

NORTHRIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 28, 2021 11 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

Chiming of the Hour

Introit

Until Jesus Comes

Dean McIntyre

Matthew Jackson, soloist

Welcome

PREPARING FOR GOD'S WORD

✠ *indicates an invitation to rise in body or spirit*

✠ Call to Worship

Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering.

Yes, we are homesick—

for joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors, and for hospitals that run empty.

We are homesick for the world God promises.

We are homesick, but we are on our way.

God is here. God is still creating.

Let us worship Holy God.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

✠ Gathering Hymn #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we find ourselves with two options every day— to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win. Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel? Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible?

Silence for personal confession

Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust this good news:

There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.

✠ Passing the Peace
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

(You are invited to wave signs of peace.)

✠ Veni Emmanuel
**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 thee, O Israel.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Psalm 139:1-16

O.T.p.577

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Human Project: Vulnerability

Rev. Betsy Swetenburg

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠ Affirmation of Faith
**We believe in the triune God – Lover, Beloved, and Love itself.
Because God came to us in Jesus, we trust that God understands this messy
business of being human and so we do not hide our own messiness.
We take comfort in the fact that God knows:
the joy of a dinner party with friends,
the satisfaction of belly-aching laughter,
the weight of a long to-do list,
the holy interruption of curious children,
the sting of broken relationships,
the solace of the night sky,
the anxiety of an unknown future,
the despair of a diagnosis,
the grief of a wounded heart,
the loneliness of a demanding job,
the delight of sunshine and a soft breeze.
We trust that God is at work in and through our humanity and so we offer
ourselves to the messy work of making God's love known in the world.**

✠ Affirmation Response

WAITING/CASON

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

The Prayers of the People and The 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.

Call To Give

(To give via text, send a text message to 1-844-958-4345 with the amount of the gift.
If you pledge, this offering will be applied to your pledge.)

Offertory

Song of Zechariah

Bryan Page

✠ Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore—One holy God, whom we adore. Amen.**

✠ Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

✠ Sending Hymn #100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

✠ Charge and Benediction

**Go out into God's world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good;
return to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak; help the suffering; honor all persons;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Closing Voluntary

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel

Paul Manz

At Northridge, we believe that the church is a gift that everyone deserves to enjoy. The church is a community of people who are committed to doing life together – enduring life's heartaches and celebrating life's joys, seeking out laughter, pursuing a more just world, and following the path Jesus set out for us. If you think Northridge may be that community for you, please reach out to Rev. Betsy Swetenburg.
betsys@northridgepc.org

Leading worship today:

Rev. Betsy Lyles Swetenburg, Pastor

Bryan Page, Music Director

Julia Boudreaux, Organist

Becca Jones, Sound Board Operator

✠ Veni Emmanuel



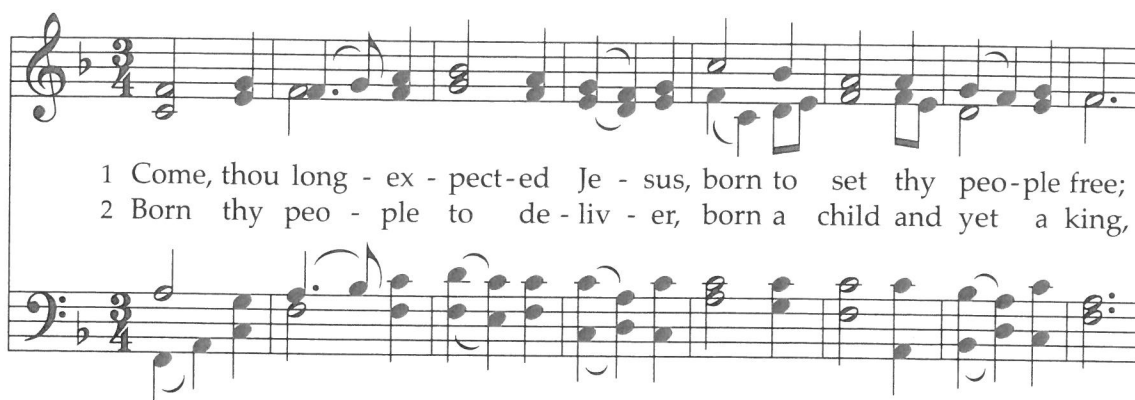
O come, O come, Em-man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive Is - ra - el, that
mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

✠ Doxology

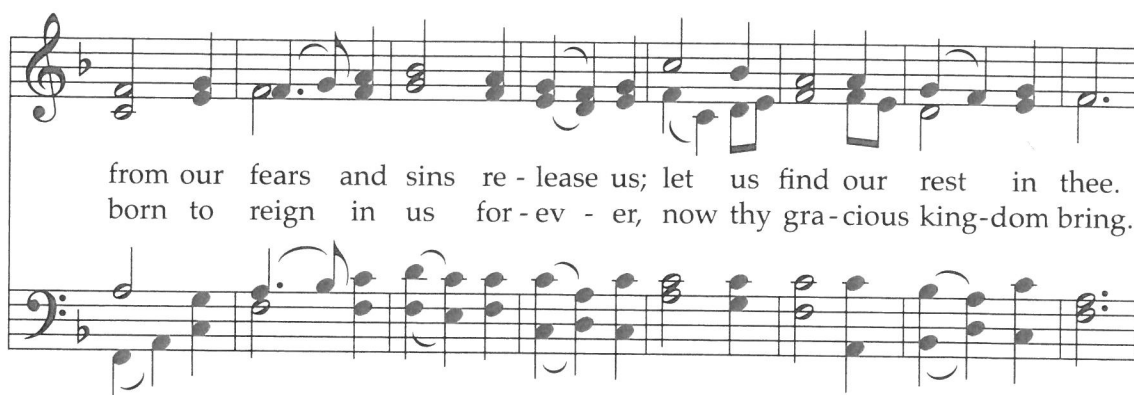


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Christ, all crea - tures
here be - low; Praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more - One
ho - ly God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

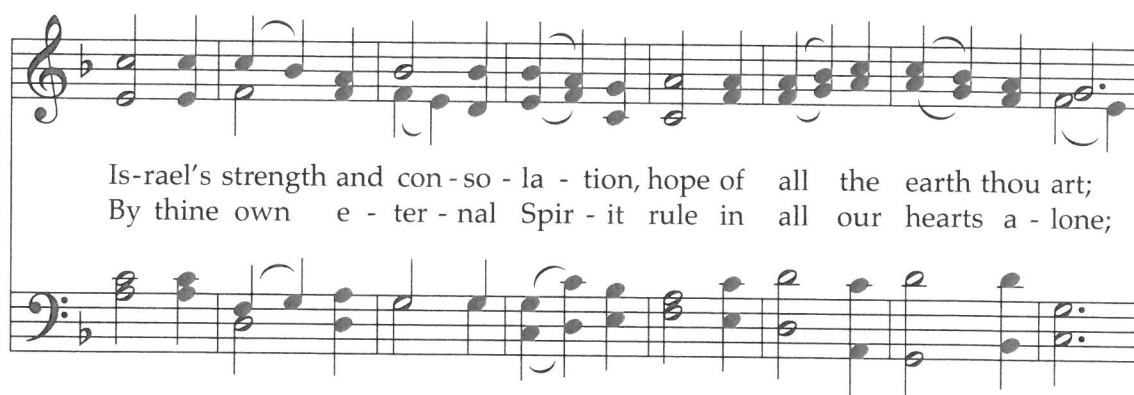
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
 2 With power and glo - ry, come;
 3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
 with power and glo - ry, come.
 come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

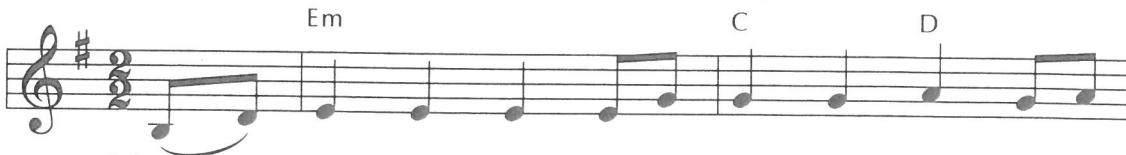
Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

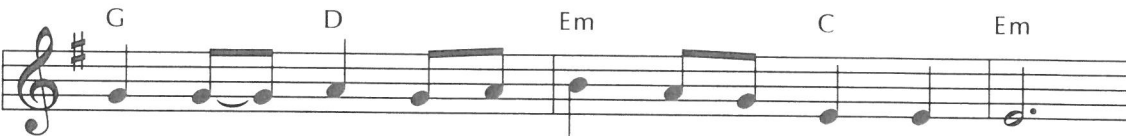
Canticle of the Turning



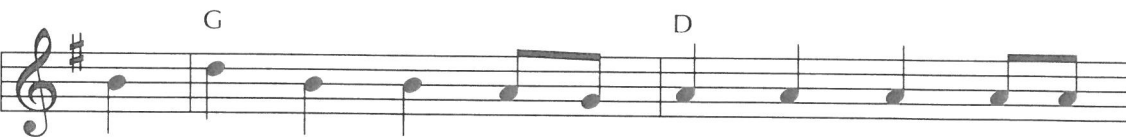
1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.

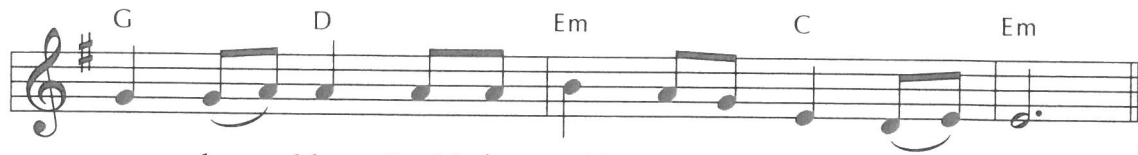


You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



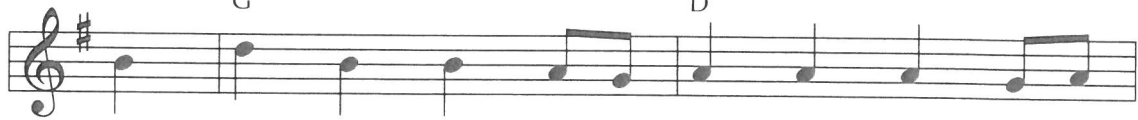
weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

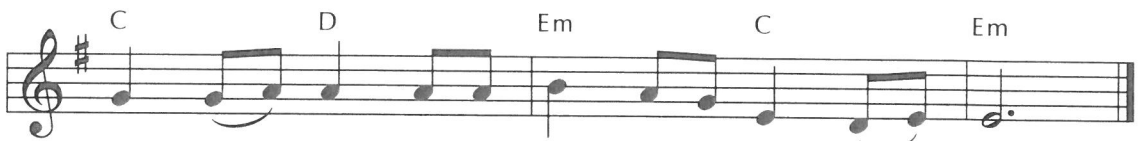
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.