



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

**December 1, 2024
10:30 AM
First Sunday of Advent**

Order of Worship

**indicates to stand as you are able.

Prelude

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. L. Larson

Haggai 2:7: *And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come:
and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.*

*“Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee!
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.”*

(Words: C. Wesley, 1744 (music (*Hyfrydol*)): R.H. Prichard, 1830; public domain. This piano solo: Lorenz Publishing Co., 2014)

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; P: People)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

Gathering

Lighting of the Advent Candle/Call to Worship

Zordan-Millard Family

One: In public and in private,

All: Trust in God.

One: In the long-term and in the moment,

All: Trust in God.

One: In the hard times and the good times,

All: Trust in God. (~candle may be lit~)

One: Look! The light shines!

All: We will trust the Holy One who ignites our hope.

Response - 89

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

Refrain:

For you, O Lord, My soul in stillness waits;

Truly my hope is in you

(v.1) O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory

Your radiance shines in all who look to you.

Come light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

Refrain

Opening Prayer

Liturgist Josh Gliptis

Make our hope consistent, O God.

Give us this day the blessing of persistence in your way,

So that we would practice our faith day after day after day,

and so be ready when the hard days come.

Keep us faithful, as you are faithful to us. Amen.

****Hymn – 83**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Call to Confession

Shared Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we confess we find it difficult to trust only you.

We are seduced..... praying you'll fix things in spite of us.

When we insist that change is impossible, **Forgive us, O God.**

When we manufacture problems in order to get our own way, **Forgive us, O God.**

When we participate in trickery thinking it will serve us in the end, **Forgive us, O God.**

When we soften our core beliefs and practices so we can stay safe and comfortable,
Forgive us, O God.

Give us the hope required to see your vision and stick to it,

the faith required to trust your promise above the sweet-talk of human leaders,

the courage required to change course when we see we've missed the mark.

We ask these things in the name of the One who is coming.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Friends, this is the Good News of the Gospel ... *(pause to hear the Good News)*

P: ...in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

****Response – 110**

Love Has Come

Love has come, and never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us; Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.

Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Word

Moment with Children

Liz Perrault

**Please note that any children who come forward for the moment with children will likely be seen on the Facebook livestream.*

Children ages preschool—third grade dismissed to Sunday Experience

Word in Music

Get Ready for the King! (African Advent Carol)

by M. Barrett

Daniel 2:23: I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power; you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king.

(Words and music by Michael Barrett, 2006; This choral arrangement: Malcom Music/Glory Sound/Shawnee Press, 2006)

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist Josh Gliptis

Gospel Text: Luke 22:66-71; 23:1-5

⁶⁶ As morning came, the elders of the people, both chief priests and legal experts, came together, and Jesus was brought before their council.

⁶⁷ They said, "If you are the Christ, tell us!"

He answered, "If I tell you, you won't believe. ⁶⁸ And if I ask you a question, you won't answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, *the Human One will be seated on the right side of the power of God.*" ⁷⁰ They all said, "Are you God's Son, then?"

He replied, "You say that I am."

⁷¹ Then they said, "Why do we need further testimony? We've heard it from his own lips."

The whole assembly got up and led Jesus to Pilate and ² began to accuse him. They said, "We have found this man misleading our people, opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar, and claiming that he is the Christ, a king."

³ Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "That's what you say."

⁴ Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no legal basis for action against this man."

⁵ But they objected strenuously, saying, "He agitates the people with his teaching throughout Judea—starting from Galilee all the way here."

Hebrew Bible Text: Daniel 6:6-27

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

⁶ So these officers and chief administrators ganged up together and went to the king. They said to him, "Long live King Darius! ⁷ All the officers of the kingdom, the ministers, the chief administrators, the royal associates, and the governors advise the king to issue an edict and enforce a law, that for thirty days anyone who says prayers to any god or human being except you, Your Majesty, will be thrown into a pit of lions. ⁸ Now, Your Majesty, issue the law and sign the document so that it cannot be changed, as per the law of Media and Persia, which cannot be annulled." ⁹ Because of this, King Darius signed the document containing the law.

¹⁰ When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went to his house. Now his upper room had open windows that faced Jerusalem. Daniel knelt down, prayed, and praised his God three times that day, just like he always did. ¹¹ Just then these men, all ganged together, came upon Daniel praying and seeking mercy from his God. ¹² They then went and talked to the king about the law:

“Your Majesty! Didn’t you sign a law, that for thirty days any person who prays to any god or human being besides you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into a pit of lions?”

The king replied, “The decision is absolutely firm in accordance with the law of Media and Persia, which cannot be annulled.”

¹³ So they said to the king, “One of the Judean exiles, Daniel, has ignored you, Your Majesty, as well as the law you signed. He says his prayers three times a day!”

¹⁴ When the king heard this report, he was very unhappy. He decided to rescue Daniel and did everything he could do to save Daniel before the sun went down. ¹⁵ But these men, all ganged together, came and said to the king, “You must realize, Your Majesty, that the law of Media and Persia, including every law and edict the king has issued, cannot be changed.”

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and hurled him into the pit of lions. The king said to Daniel: “Your God—the one you serve so consistently—will rescue you.”

¹⁷ A single stone was brought and placed over the entrance to the pit. The king sealed it with his own ring and with those of his princes so that Daniel’s situation couldn’t be changed. ¹⁸ The king then went home to his palace and fasted through the night. No pleasures were brought to him, and he couldn’t sleep. ¹⁹ At dawn, at the first sign of light, the king rose and rushed to the lions’ pit.

²⁰ As he approached it, he called out to Daniel, worried: “Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God—the one you serve so consistently—able to rescue you from the lions?”

²¹ Then Daniel answered the king: “Long live the king! ²² My God sent his messenger, who shut the lions’ mouths. They haven’t touched me because I was judged innocent before my God. I haven’t done anything wrong to you either, Your Majesty.”

²³ The king was thrilled. He commanded that Daniel be brought up out of the pit, and Daniel was lifted out. Not a scratch was found on him, because he trusted in his God. ²⁴ The king then ordered that the men who had accused Daniel be brought and thrown into the lions’ pit—including their wives and children. They hadn’t even reached the bottom of the pit before the lions overpowered them, crushing all their bones.

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote the following decree:

To all the peoples, nations, and languages inhabiting the entire earth: I wish you much peace. ²⁶ I now issue this command: In every region of my kingdom, all people must fear and revere Daniel’s God because:

He is the living God.

God stands firm forever.

His kingship is indestructible.

God’s rule will last until the end of time.

²⁷ He is rescuer and savior;

God performs signs and miracles in heaven and on earth.

Here’s the proof:

He rescued Daniel from the lions’ power.

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

****Hymn-100**

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Thanksgiving/Eucharist

**Invitation to Offering

Liturgist Josh Gliptis

*There are numerous ways to give to the work of CMPC.
Offering plates will be passed through the pews during the offertory for checks or cash to be left today.
Cards with a QR code that will direct you to our online giving page are located in the pew racks.
Donations can always be mailed to the church at any time using the address
on the back page of the bulletin. Thank you for your support!*

Offertory

Prepare the Royal Highway

arr. W. Held

Isaiah 40: 3-4: *A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain."*

"Prepare the royal highway, the King of kings is near; let every hill and valley a level road appear.
Then greet the king of glory foretold in sacred story: O blest is he that came in God the Father's name!"

(Words: F.M. Franzen, 1812, (music (*Bereden Vag for Herran*)), is a 17th century Swedish folk tune; public domain.
This organ solo: Morningstar Music Publishing, 1997)

**Doxology- 1 1 3

(sung to tune of *Angels We Have Heard on High*)

**God of great and God of small,
God of one and God of all, God of
weak and God of strong, God to
whom all things belong, Gloria in
excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Thanksgiving Prayers of the People

Sending

**Hymn -105

People, Look East

v. 1,4,5 (hymn goes to a second page)

**Benediction

Postlude

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

arr. J. Mansfield

Titus 2:13: *Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*

"Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel."

(Words: J. Bowring, 1825; music (*Aberstwyth*) J. Parry, 1876; public domain. This organ solo: Lorenz Publishing Co., 1997)

Thank you to Neil Danzig and John Kim for providing audio support this week!
Thank you to Rachel Bis for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

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Announcements and Upcoming Events

This Week!

Greening of the Church!

We are in need of volunteers to decorate the church for Christmas!

December 7th at 9:00 am

Light breakfast will be served.

Pizza and salad will be served for lunch.

Please contact Shelley Clemens at shelleyclemens57@gmail.com or 443-756-2345

We are in particular need of “patient” tree trimmers (12 years old and older) for the sanctuary Christmas tree and the foyer tree. These are large trees and are decorated in layers (that’s where the patience is needed). Large ladders are involved so we need four people that don’t mind climbing plus others who can trim the lower tree layers and hand ornaments to the climbers.



Christmas Angel Tree

As in previous years, we will be collecting Christmas gifts for families in need during this Advent Season. Beginning Sunday, November 24, a Christmas tree will **be in the downstairs vestibule** with paper ornaments containing gift suggestions for children and adults from our community. To participate, please:

- * Take an ornament tags (feel free to take more in the coming weeks if ornaments remain)
- * Purchase the gift – please include a gift receipt when possible, especially for clothing
- * Return the gift to the collection box or church office no later than Sunday, December 15
- * Returned gifts should be UNWRAPPED with the ornament tag taped to the gift
- * If you prefer not to shop but would like to contribute, monetary donations may be given on the CMPC website under the online giving category for Angel Tree.
- * If you have any questions, please contact Sue Ashman (301-821-2345)

Thank you in advance for your participation in our Christmas Angel Tree. It will surely brighten the lives of others this Christmas!

Stewardship Update

Thank you to those who have completed their 2025 pledges. With your help, we have reached > 70% of our goal! Stewardship is rooted in faith – in Jesus and God’s mission. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” If you have not completed your 2025 pledge, it’s not too late! This year, we are asking you to thoughtfully, prayerfully and hopefully consider rolling over and adding what you have graciously given in the prior capital campaign to your 2025 Annual Stewardship pledge. To make a pledge, (no login required), scan the code or fill out a paper pledge card and place it in the Offering plate.



Upcoming Worship Events and Dates!

December 8 in Worship!

The All-ages traditional Christmas Pageant—*lots of singing*; come and remember Christ-mas.

December 15 in Worship

The CMPC annual Christmas Cantata Celebration! This year’s cantata is “Joy has Dawned”, by Lars Larson. He writes, “The message of Christmas is truly a message of joy, and eternal message for all, and one to be embraced in the good days and the bad days.” Joy has dawned upon the world, and that is something to celebrate! *Come and celebrate with us!*

Saturday, December 21, 4 PM “Longest Night” service

On the eve of the Winter solstice, as the shadows deepen into our longest night, you are invited to our recognition that even amid all the joy (see above) it is often hard to find God’s hand in the dark. Come to pray and sing and wait together—because God is present even—sometimes especially—in the deepest darkness.

Christmas Eve Services—Tuesday, December 24 at 5 PM and 8 PM

5 PM --This service features a favorite tradition at CMPC, a participatory retelling of the Christmas Story, as well as carol, songs from the Logos Children’s Chorus and scripture readings. This is a more casual service and all those who are young at heart are invited to attend!

8 PM—This traditional Christmas Eve service invites you to a Holy Night with carols, candles, choir songs, Bible texts and prayers. This is a service for peaceful, hope-filled reflection on a God who so loved the world that we were given his Son, laid in a manger. Come and rest your heart in our shared hope.

December 29 in Worship—Lessons and Carols

Join us for a series of Christmastide short readings from Scripture and accompanying songs as we move toward the Season of Epiphany, when God is revealed in the person of Jesus. “Star words” for the upcoming year will be available for all God’s children, young and old alike.

For You, O Lord, My Soul

89

in Stillness Waits

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.

83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 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.

Love Has Come

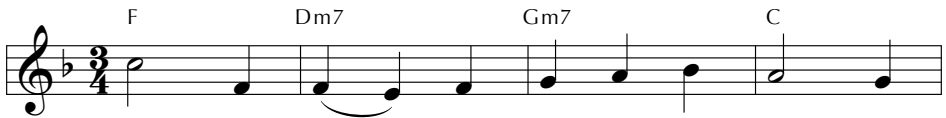
110

Capo 3: (D)

(Bm7)

(Em7)

(A)



1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D)

(Bm7)

(Em)

(A7) (D)



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A)

(D)

(Bm)

(D)

(A) (G)

(D)



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7)

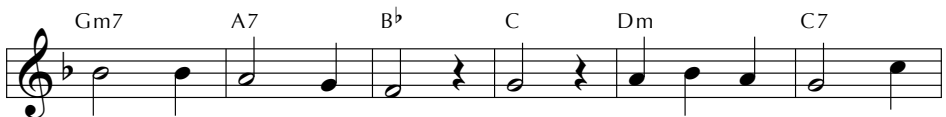
(F#7)

(G)

(A)

(Bm)

(A7)



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D)

(A)

(G)

(A)

(D)

(A)

(A7)

(Dsus)

(D)



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

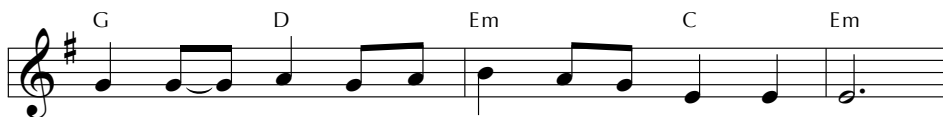
Canticle of the Turning



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.

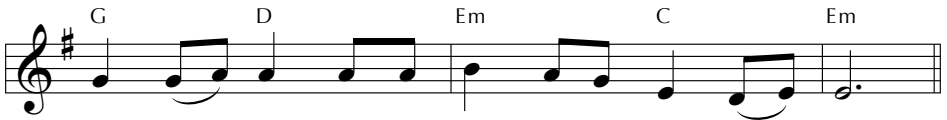


You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



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.

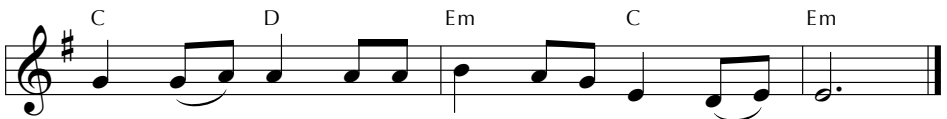
Refrain



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.

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

105

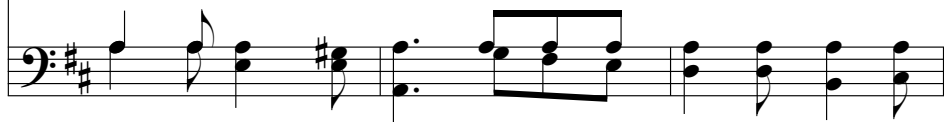
People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley



Peo - ple, look



a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.



This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

east and sing to - day:



Peo - ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
Love, the Bird, is on the way.
Love, the Star, is on the way.
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east:

(Love is on the way.)



JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

The image shows a musical score for the piece "Jesus Christ: Birth". It consists of two staves, a vocal line on top and a piano accompaniment line on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!