

First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023, 10:00 a.m.



Prelude

Veni Emmanuel ~ Edward C. Bairstow

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The power of dreams lies in waking up. For when we close our eyes,

we can see a better world.

When we close our eyes,

we can dream a better dream.

But when we open our eyes,

we begin the work of faith.

The power of worship is the same. When we enter this space,

we can see a better world.

When we enter this space,

we dream a better dream.

And when we leave this space,

we begin the work of faith.

We dream to keep awake to the truth of the world, and the truth of God's love. If we don't dream of better days, then we might forget that this is not what God imagined. So today we light the candle of hope, for hope is the very thing that keeps dreams afloat.

He came down that we may have hope; he came down that we may

have hope; he came down that we may have hope; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev-er more.

He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light; he

came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev-er more.

May this light be an invitation to keep awake.

May this light be our invitation to be Advent people—people who dream. Amen.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you

Holy God, **you dreamed up a dream for your people— a dream of hope and justice, a dream for eyes wide open, to both the world’s suffering and the world’s beauty. So today, as we worship, we ask that you would plant that same dream in us. Pour out your Spirit on our hearts and minds so that we may see what you see, and dream what you dream. Gratefully we pray; Amen.**

First Reading **Isaiah 64:1-9**

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life
Thanks be to God

Psalm 80

The cantor will sing the first two verses, and the congregation will sing the remaining verses in unison.



¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.

³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁴O LORD | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

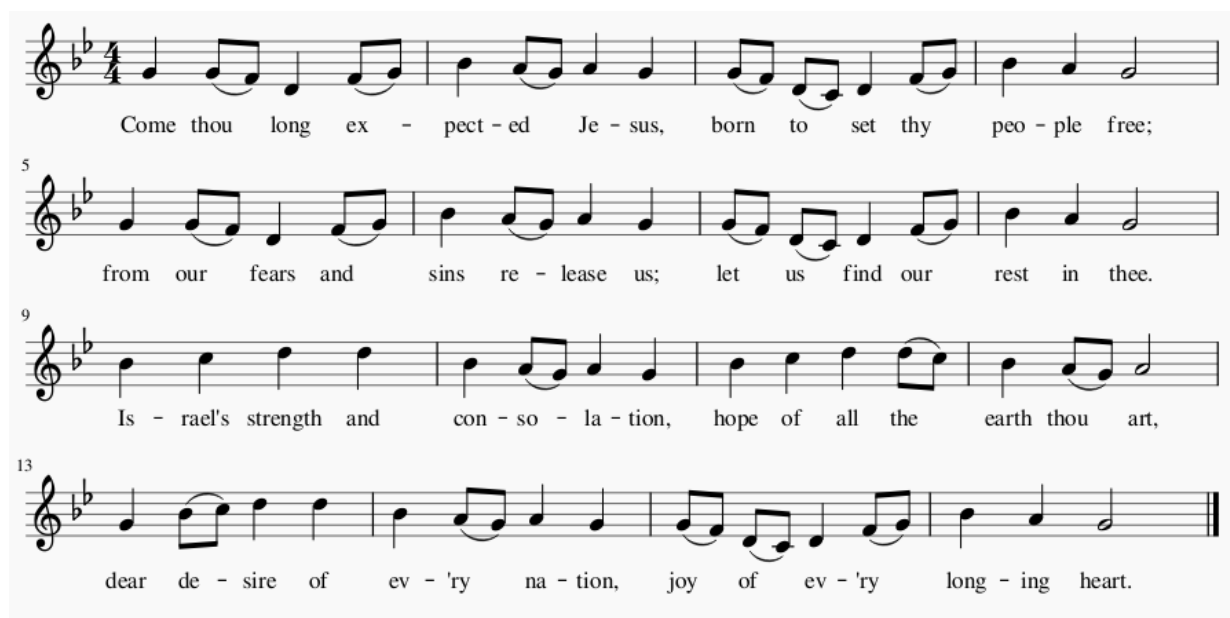
¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

Gospel Reading Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.



Come thou long ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
5 from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
9 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
13 dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.

The holy gospel according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus ~ ACS 904

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God. We believe that God has dreams for humanity.

We believe in the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Holy Spirit comforts us when our dreams turn to nightmares.

**We believe in Jesus. We believe that Jesus walked this world to wake us up,
inviting us to be the church in the world.**

We believe in dreams.

We believe in the power that dreams have to show us a new way.

**So in this Advent season, we are those who dream
and those who wake up to do the work of faith.**

May it be so. Amen.

Prayers

*Each portion of the prayers concludes, Merciful God,
and you may respond, **receive our prayer***

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. Some may wish to shake hands, bump elbows, or simply nod to one another with the greeting; please be sensitive to varying preferences as we share the peace of Christ in preparation for Holy Communion.

Musical Offering

Once He Came In Blessing ~ arr. Mark Sedio- Kathy Ferding - Flute

We are not passing the offering plate; instead, the plate is sitting near the door to the worship space to receive financial gifts which support our ministry. You can also give using the Vanco App on your digital device.

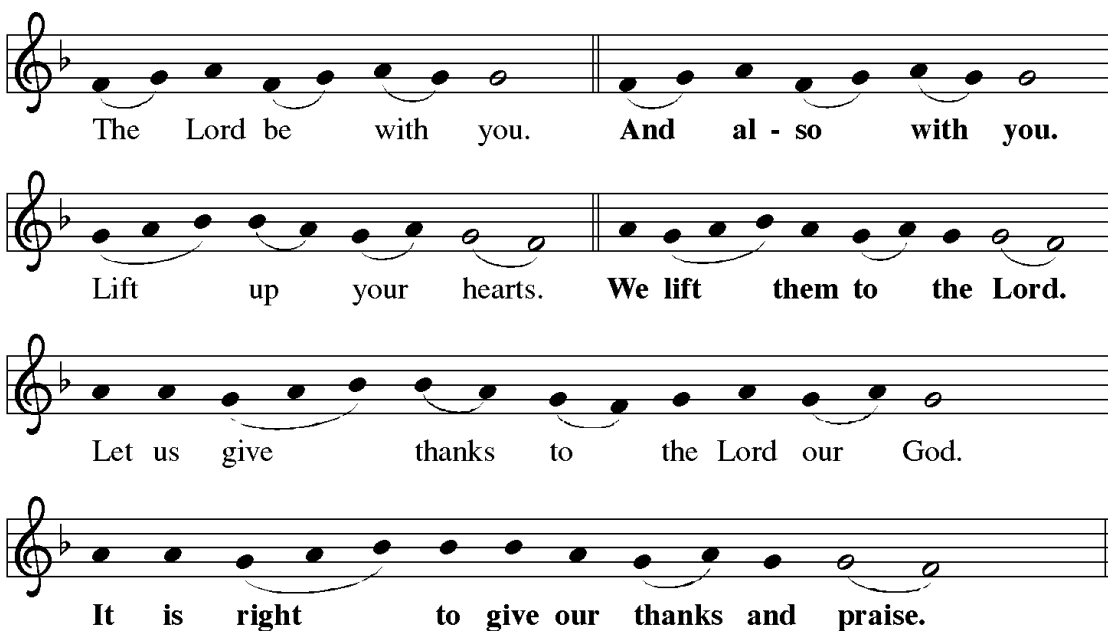
Offering Hymn

Come Now, O Prince of Peace ~ ELW 247 vs. 1,2

Offering Prayer

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Holy Communion



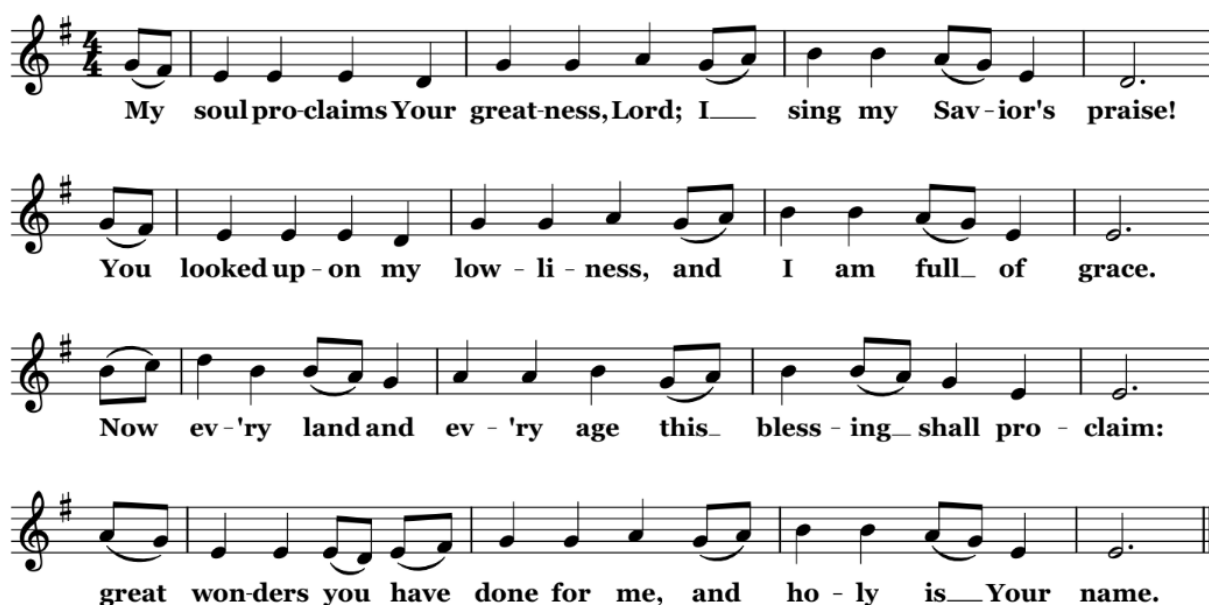
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right . . . Join their unending hymn:



My soul pro-claims Your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim:

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is Your name.

Holy one

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit...

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, O God, now and forever

Amen

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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Hymns

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (text by Sanctified Art)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile here Until the promised one appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to heal and make all things well.

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by thine advent here;

Replace the lonely clouds of night, Reveal a dawn of heavenly light. *Refrain*

**O come, desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of humankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, And usher in a reign of peace. Refrain**

**O come, thou healer, come and free Creation from all tyranny;
From depths of pain the whole Earth save, And lead us out from every grave.
Refrain**

Blessing after Communion

Prayer after Communion

Faithful God, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Benediction

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the inspiration of the Spirit remain upon you
now and forever

Amen

Closing Hymn

All Earth is Hopeful ~ ELW 266

Dismissal

Wait for the Lord in faith and hope

Thanks be to God

Postlude

Singen wir mit Fröhlichkeit ~ Hermann Schroeder

Flowers are in celebration of Fay Thompson's Birthday. (Mother of Vicki Easson)

