...like nature and the animal kingdom around us, this time of hibernation is necessary for our tired limbs and our burdened minds.

**Ringing the Bell and Bringing the Light**

**Words of Welcome**

**Prelude**

“No Night So Long”

Judy Buswell & Carolyn Ames

By Richard Kerr and Will Jennings

## **Advent Candle Litany – Hope**

When I look around, I see shadows of hunger. Many people in this state and around the world will go to bed hungry tonight...

**Congregation: When we look around, we see shadows of injustice, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer, everyone saying, "Buy, buy, buy!" - and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight...**

In the face of hunger, we light a candle of hope...

**Congregation: In the face of injustice, in the face of despair, we light a candle of hope... (*Light the first candle in your Advent wreath.*)**

Let the light from this candle say to all that God's hope is coming on earth as it already is in heaven.

**Congregation: We will not be afraid; God's hope is at hand!**

## **Hymn**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

#116

Verses 1, 5 & 7

## **Prayer of Invocation followed by the Lord's Prayer (debts)**

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.

## **Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 40:1 - 8

Jack Carder

## **Stewardship Moment**

Cinde Warmington

## **Children's Time**

**Chancel Choir**                    “When God Is A Child”  
By John Carter

## **Morning Prayer**

**Special Music**                    “I'll Carry You Home”  
Tamara McGonagle & Judy Buswell  
By Caitlin Smith, Gordie Sampson and Troy Verges

**Sermon**                            “Hunker Down!”

**Hymn**                            “I Love to Tell the Story”                    # 522  
Verses 1 and 2

## **Benediction**

## **Congregational Amen**

### **Visiting Pastor: Robert Curry**

Bob and Carole moved to Wesley Woods in Gilford in March 2019 and joined this church in September of this year. Bob is a retired United Church of Christ minister having served UCC churches in New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont over fifty years. He is a storyteller, fly fisherman, gardener, and with Carole loves walking pathways everywhere. Recently Bob & Carole have toured Ireland for 18 days.

We have two children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

## # 116

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

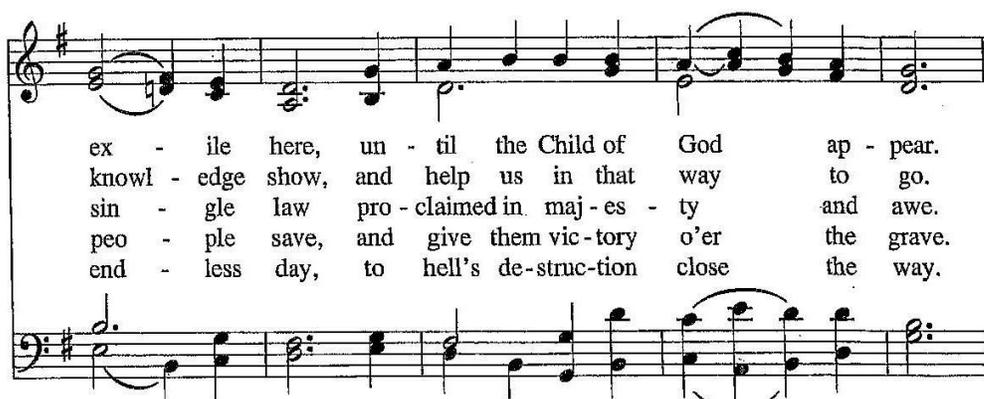
*Unison*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and  
 3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who  
 4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your  
 5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and



ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly  
 or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of  
 came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a  
 own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your  
 o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to



ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.  
 knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.  
 sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.  
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.  
 end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

*Refrain*



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

# I Love to Tell the Story

Katherine Hankey, 1866; alt.

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat  
4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love.  
than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.  
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.  
will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry

I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.