



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday of Advent  
“HOPE”  
November 28, 2021

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*Due to COVID precautions, we are asking everyone in the congregation to remain masked, and to enjoy singing the hymns and responses.*

## MEDITATION

“I have refused to live locked in the orderly house of reasons and proofs. The world I live in and believe in, is wider than that. And anyway, what’s wrong with *Maybe?* You wouldn’t believe what once or twice I have seen. I’ll just tell you this: only if you have angels in your head will you ever possibly see one.”

~Mary Oliver, ‘Felicity’, Penguin Press, 2015.

PRELUDE: Wachet auf! (“Wake, Awake!”)  
John Finney, organist

*J. S. Bach*

## WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of Faith let us prepare our hearts for the arrival of Emanuel –  
God with us!

**All: As we gather to pray, sing and listen;  
may a spirit of hope and anticipation fill us!**

One: The days are surely coming, says our God  
when justice and righteousness will prevail!

**All: May this hour of worship illuminate our hearts and minds,  
freeing us to respond joyfully to God’s call in the days to come! Amen!**

\* HYMN: Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending *Helmsley*  
Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal, front supplement), #H-1

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Let us come before God who calls us by name. Let us come before our Merciful God, as we are, knowing that we are God's beloved.

All: **God of All, you call us to rejoice in the promise of the birth of the One that is to come, the one known as Emanuel, God with us, but we are afraid. You call each of us by name, but we do not hear your call. You invite us into a world where justice prevails, but we turn away. Forgive us. Birth new life within us, that we may abide in your perfect love.**

*~ Silent Confession ~*

One: God's mercy and steadfast love endure forever, strengthening our hearts and overcoming our fears. We are forgiven. We are loved. Praise be to God! Amen.

\* SUMMARY OF THE LAW

\* GLORIA

*Gloria*

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Please be seated.*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: *Presentation of the Gift of Hope.*

Scripture: Matthew 1:23

Reflection: The Pedersen Family

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Candle lighting Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus  
(music can be found in blue hymnal, #121, verses 1 & 2)

*Stuttgart*

**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.**

Advent Prayer: The Pedersen Family

ANTHEM: Behold, a Star from Jacob Shining  
Chancel Choir

*Felix Mendelssohn*

*Behold, a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising;  
To reign in glory over the nations.  
Like some bright morning star is he, the promise of the coming day,  
Beyond the night of sorrow.  
Break forth, O Light!  
We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving,  
Hail the brightness of Thy rising.*

GOSPEL READING: Luke 21:25-36 The Message

“It will seem like all hell has broken loose — sun, moon, stars, earth, sea, in an uproar and everyone all over the world in a panic, the wind knocked out of them by the threat of doom, the powers-that-be quaking. “And then — then! — they’ll see the Son of Man welcomed in grand style — a glorious welcome! When all this starts to happen, up on your feet. Stand tall with your heads high. Help is on the way!”

He told them a story. “Look at a fig tree. Any tree for that matter. When the leaves begin to show, one look tells you that summer is right around the corner. The same here — when you see these things happen, you know God’s kingdom is about here. Don’t brush this off: I’m not just saying this for some future generation, but for this one, too — these things will happen. Sky and earth will wear out; my words won’t wear out.

“But be on your guard. Don’t let the sharp edge of your expectation get dulled by parties and drinking and shopping. Otherwise, that Day is going to take you by complete surprise, spring on you suddenly like a trap, for it’s going to come on everyone, everywhere, at once. So, whatever you do, don’t fall asleep at the wheel. Pray constantly that you will have the strength and wits to make it through everything that’s coming and end up on your feet before the Son of Man.”

READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16 The Message

“Watch for this: The time is coming’ — God’s Decree— ‘when I will keep the promise I made to the families of Israel and Judah. When that time comes, I will make a fresh and true shoot sprout from the David-Tree. He will run this country honestly and fairly. He will set things right. That’s when Judah will be secure and Jerusalem live in safety. The motto for the city will be, “God Has Set Things Right for Us.” God has made it clear that there will always be a descendant of David ruling the people of Israel and that there will always be Levitical priests on hand to offer burnt offerings, present grain offerings, and carry on the sacrificial worship in my honor.”

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture, among us, and within us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: “A Holy Name Calling...”

Rev. Anne Marie Holloway

\* HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Veni Emmanuel*

Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal), #114

PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER & OUR 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*(As the offering plates are passed, please pass and sign the Friendship Register.)*

Invitation: God's love for us knows no bounds and fills us with hope. In grateful response, may our gifts to others abound. The morning offering to support the life and ministry of the Hills Church will now be offered and graciously received.

Offertory: But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming? (from *Messiah*) *G. F. Handel*  
Garrett Murphy, baritone

\* Doxology

*Old Hundredth*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* Dedication of the Offering:

**Gracious God, Emmanuel, God who is with us, accept these gifts. Open our eyes to see more clearly all that we have been given and all that we have to give. May these offerings be a blessing. In the name of the Jesus we pray. Amen.**

\* HYMN: Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

*Truro*

Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal), #127

\* COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

*Please be seated during the Postlude.*

POSTLUDE: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

*J. S. Bach*

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# H-1 Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending

1. Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
 2. Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robbed in  
 3. Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his  
 4. Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

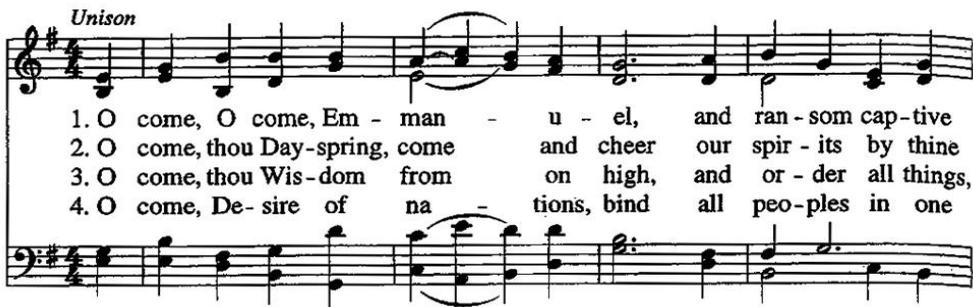
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
 MUSIC: Traditional English Melody, 18th c., arr. Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799

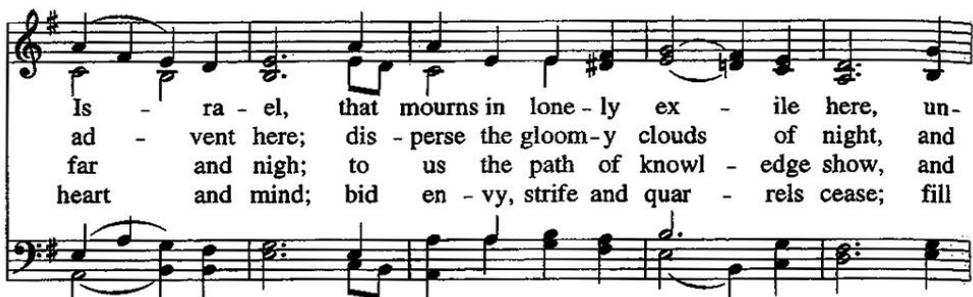
HELMSLEY  
 87.87.12 7

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Unison*



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine  
 3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,  
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

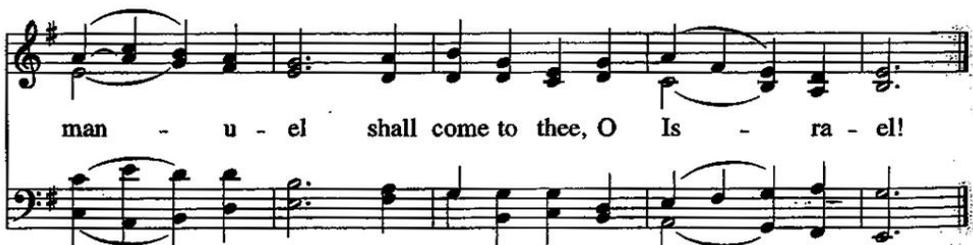


Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -  
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and  
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and  
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

*Refrain (Harmony)*



til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

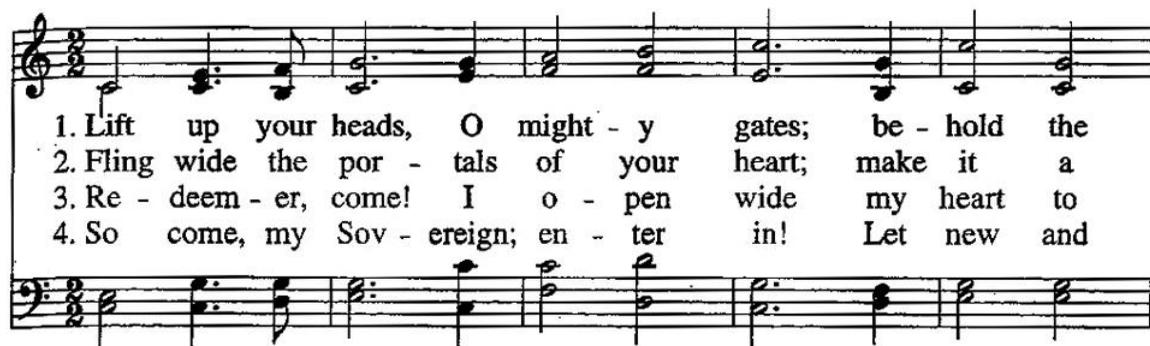


man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

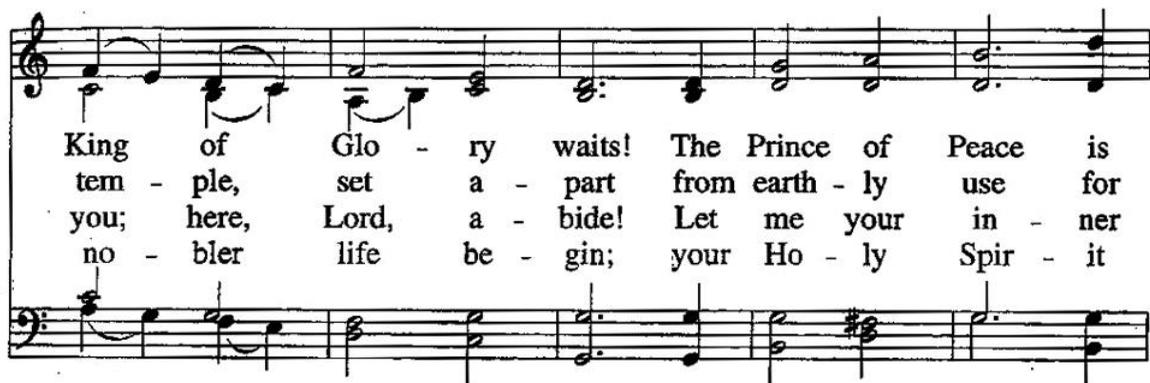
WORDS: Latin: c. 9th century; sts. 1,2, tr. John M. Neale, 1851; sts. 3,4, tr. Henry S. Coffin, 1916 VENI EMMANUEL  
 MUSIC: French melody, 15th century, arr., harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854 LM w. refrain

Anglican Oxford Movement Neale translated this hymn which originated in the seven Great 'O' antiphons that were traditional for vespers during Advent. The refrain was added in the 13th century.

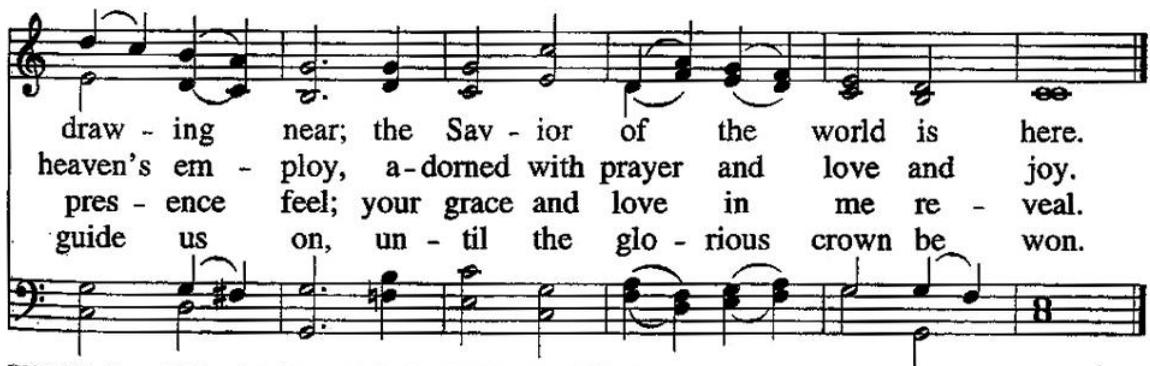
# Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates 127



1. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 3. Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to  
 4. So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and



King of Glo - ry waits! The Prince of Peace is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 you; here, Lord, a - bid! Let me your in - ner  
 no - bler life be - gin; your Ho - ly Spir - it



draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.  
 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

WORDS: Georg Weissel, 1642; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, alt.  
 MUSIC: Thomas Williams' *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO  
LM

Georg Weissel, pastor of Altgrossgart Church in  
 Königsberg, Prussia, based this hymn on Psalm 24.