

**Granger United Methodist Church**  
**Order of Worship: December 13, 2020**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**(CCLI #20349450)**

**Prelude**

**Lighting of Advent Candle Liturgy: Gavin, Morgan and Mason Kennedy**

**Reader One:** We want everything to look nice; the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

**Reader Two:** The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, "God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

**Reader Three:** We light these candles — (light 3 candles)  
as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season—not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming.

**Hymn:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), p. 211, v. 1,2

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain:*

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.

*Refrain*

**Scripture Focus:** Isaiah 35: 1-10

**Prayer Concerns:**

Walter & Dorothy Starcher	Sebastian Kunkler	Harold Simmons	Val Ewing
Josh Ewing	Jeff Parker	Millie Haddix	Bernie Arnold
George Rodgers	Robin Baker	Carolyn Cernik	
Family & friends of Danny Major			

May God rest a healing hand upon those who have been named.

**Prayer**

**Thoughts Along the Way:** "Incarnation: Jesus Brings Us..."

Rev. Bruce Hartley

**Hymn:** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), p. 206, vs. 1,3

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

*Refrain:*

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

*Refrain*

## 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 and ever. Amen.**

**God loved and so he gave. We love God and so we give — gifts can be given online or sent to the church office. Thank you for your support to the mission and ministry of Granger UMC.**

**Go Forth**

**Postlude**

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## Sermon Notes December 13, 2020 "Incarnation: Jesus Brings Us..." Isaiah 35:1-10

### Background:

Yahweh is transforming the wilderness into fertile land, creating a new land of almost Utopian richness. In verse 2 of this text, Sharon, along with Carmel and Lebanon, are identified as the proverbial examples of rich, sumptuous land. In Yahweh's new action of creative redemption, the desert is coming alive.

Yahweh/God feels obligated to her/Israel. The personal concern of Yahweh for his chosen people, Israel, is the impetus behind all of the creative, redemptive action undertaken in this poem. The stress throughout Isaiah is on Yahweh redeeming the very people who repeatedly turned their backs on God.

**Advent is a reminder that God has launched a reclamation plan for the whole world.**

reclamation – to preserve and to save...humanity, ALL humanity.

Have you ever considered yourself as God's reclamation project?

Why or why not?

### Quotes from the message -

"The prophet reveals God's reclamation project for the whole world -- a reclamation project that was initiated in Israel but would soon be shared everywhere; *a reclamation project that would not only restore the land, but people as well.* ALL people for all of time."

"God's reclamation project for the world had begun. In his life, death and resurrection, Jesus lived out God's project and taught his disciples to do the same."

"This time of preparation invites us to **think about how we can benefit and participate in God's total reclamation project for his creation.** Jesus gathered the disciples around himself and taught them to do the very same things that he had done, **training them to be workers for God's kingdom.**"

We are to engage in projects that:

- ♦ care for the basic needs of people through good stewardship of the earth's resources. (clean drinking water and discover ways to promote sustainable food production.)
- ♦ look for ways to be involved in the lives of those who are physically limited and often pushed to the margins of society.
- ♦ create a Holy place for people to come to know Christ and his kingdom through ministries of hospitality in every local congregation.
- ♦ determine every day to help people attain "joy and gladness" and make "sorrow and sighing" flee away (Is.35:10).
- ♦ Offer additional ways we can participate in God's reclamation of the world and humanity. Share them with [pastor@grangerumc.org](mailto:pastor@grangerumc.org)

Reflect on the following:

Jesus **has** saved me from...

Jesus **is** saving me from...

Jesus **will** save me from...