



## Advent Gathering Rite

This gathering rite has been prepared for the WELS Congregational Services C18 resource suite. It includes confession and absolution as well as a candle lighting rite. The music incorporates “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel.” **Please read the following notes carefully:**

- Music plays continuously throughout. The minister and congregation speak their parts during the introduction and interludes.
- The Invocation should begin almost immediately after the music starts for best timing.
- Because congregations speak at varying rates, the accompanist should have a copy of the text handy to assist with timing the music.
- The candle(s) should be lit by the pastor or an acolyte/usher while the congregation sings the week-specific stanza.
- Additional repeats and/or shortening of the music played during speaking may be necessary. However, if the indicated tempos are used and a moderate responsive speaking pace occurs, the music should coincide with the spoken parts of the rite very well by simply playing the music exactly as written. *It is best for the pastor and musician(s) to rehearse in advance.*
- For the minister’s final spoken part, just the candle’s one-word name is inserted. For instance: “In the hope of God we go to the world...”
- On the following pages the text for each rite has been included in full.

## ADVENT 1: HOPE

### INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### CONFESSION OF SINS AND LIGHTING RITE

M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image (Genesis 1:26). Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

**C: But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death (Romans 6:23). We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

M: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

**(sung) 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 you, O Israel!**

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven (Galatians 4:4,5). In view of God's mercy, today we light the *hope* candle. The Spirit declares through the psalmist, "Put your *hope* in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love, and with him is full redemption" (Psalm 130:7).

**C: We wait for the Lord, and in his word we put our *hope* (Psalm 130:5).**

**(sung) O, come, our Hope, who has declared**

**“Salvation’s won; do not despair.”**

**Help us believe that once for all**

**You bore God’s wrath, redeeming all.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: In the hope of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16-18).

**C: God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:19-21).**

**(sung) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**Shall come to you, O Israel!**

## ADVENT 2: PEACE

### INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### CONFESSION OF SINS AND LIGHTING RITE

M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image (Genesis 1:26). Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

**C: But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death (Romans 6:23). We, too, are guilty and confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

M: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

**(sung) 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 you, O Israel!**

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven (Galatians 4:4,5). In view of God's mercy, today we light the *peace* candle. Jesus tells us, "Peace I leave with you; my *peace* I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

**C: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).**

**(sung) O, come, our Peace, who authors faith,**

**Perfécet our trust in you by grace.**

**Assure us by your gentle Word**

**That in true faith we all endure.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: In the peace of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16-18).

**C: God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:19-21).**

**(sung) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**Shall come to you, O Israel!**

## ADVENT 3: JOY

### INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### CONFESSION OF SINS AND LIGHTING RITE

M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image (Genesis 1:26). Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

**C: But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death (Romans 6:23). We, too, are guilty and confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

M: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

**(sung) 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 you, O Israel!**

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven (Galatians 4:4,5). In view of God's mercy, today we light the *joy* candle. Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him (1 Peter 1:8).

**C: And we are filled with an inexpressible and glorious *joy*, for we are receiving the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls (1 Peter 1:8,9).**

**(sung) O, come, our Joy, whose love forgives—**

**Whose death assures that we will live!**

**Move us to heed the call, “Repent!”**

**And trust, for your sake, God relents.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: In the joy of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16-18).

**C: God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:19-21).**

**(sung) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**Shall come to you, O Israel!**

## ADVENT 4: LOVE

### INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### CONFESSION OF SINS AND LIGHTING RITE

M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image (Genesis 1:26). Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

**C: But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death (Romans 6:23). We, too, are guilty and confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

M: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

**(sung) 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 you, O Israel!**

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven (Galatians 4:4,5). In view of God's mercy, today we light the *love* candle. This is how God showed his *love* among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him (1 John 4:9).

**C: This is *love*: not that we loved God, but that he *loved* us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:10).**

**(sung) O, come, my Love, who gives to me  
Grace undeserved, unending, free.  
Help me to share this gift most rare  
That all, God's hope and peace, may share.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: In the love of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16-18).

**C: God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:19-21).**

**(sung) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!**