

**St. Andrew Presbyterian Church**  
The Second Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 8, 2024

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*Building a community of faith unleashed into the world by the love of God.*

PLEASE NOTE: Words & Music to Hymns/Responses  
are included at the end of the bulletin.

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***Gathering Around the Word***

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**Centering Meditation**

John the Baptist said, “Turn around, Wake up. Shake off your bad habits. The One is coming, who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Light your lamp. Sweep the house. Get ready. Get ready. The end is near. The beginning is nigh.”

I'm never alone in the wilderness of my soul. John meets me there and guides me again and again into sacred time. -Suzanne Guthrie – At the Edge of the Enclosure

**Ringings of the Bell**

**Prelude**      **Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme**      **J.S. Bach**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: In a world that is lonely,

**All: we will save a seat for you.**

One: In a world that is anxious,

**All: we will light candles against the gloom.**

One: In a world that is weary,

**All: we will sing songs of joy and truth.**

One: I am not alone.

**All: We are not alone.**

One: For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

**All: Light the candles! Sing with joy! We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.**

**Opening Hymn # 106**

**Prepare the Way, O Zion**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace**

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

**All: Let us begin together. Let us begin arm in arm. Let us begin by holding each other up, instead of tearing each other down. Let us begin with words of peace.**

One: Yes, let us begin with peace. Today we light the candles of hope and peace.

**All: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights mark a new beginning. May peace flow like a river and may it start with us.**

One: Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side. May we begin again. Amen.

**Response #137**

**He Came Down, v. 3**

### **Call to Confession**

One: Family of faith, there are times when praying out loud as a community allows us to right our relationship with God and with one another as well. This is one of those moments. So as a community, please join me in our call and response prayer of confession. Join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in practicing grace.

### **Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness**

One: I have tried to make my own way. I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith. I have said a thousand times, “turn back” as if I am fine on my own. But the days are long and I am forgetful. I need your help. Can you remind me?

**All: We will remind you of this everlasting truth: you are not alone. Where you go, God goes. You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.**

One: Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

**All: Now, we need your help. We, too, have tried to make our own way. We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths. We have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if we are fine on our own. But the days are long and we are forgetful. We need your help. Can you remind us?**

One: I will remind you of this everlasting truth: you are not alone. Where you go, God goes. You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.

**All: Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe. Alleluia! Amen.**

### **Passing of Christ’s Peace**

One: The Peace of Christ always be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Response # 103, v.2**

**Come Now, O Prince of Peace (twice through)**

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## ***Proclaiming the Word***

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### **Prayer for Illumination**

One: Holy God, the words of this world whip around us like a mighty wind. We are caught up in news reports, in text messages, in emails and notifications. We are drowning in updates from the media, caught off guard by the constant hum of it all. But here on this bright morning we remember: you too are speaking. Still the voices around us. Calm our minds and center our hearts so that we can hear your words above the wind. We are leaning closer. We are at the edge of our chairs. We are beginning again. Speak to us, as only you can. Amen.



those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

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## ***Bearing and Following the Word into the World***

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**Closing Hymn # 94**

**Now the Heavens Start to Whisper**

**Matters of Community**

**Postlude**

**Sursum corda (Lift up your hearts)**

**Franz Liszt**

### **Charge and Benediction**

As you leave this place, may you have wisdom to lean on one another. May you have the courage to hold onto hope, the compassion to do the good that is yours to do, and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing. For in a world full of dead ends, Advent invites us to begin again. So start here. Start now. Start with love and begin again. In the name of Christ, our new beginning, go in peace.

Pastor: ... and let the people say:

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

Resources: A Sanctified Art, Words for the Beginning

<https://sanctifiedart.org/words-for-the-beginning-advent-bundle>

[Discipleship Ministries | Second Sunday of Advent, Year C](#)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St. Andrew Staff</b></p> <p><b>Transitional Pastor</b> Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke</p> <p><b>Director of Music</b> Julie Taylor</p> <p><b>Clerk of Session</b> Suzanne Busch</p> <p><b>Pianists</b> Denise Baccadutre Tatiana Shustova</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> Debbie Steffen</p> <p><b>Assistant Treasurer</b> M. Therese Smith</p> <p><b>Financial Secretary</b> Marie StClaire</p> <p><b>Administrative Assistant</b> Birgitta Gustafson</p> <p><b>Deacon Moderator</b> Sharon Burkhardt</p> <p><b>Memorial Secretary</b> Sharon Burkhardt</p> <p><b>Building Maintenance</b> Julian Lopez</p> <p><b>Landscaping</b> Josh Lopez</p> <p><b>Custodian</b> Georgia Benavidez</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Worship Planners and Participants</b></p> <p><b>Liturgist</b> Susan Copeland</p> <p><b>Musicians</b> Tatiana Shustova Kathy Renfro, soprano Sharon Macklin, cello James Macklin, guitar</p> <p><b>Advent Candle Lighting</b> Isabel and Tim Ozechowski</p> <p><b>Tech Team</b> Jim Dillow, David Schneider Richard Irish, Josh Fidel Chris Fogel, Janet McEwen Valerie Dalton, Karen Ulack Bob Busch, Suzanne Busch Kevin Hughes, Barbara Sanders James and Sharon Macklin</p> <p><b>Worship Planning</b> Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke Barb Sanders Resources: A Sanctified Art <a href="https://sanctifiedart.org/words-for-the-beginning-advent-bundle">https://sanctifiedart.org/words-for-the-beginning-advent-bundle</a></p> <p><b>Music</b> <i>The Wexford Carol</i>, arr. Charles Floyd &amp; Yo Yo Ma, Sony/ATV Music, 2008. <i>At the Cradle</i>, Edward Grieg, from Lyric Pieces, Urtext - Konemann Music, 1994. <i>Melody</i>, Anton Rubinstein, 50 greats for the piano, Yamaha, 2000. <i>Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Awake, the Voice Commands)</i> "Ten Chorale Preludes", J. S. Bach, arr. Ferruccio Busoni, Leipzig: Breitkopf und Härtel, 1898. <i>Dedication</i>, Robert Schumann, Copa Publishing, 1972. <i>Sursum corda (Lift up your hearts)</i>, Franz Liszt, Years of Pilgrimage, Editio Musica Budapest, 1970. <b>All other hymns are in the public domain.</b> <b>Projection, podcast use, and music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-732021.</b></p>
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# Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



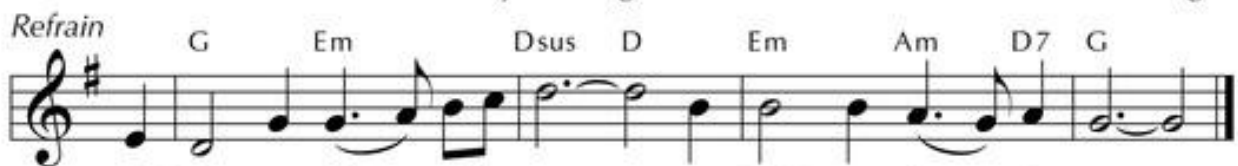
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;  
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930  
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN  
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

# He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

*Leader:* Why did he come?

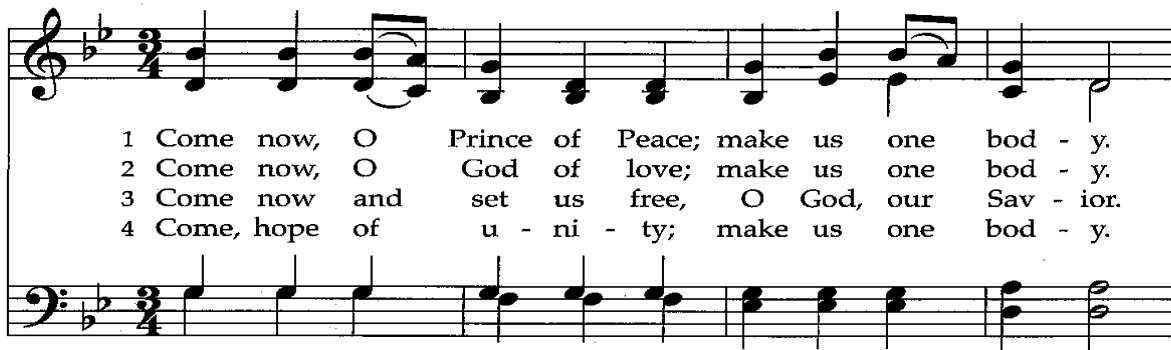
*Additional stanzas:*

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.

# 103 Come Now, O Prince of Peace

오소서



1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.  
2 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.  
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
4 Come, hope of u - ni - ty; make us one bod - y.



Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec-on-cile all peo - ple.

## KOREAN

- 1 오소서 오소서 평화의 임금  
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
- 2 오소서 오소서 사랑의 임금  
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
- 3 오소서 오소서 자유의 임금  
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
- 4 오소서 오소서 통일의 임금  
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서

Originally created for a 1988 world conference for the peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, these four stanzas centering on peace, love, freedom, and unity demonstrate how texts for particular situations can become hymns that speak deeply to shared human longings.



# Blest Be the Tie That Binds 306

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in  
 2 Be - fore our \*Fa - ther's throne we pour our  
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual  
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us  
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we

Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of  
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our  
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each  
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be  
 shall be free; and per - fect love and

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.  
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.  
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

\*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.

## In the Bleak Midwinter

144

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan;  
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;  
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there;  
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

# 94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

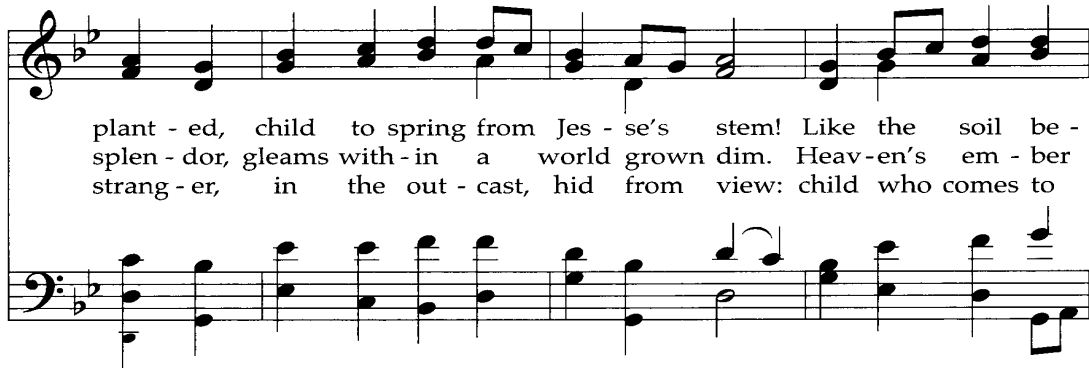
1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is  
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to  
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten  
drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness  
wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance

to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly  
shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of  
hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

This Advent text artfully interweaves what is hidden and what is revealed, primarily in the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. But Christ himself taught us about another hidden truth, his presence in the "least of these" (Matthew 25:40, 45), whom we are also called to welcome.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -  
splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber  
strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to



neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.