

KNYSNA METHODIST CHURCH
21 December 2025 09:00AM

WELCOME People of Love

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light the Candle of Love,
as a sign of the great, self-giving love
which Christ has poured into our hearts and into our world.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

HYMN: HP 492 Give me joy in my heart keep me loving

Anonymous

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising
Give me joy in my heart, I pray
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising
Keep me praising 'til the end of day

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna
Sing hosanna to the King of kings
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna
Sing hosanna to the King

Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,
Give me peace in my heart, I pray
Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving
Keep me resting 'til the end of day

[*]

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving
Give me love in my heart, I pray
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving
Keep me serving 'til the end of day

[*]

CALL TO WORSHIP

In a world where love can feel conditional, vulnerable, and unsafe, we long, O Christ, for you to arrive, enfolding and filling us with the love from which we can never be separated. Yet, as we wait on you in this Advent Season we remember that you have already come to us as the incarnation of the God who *is* love, and that your love never fails to seek entry into the loveless places in our hearts and world, and to transform us into persistent lovers of God and others.

May our worship soften the hard places in our hearts, embolden the fearful parts of our souls, and awaken our awareness to your Advent presence which enfolds us and fills us with your unfailing love.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN: HP 85 O Come O Come Emmanuel

John Mason Neale (1818 - 1866) and others

O come, o come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

**Chorus*

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, o Israel

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times did give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

**Chorus*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
 Thine own from satan's tyranny
 From depths of hell thy people save
 And give them victory o'er the grave

**Chorus*

O come, O Key of David, come
 And open wide our heavenly home.
 Make safe for us the heavenward road
 And bar the way to death's abode.

**Chorus*

O come, thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
 Our spirits by thine advent here
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
 And death's dark shadows put to flight

**Chorus*

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

As we gather in this Advent season filled with love, we
 remember the moments of love in Jesus' compassion for the
 vulnerable;
 God's care for every created being; Spirit's protection of Mother
 Earth.

***We remember with grateful hearts,
 and carry this love with us into our next moments.***

When our world makes the idea of separation, division,
 and hatred towards others seem safer,

***Forgive us for not finding the ripples of love
 that seek to connect us all.***

When we've forgotten to care for others through compassion,
grace, and acknowledgement,

***Forgive us for not finding the ripples of love that draw us
away from self-protection, and into self-giving.***

***We release the grip that insecurity and uncertainty have on
us, and we notice the ripples of love around us, taking hold
of them, and allowing them to sustain us.***

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

READING: Matthew 1:18-25

HYMN: HP 81 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

MESSAGE: People of Love

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING

CELEBRATION & THE WORK OF GOD AT KMC

CLOSING HYMN: HP 77 Joy to the World
Isaac Watts 91674 – 1748) based on Psalm 98

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her King;
 Let every heart prepare Him room,
 And Heaven and nature sing,
 And Heaven and nature sing,
 And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
 Let men their songs employ;
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders, wonders, of His love.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION SONG: Now unto Him