



BIRTH  
STORIES

DECEMBER 4, 2016

**PRELUDE** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

arr. Gilbert Martin

**WELCOME and RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE**

**OPENING HYMN** “Savior of the Nations, Come” [LW 13, v. 1-4]

**OPENING LITURGY** [p. 158]

**(8:30) ANTHEM**

“O Come to Set Us Free”

Mary McDonald

*Voices of Peace*

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 1:11-22 [NIV]**

<sup>11</sup>So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup>But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites <sup>13</sup>and worked them ruthlessly. <sup>14</sup>They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

<sup>15</sup>The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, <sup>16</sup>“When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” <sup>17</sup>The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. <sup>18</sup>Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”

<sup>19</sup>The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”

<sup>20</sup>So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. <sup>21</sup>And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

<sup>22</sup>Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL VERSE** “Prepare the Way”

## **HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:39-45 [NIV]**

<sup>39</sup>At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup>where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**SERMON HYMN "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" [LW 31, v. 1-3]**

**SERMON "HEBREW MIDWIVES"**

**SERMON RESPONSE "Oh Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" [LW 31, v. 4]**

**PEOPLE of PEACE in PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *The Family Prayer of the People of God*

**WORDS of INSTITUTION**

**THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

*(Before Communing, please take time to read our statement of faith found in the pew rack in front of you; fill out and place your attendance card and offering in the basket as you come forward.)*

**DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

**"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" [LW 31, v. 5-7]**

**"Savior of the Nations, Come" [LW 13, v. 5-8]**

**"The First Noel" [v. 1-3]**

## CLOSING HYMN “Go Tell It On the Mountain” [LW 504]

### CONNECT

- “Let it Snow” | Sunday, December 4 | 5:00-8:00pm | Mark Your Calendars
  - *Don’t forget to register for the Chili Cook Off!*
- Middle School Late Night | Friday, December 9 | 6:00-10:00pm | Register Online
- Ladies’ Night | Ornament Exchange | Friday, December 9 | 6:30pm | Register Now
- High School Christmas Event | Sunday, December 11 | 1:30pm | Register Now
- Rogue One Movie Screening | Sunday, December 18 | 1:30pm | On Sale Tomorrow

### BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”

arr. Gilbert Martin

SERMON: *Rev. James L. Mueller*  
LITURGIST: *Rev. Morgan Hamilton*