THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
A Service of Word & Feast

November 29, 2020 10:00 a.m.

The 1st Sunday of Advent

"The mysterious force that moves our lives takes on a face, and we are persuaded that justice and mercy too, like grace, are written into the constitution of our world. We see God's face, and we are saved. Saved from what? From the cynicism and despair, the resignation and indifference, that might otherwise turn us to stone."

— *B. A. Gerrish, in* The Pilgrim Road

Gathering

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection

Prelude — "Double Concerto in D minor" by Bach *Audrey Rivetta & Nicolas Rivetta, violins*

Welcome

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Many: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship

One: The power of dreams lies in waking up.
For when we close our eyes,
Many: **We can see a better world.**
One: When we close our eyes,
Many: **We can dream a better dream.**
One: But when we open our eyes,
Many: **We begin the work of faith.**

One: The power of worship is the same.
When we enter this space**,
Many: **We can see a better world.**
One: When we enter this space,
Many: **We dream a better dream.**
One: But when we leave this space,
Many: **We begin the work of faith.**

*(** The "space" of worship is not limited to a physical location... it is a space in our hearts, minds, and spirits, too!)*

One: So come in. Dream your dream.
Many: **Find hope here.**
One: For in an hour,
Many: **We will begin the work of faith.**
One: Let it be so.

Hymn — "'Sleepers, Wake!' A Voice Astounds Us" *this bulletin,* **pg. 10**

Confession & Forgiveness

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Many: **God-with-us,**
even in this season when we look with hope toward your coming,
we confess that you can seem so, so far away.
You seem hidden when we need you near.

In our hurt and doubt,
we do not try to draw closer to you;
instead we lash out—
against you, against our neighbor, against even those we love.
In our fear and dismay,
we hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes;
instead we continue to live with the curtains drawn—
the covers pulled tight,
eyes shut to the realities of the world.

Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us!
Let your face shine until our tears are dried,
our sins are faded,
and our hope is restored.
Kindle a hope in us that will burn through the darkest nights.
Give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

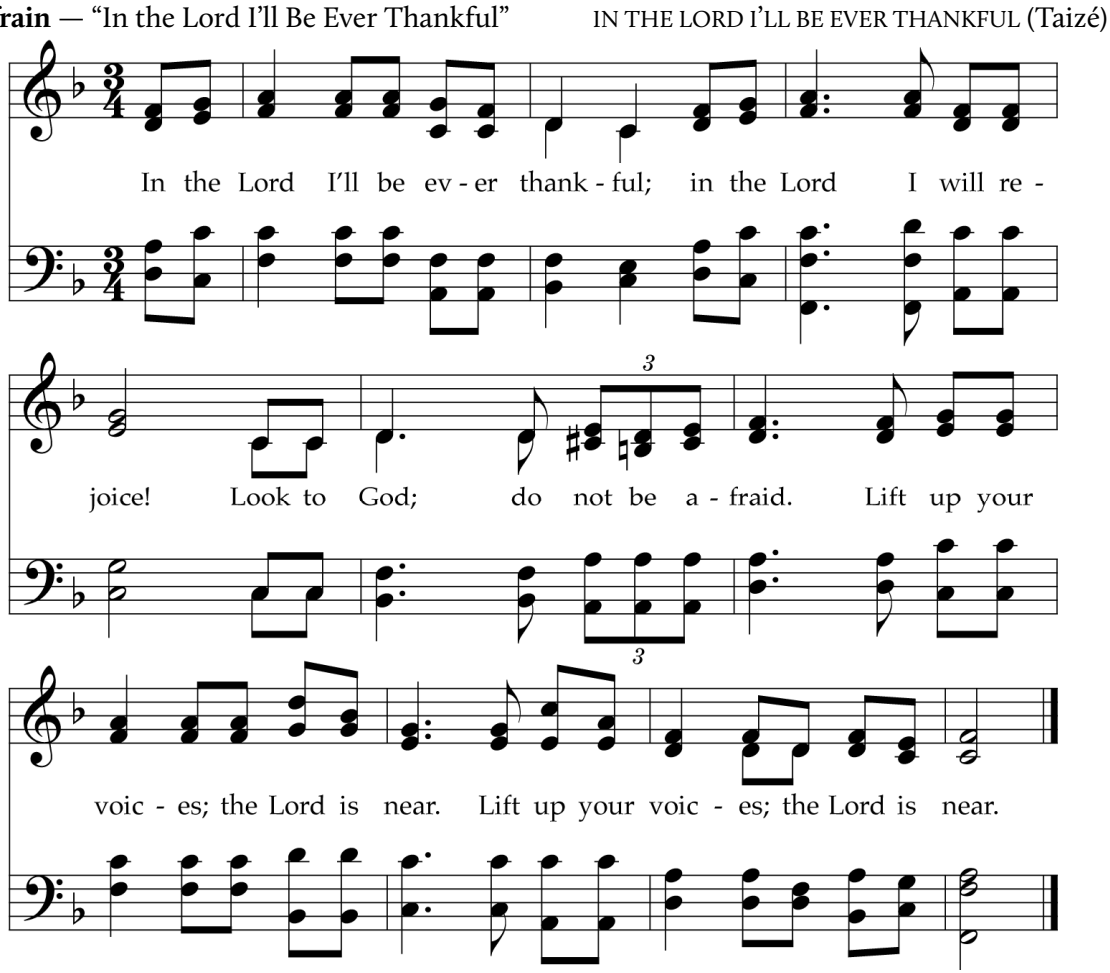
The Advent Wreath: Lighting the Candle of Hope *Members of the Klimkiewicz family*

News from our Life Together

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Refrain — "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"



Prayer for Illumination

Scripture 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.

Scripture 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.

The Early Word: A Moment for the Younger Among Us *Lisa Haupt*

*The **refrain** ("In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful" – music above) is repeated.*

Sermon — "Those Who Dream... *keep awake*" *The Rev. Matthew Emery*

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: *Go to www.storrscongchurch.org and click the green "Give now..." button.*
Text: *Text "StorrsCongChurch" to 73256, followed by your gift amount (i.e. "StorrsCongChurch $100").*

Those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions (joys and concerns) via the Chat feature.

An Offering Thought

"And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake." – Mark 13:37

Advent calls us to pay attention and to look for signs of Christ in the world. As we enter a new season of the church year, we continue to give thanks and show gratitude. Pay attention. Look around. Opportunities to be a blessing to others abound!

Offertory Music *Cooper Clark, tenor; Audrey Rivetta, violin; Sofia DiNatale, cello*

"Zion hört die Wächter singen" from *Wachet auf,* Cantata #140, by Bach

Zion hört die Wächter singen,
das Herz tut ihr vor Freunden springen,
sie wachet und steht eilend auf.
Ihr Freund kommt von Himmel prächtig,
von Gnaden stark, von Währheit mächtig,
ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf.
Nun komm, du werte Kron',
Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn.
Hosianna!
Wir folgen all
zum Freudensaal
und halten mit das Abendmahl.

Zion hears the watchmen sing,
her heart leaps for joy within her,
she wakens and hastily arises.
Her glorious Friend comes from heaven,
strong in mercy, powerful in truth,
her light becomes bright, her star rises.
Now come, precious crown,
Lord Jesus, the Son of God!
Hosanna!
We all follow
to the hall of joy
and hold the holy meal together.

The Prayers of the People, *ending with* The Lord's Prayer

Many: **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 glory forever. Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the Presence of Jesus Christ

Communion Hymn — "My Soul in Stillness Waits" *this bulletin,* **pg. 9, vss. 1, 3, & 6**

Invitation to the Table

Giving Thanks

One: The Lord be with you.
Many: **And also with you.**
One: Lift up your hearts.
Many: **We lift them to the Lord.**
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Many: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty
to give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning,
you dreamed of a world that would be good—
of mountains, valleys, and oceans;
of laughter and the magic of music;
of a creation united with you in love.
You dreamed of this world, O God,
and you formed it into being.

And when we, who bear your image in this world,
turned away from you,
you did not turn from us.
Rather, in love, you held fast to your dream—
working, shaping, and suffering to make it reality.

And so with all the choirs of angels,
with all the faithful of every time and place,
we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:

Many: **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might:**
heaven and earth are full of your glory!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

One: Ever-present God,
your prophets dreamed of the day

when you would tear the heavens and come down,
and in Christ, their dream became reality.

Come down now, we pray
upon this bread and cup
and make them be for us
the body and blood of Jesus Christ:

Who, at supper with his disciples,
took bread, gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to them saying,
"Take and eat: this is my body given for you;
do this for the remembrance of me."

Who, after supper, took the cup
and gave it to them saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
poured out for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sins;
Do this for the remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith:

Many: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

One: Creating God,
send your Spirit upon your people
that we too may dream your dream—
of the lion lying down with the lamb,
of justice rolling like a mighty river,
of swords beaten into plowshares,
of prisoners set free.
Help us dream your dream,
and then, as we wake,
empower us with your Spirit
that we, with you, might work to make your dream reality.
Form us ever more in the image and likeness
of your dream-made-flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Many: **Amen.**

Sharing the Feast

The pastor will guide worshipers through the breaking of the bread and the sharing of communion.

An Open Table! When we celebrate Holy Communion we are all guests at the table, with Jesus himself as our host. We have not earned a place at the table, rather we are invited because of the amazing grace of God. For that reason, this celebration of the Holy Communion is open to *all* —including children—who wish to know the presence of Christ and the community of God's people, and not merely members of this congregation or denomination. This is a *joyful* feast for *all* the people of God.

Prayer after Communion

Many: **God for whom we wait,**
in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day
when the hungry will be fed with good things.
Send us forth to make known your deeds
and to proclaim the greatness of your name,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" *this bulletin,* **pg. 12**

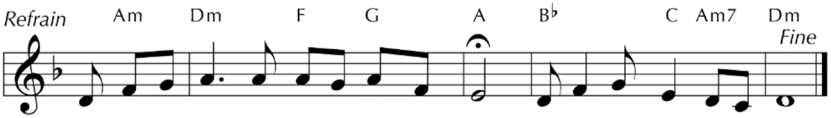
Benediction

Postlude *Dr. Patricia Snyder, organ*

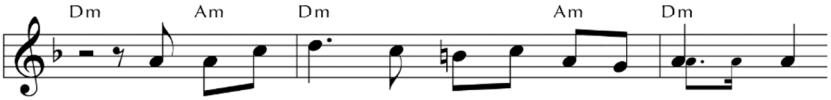
Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee "coffee hour"! We look forward to connecting with you!

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits 89

My Soul in Stillness Waits

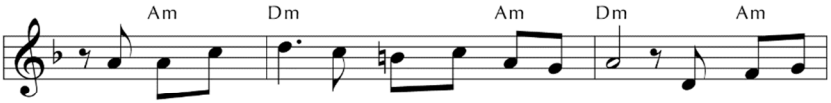


For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



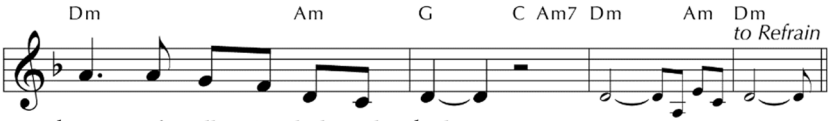
1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,
2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;
3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,

4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil - grim-age;
5 Come, let us bow be - fore the God who made us;
6 Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the heav - ens,



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the
our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your word; come, make us
and in your ad - vent, draw us all to you, our hope re -

we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to
let ev - ery heart be o - pened to the Lord, for we are
Cre - a - tor of the moun-tains and the seas, Lord of the



hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.
whole, be com - fort to our hearts.
born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.

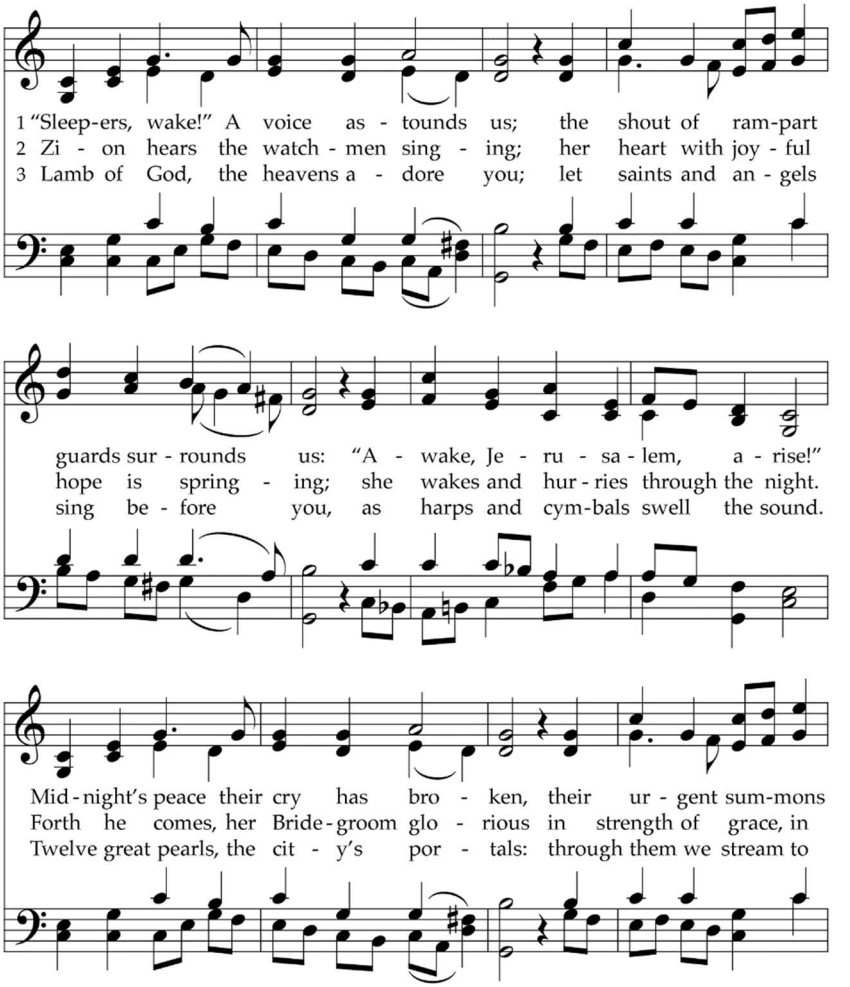
us the path - way of your peace.
all the peo - ple of God's hand.
stars, and pres - ent to us now.

With a paraphrase of Psalm 62:5 as a refrain, this Advent text adapts four of the "Great O" antiphons (all of which can be seen in no. 88), combining them with a paraphrase of Psalm 95:6–7 and an echo of a medieval hymn. This rich blend yields a wealth of imagery and meaning.

TEXT and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1982
Text and Music © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS
Irregular

349 "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us



This text is based on the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1–13), but contains allusions to many other New Testament passages. Because one person created both text and tune, they combine majestically to form what is often called "the king of chorales."

TEXT: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; trans. Carl P. Daw Jr., 1982
MUSIC: Attr. Philipp Nicolai, 1599; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1731
Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

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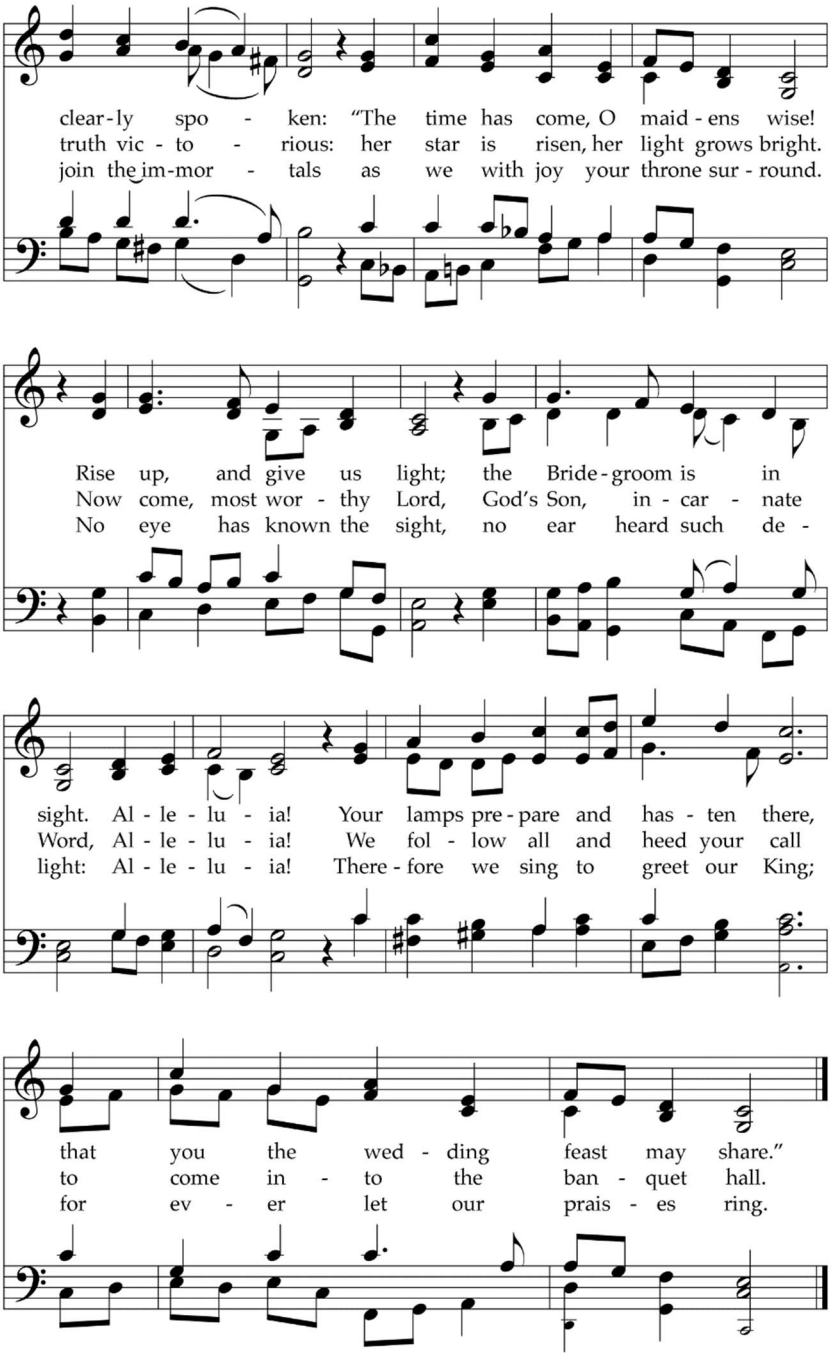
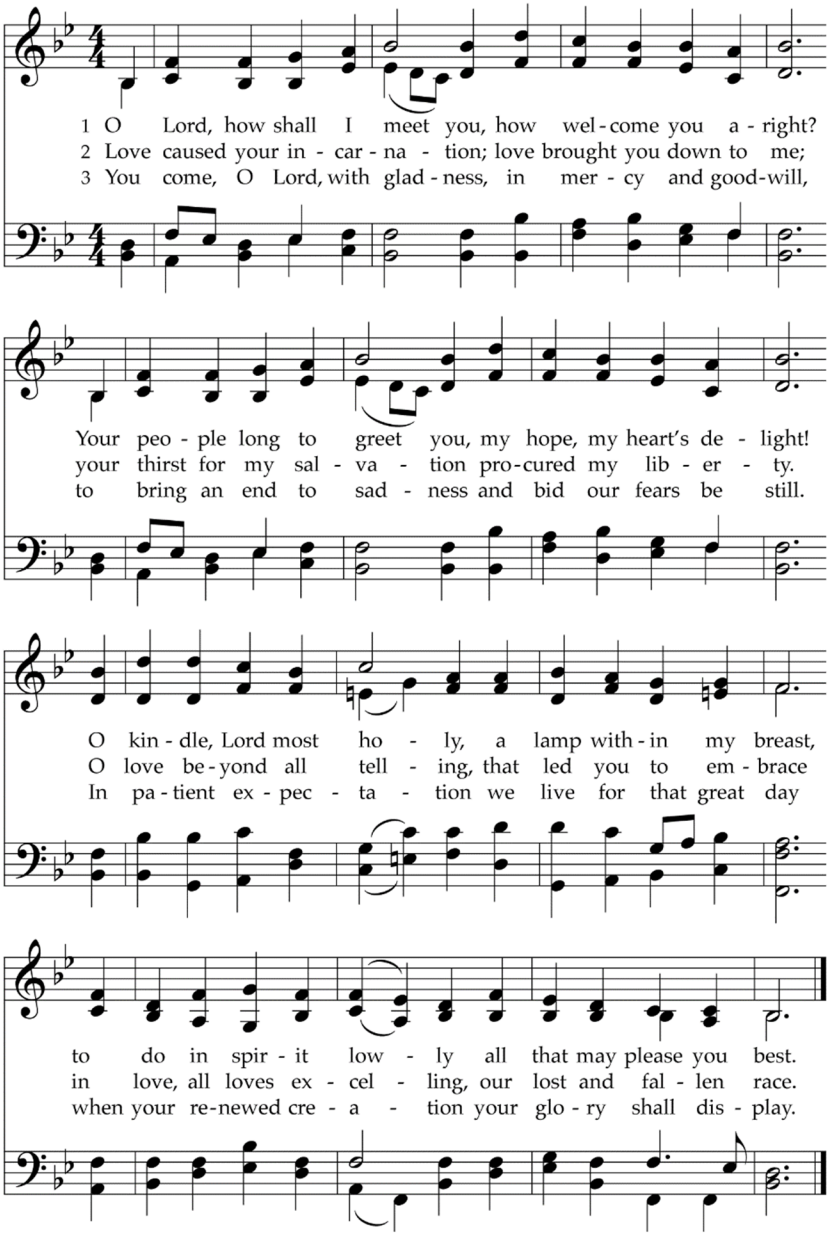
Irregular


clear-ly spo - ken: "The time has come, O maid-ens wise!
truth vic - to - rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
join the im-mor - tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.
Rise up, and give us light; the Bride-groom is in
Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, in - car - nate
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -
sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre-pare and has - ten there,
Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and heed your call
light: Al - le - lu - ia! There-fore we sing to greet our King;
that you the wed - ding feast may share."
to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104



Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

TEXT: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; trans. Catherine Winkworth and others, 1863, alt.
MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1614; harm. William Henry Monk, 1861

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN
7.6.7.6.D

Notes and Acknowledgements

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- Prayer of Confession created by Matthew Emery from materials appearing in Sarah Are, *Those Who Dream: Words for Worship,* A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org, and in *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long, Year B, vol. 1, ©2014 Westminster John Knox Press.
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We share in God's love by growing in faith,
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.

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