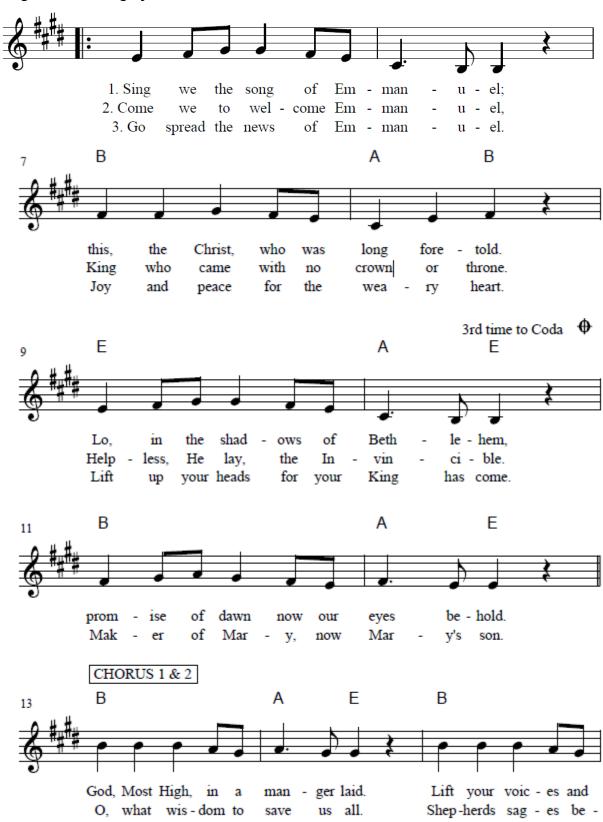
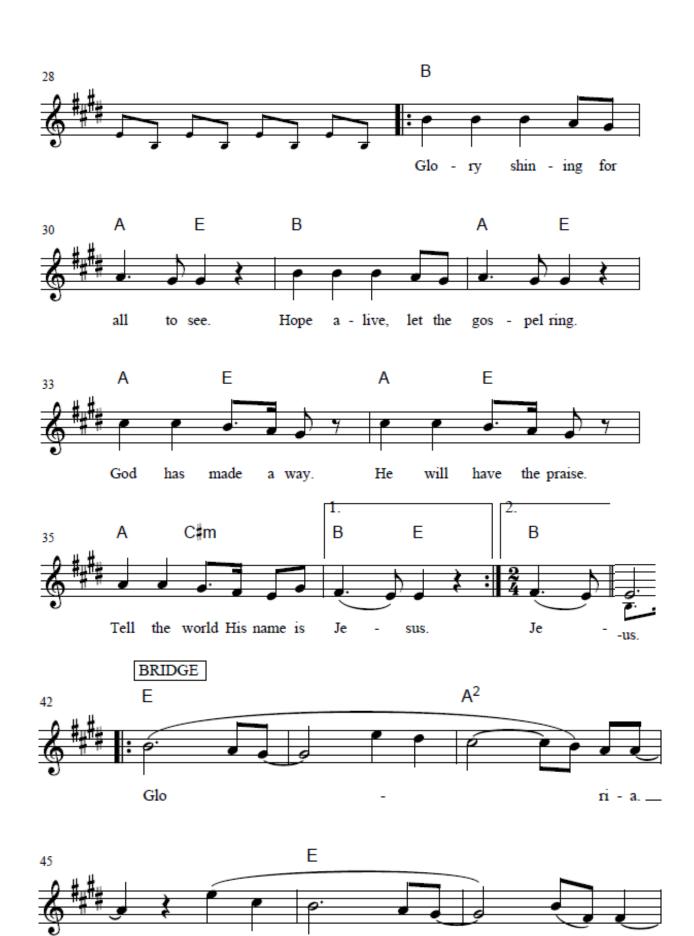
Sing We the Song of Emmanuel







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Confession and Forgiveness

Call to Confession

It takes courage to tell the truth. John the Baptist knew it.

His job as a prophet certainly could not have been easy.

And you and I know it. Our job as people of faith—to create a home for all—has never been easy.

In our prayer of confession, may we channel some of John the Baptist's courage to tell the truth about ourselves and our world. We do not do this to shame ourselves or guilt ourselves for being imperfect. We speak the truth out loud because we know that we cannot grow and change without first being honest.

So let us be brave. Let us be bold.

Let us be truth-tellers as we confess together now to a God who loves us.

Prayer of Confession

Expansive God,

We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often,

instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door.

Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards.

Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic,

holding on to fear instead of letting go with love.

Remind us that your home is a home for all,

that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice.

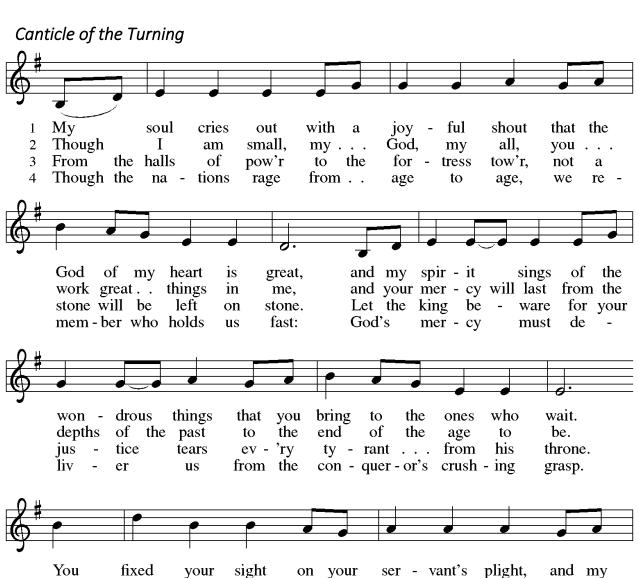
Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it.

With hope we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace.

God could not love us any more or any less than God already does. So rest in this good news: We are at home with God—forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**



Your puts the ver name proud to shame, and to У The for the hun poor shall . . weep no gry more, This sav ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



did weak - ness you so from east west shall my not spurn, to those who would for you will show your might, put the you yearn, food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry till the spear and prom - ise which holds us bound, rod can be



blest. Could the world turn? be be a - bout name to strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn. fed, for the world is a - bout mouth be to turn. crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world round. a



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus-tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Reading – Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Experiential Worship - Week 3: A Home for All (Joy)

We play a part in making a home for all, and for worship, we are praying with a welcome mat. Take a sheet of paper and a pen, pencil, or marker and write the word welcome in the middle of your mat (using words and phrases that are most genuine to you is best). Then draw a rectangle around it.

Inside of that rectangle, write or draw some of the people who you have welcomed into your home and into your heart.

Next, use the outside of that rectangle to write down or drawn those who are further from your welcome – the hungry, the stranger, those without homes. Reflect on the relationships at the center of your welcome and pray for them. Reflect on how God is drawing you closer to those on the edges of your welcome mat and pray for them.

How might God be calling you:

- to protect, accompany, and empower the most vulnerable?
- to cry out in the wilderness the truth of God's welcome and
- to share the good news of God's love, that God has a home for all of us, and Jesus makes us that home

We pray and listen to God's response.

From Now On from The Greatest Showman Words & Music by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

I saw the sun begin to dim, And felt that winter wind blow cold A man learns who is there for him, When the glitter fades and the walls won't hold

'Cause from that rubble, what remains Can only be what's true If all was lost, there's more I gained 'Cause it led me back to you

From now on... These eyes will not be blinded by the lights From now on... What's waited 'til tomorrow starts tonight, tonight Let this promise in me start, Like an anthem in my heart From now on, From now on

I drank champagne with kings and queens, The politicians praised my name But those are someone else's dreams, The pitfalls of the man I became

For years and years I chased their cheers, A crazy speed of always needing more But when I stop and see you here, I remember who all this was for

And from now on... These eyes will not be blinded by the lights From now on... What's waited 'til tomorrow starts tonight, It starts tonight And let this promise in me start, Like an anthem in my heart From now on, From now on, From now on.

(From now on) And we will come back home

And we will come back home... Home, again! (Repeats)

And we will come back home, And we will come back home... Home, again!

(Repeats)

From now on... These eyes will not be blinded by the lights!
From now on... What's waited 'til tomorrow starts tonight! It starts tonight!
Let this promise in me start like an anthem in my heart
From now on, From now on

And we will come back home, And we will come back home... Home, again! And we will come back home, And we will come back home... Home, again! And we will come back home, And we will come back home... Home, again

From now on, From now on... Home, again From now on, From now on... Home, again

God of welcome and God of joy... Guide us to build spaces of refuge and roll out the welcome mat for all those in need. Help us to learn and grow as we continue to pray the words Jesus taught us to pray...

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing: As you leave this service, your service begins:

Comfort the homesick. Seek sanctuary. Have hope. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon.

God grant you a quiet night.

In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son—go in peace.

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