

**Visions United Spirit Gathering**  
**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**The Inn - Housing the Holy**  
**Advent 3: "How Much Is Enough?" (Joy)**

**Our Community Gathers**

**Gathering Music/Prelude**    Medley of Four Christmas Carols    *Arranged by Daphna Pearson*

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840; Adapt. William H. Cummings 1856. ©Public Domain

Angels We Have Heard On High

Music: French carol melody © Public Domain

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Music: Henry T. Smart 1867 ©Public Domain

O Come All Ye Faithful

Music: John F. Wade, 1743 © Public Domain.

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**Welcome & Acknowledgement of Land**

*Shawn Redden*

*God's Doors Are Open to All!*

*Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts*

Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all  
 races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,  
 sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

**Sharing of WOW moments**

*Shawn Redden*

**We Open the Door**            Joy Waits for Us at Advent

*Soloist: Bill & Anna Peters*  
 Words/Music: Amanda Udis-Kessler

**Lighting the Advent Candle: Joy**

*Candle lighters: Baycroft family*

**Song**            Joy Waits for Us at Advent

Words/Music: Amanda Udis-Kessler. Used with permission

Joy waits for us at Advent  
 Joy waits for us to sing.  
 Joy waits for our amazement  
 at the grace in everything.

In this time of preparation  
 for the work of co-creation,  
 for the birthing of a world  
 where wonder is restored.  
 Joy is born in us once more!

**The Peace**

The Joy of Christ be with you!  
**And also with you!**

**Carol (standing)**    VU#18 There's a Voice in the Wilderness (vs. 1-3) Words: James Milligan ©1938;  
 Music: Henry H. Bancroft. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A - 720804

## We Listen for Wisdom

### Theme Conversation for All Ages

Brian Botten

*Response - "We make room for Jesus"*

### Song

*Words: © Mark Burrows. Tune: The First Nowell, refrain. Public Domain*

Make room for joy.  
Make room for joy.  
Jesus is coming, make room for joy.

*(Children's Advent program begins)*

### Wisdom Reading

Isaiah 12:2-6

### Reflection

Brian Botten

### Special Music Video

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs 1,2 & 3)

*Words: Adrian Marchuk © 2021; Music: 15<sup>th</sup> century plainsong melody.  
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*Video: UCC Advent Unwrapped*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oE\\_r9VLndUY&list=PLQDu-SgFb3RjsK9BdbbYkwAvI\\_3hLsUn-&index=4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oE_r9VLndUY&list=PLQDu-SgFb3RjsK9BdbbYkwAvI_3hLsUn-&index=4)

#### *Verse 1*

O come and be the hope in all our lives  
Though chaos and confusion still survive  
We know the path of hate all too well  
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to us  
And all things shall be well

#### *Verse 2*

O come and bring your peace upon the earth  
That even now still longs for its rebirth  
We seek to live and move in your ways  
Guide us to peace and justice all our days  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to us  
And all things shall be well

#### *Verse 3 (for Advent 3)*

O come to us like joy of heaven's dawn,  
From Mary's womb a faithful paragon  
Brought forth into this world by love's power  
Your Spirit through her labors in that hour  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to us  
And all things shall be well

## We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

### A Story of Inn-keeping

Shawn Redden

**Invitation to Generosity & Blessing of Our Gifts** *(Offering gifts brought forward)*

**Conversation with Paul Clements** - *Outreach Worker, John Howard Society*

**Prayers of the People**

**Sung Response** Make of My Heart a Stable *Lead: Choir- Ladies*  
Words/Music: Amanda Udis-Kessler ©2020. Used with permission.

**Make of my heart a stable,  
 a house for the holy,  
 a warm and sturdy place  
 for peace to live and grow.**

**Spoken Prayer** *Shawn Redden*

**Sung Response** Make of My Heart a Stable *Lead: Choir- Men*  
Words/Music: Amanda Udis-Kessler ©2020. Used with permission.

**Make of my life a stable,  
 a house for the holy,  
 a warm and sturdy place  
 for peace to live and grow.**

**Spoken Prayer** *Shawn Redden*

**Sung Response** Make of My Heart a Stable *Lead: Choir-All*  
Words/Music: Amanda Udis-Kessler ©2020. Used with permission.

**Make of our church a stable,  
 a house for the holy,  
 a warm and sturdy place  
 for peace to live and grow.**

**Announcements**

*Shawn Redden*

**We Go Forth to Be a Blessing**

**Story of A Christmas Carol**

*Brian Botten*

**Carol** (*standing*) VU#74 What Child Is This? (*vs. 1, 2 words below, & 3*)

Words: William C. Dix, 1865. Public Domain  
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Why lies He in such mean estate,  
 where ox and ass are feeding?  
 Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
 the silent Word is pleading.  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;  
 the cross be borne for me, for you  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,  
 the babe, the son of Mary.

**Blessing**

*Shawn Redden*

**Postlude Music for the Journey**

***Thank You for Joining Us!  
 May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.***