



# NEWTOWN United Methodist Church

December 14, 2025 – Third Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Susan & Donald Smith

Response to Lighting of the Candle

UMH #211

(All sing verses 1 ,2 & 3 in unison)

*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 thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law, in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Prayer for the Pastor

Gerry Hixon, Lay Leader

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:4–7

Pew Bible pg.198

Special Music

“Hope Is Alive”  
Alexa Farah, guitar & vocal

E. Holcomb

\*Gospel Reading

John 15:9–12, 16:20–24

Pew Bible pg. 109

Message

“What We Cannot Do for Ourselves”

Pastor R. Brailsford

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass  
against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For  
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Prelude

Allen zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ

J. Pachelbel

Choral Introit

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

D. Lasky

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship

*based on Psalm 146*

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord who gives life.

**People: The Lord lifts up those who fall.**

Leader: Do not put your trust in power or in human strength.

**People: Our hope is in the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: God sets prisoners free and opens the eyes of the weary.

**People: God's faithfulness endures forever.**

Leader: Come with humility, come with joy,

**People: For God does what we cannot do for ourselves. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

UMH #196

\*Affirmation of Faith

UMH #881

\*Opening Prayer

**Gracious and Eternal God, You are the One who brings joy into places that  
feel barren. You strengthen tired hands and steady anxious hearts. Open  
us today to Your work among us. Where we cannot see a way forward, give  
us courage. Where we cannot change ourselves, give us grace. Let Your  
joy take root in us, not because we have earned it, but because You are  
near. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

\*Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH #206

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory (Instrumental)

\*Response Doxology, UMH #95

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Closing Hymn "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" UMH #224

\*Dismissal and Blessing

Postlude It Is Well with My Soul P.P. Bliss, arr. J. Ray

\*Please Stand if able

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Rev. Rodney Brailsford, Pastor  
Kathy Mershon, Administrative Assistant  
Duomi Liu, Choral Director/Organist

