



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
November 27, 2022
Service of Worship 10:00 AM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT WORSHIP ONLINE
First Sunday in Advent



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Question for Reflection

Where have you witnessed HOPE this week?

Introit (sung by the congregation) Hymn #88, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verse 1)

VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
Who mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

Call to Worship

Psalm 122

One: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

All: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem built as a city that is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,

as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

Call to Confession (Matthew 3:2-3)

One: A voice is crying out in the wilderness:

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

**All: We lift up our souls to you, O God,
knowing that we have not always walked closely with you.**

In fact, sometimes we have stopped walking altogether.

**We seem to revisit the same problems over and over
without really looking for ways to move forward.**

So much in our lives and in our world seems played out and tired.

Forgive us, God, for our lack of faith in your power and your promises.

Help us to hope even when things seem hopeless.

Lighting the First Advent Candle: Hope

Words of Assurance

One: Each day, each moment of our lives is a gift from God,
an invitation to begin again.
God offers us this gift not because of who we are,
but because of who God is, full of grace and love.
God reaches out to us even when we are unsure of how to respond.
What a wonderful surprise!
There is yet hope for us and for our world.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn #88 (Refrain)

**All: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel**

Passing The Peace

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

One: Holy God, our hope and strength,
by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs
of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 2:1-5, read by Daniel Sebagala

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!



Scripture Lesson

Matthew 24:36-44, read by Kris Wilhelm

[Jesus said,] "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Sermon

"Agree and Build"

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff



Hymn #82

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers from our Partners

Gabriel Ofori-Okai

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**



Offering

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Hymn #107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

Charge and Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Closing Hymn #92

While We are Waiting, Come

WAITING (Cason)

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Since 2004 Westminster members have helped organize holiday events for residents at Schuyler Inn. Nancy Ost has volunteered to organize two programs to support families this holiday season -- a Winter Clothing Give Away and the traditional distribution of gift cards. To volunteer to help Nancy and Tom McPheeters at Schuyler (if you have no underlying conditions), contact Nancy through the Church office (office@wpcalbany.org). To donate to help purchase winter clothing or gift cards,

- Go online at wpcalbany.org/give (select "General Fund" in the pull-down menu and Schuyler Inn for the optional memo line)
- Checks also accepted payable to: Westminster Church ("Schuyler Inn" in memo line)

FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry: For December, Westminster is asked to donate shampoo. Until further notice, please email office@wpcalbany.org to arrange to drop off your donation.

Stay in Touch with Westminster

- Visit our website: www.wpcalbany.org
- Like us on Facebook: Westminster Presbyterian Church Albany
- Follow us on Twitter: WPCAlbanyNY
- Get weekly news email messages by providing a current email address to the church office at office@wpcalbany.org or calling (518) 436-8544

For more about Westminster's online communications, please contact us: communications@wpcalbany.org

Session

Leah Threatte, Clerk
John Bossung, Nancy Holroyd, Felicia Kollie-Gambles,
Hannah Ohemaa-Takyi, Susan Schell, Larry Volk

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Mary Bullis and Dodie Seagle, Co-moderators
Christabel Abban, Ervin Ashburn, Ruthanne Brod,
Cynthia Dwyer, Kate Gallagher, Mabel McGraw, Elizabeth McMillan

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88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



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

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

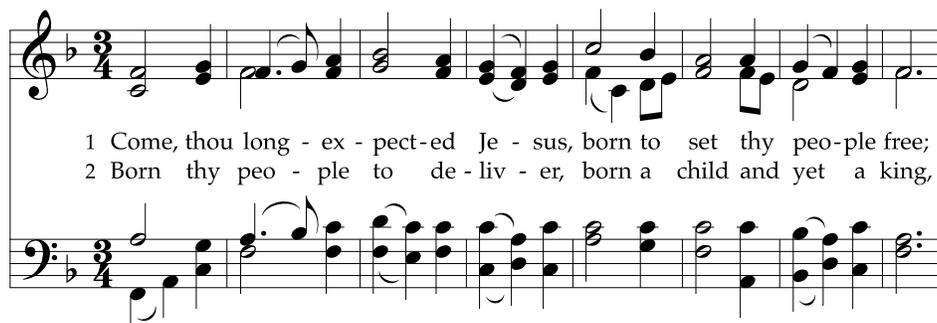
7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

<i>Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)</i>	<i>Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)</i>	<i>Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)</i>
<i>Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)</i>	<i>Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)</i>	
<i>Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)</i>	<i>Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)</i>	

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

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.

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
 el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
 world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
 win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
 near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
 free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
 light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
 bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
 forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
 love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
 raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.

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.