



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
November 29, 2020

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT WORSHIP ONLINE
First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2020

Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

(Let the notes of our Opening Voluntaries be the musical curtain through which we pass as we gather to worship together. Let the preparation we make together be prayerful.)

Opening Music

Thus Saith the Lord (from *Messiah*)
Siddharth Dubey, *bass*

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of Hosts:
Yet once a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth,
the sea and the dry land, all nations,
and the desire of all nations shall come.
The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to His temple,
even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in;
Behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

Haggai II:6,7; Malachi 3:1

Opening Words

Psalm 80 (excerpts)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Jim Thomspson and Carol Bromley

Prayer

**Our hope is like this candlelight
Shining bright in dark of night
Dear Lord, we put our hope in you
And trust that you will guide us through.**



Opening Hymn 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1,7)
(words and music at end of bulletin)

VENI EMMANUEL



Prayer of Confession

Valerie Shanley

One: Let us now confess our sins, trusting in God's boundless mercy and grace.

**God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth,
and refuse your justice and peace.**

**In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world.**

(Time of silence)

Declaration of Forgiveness

One: Hear these words from the Prophet Isaiah:

“Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low.
Now the glory of the Lord is revealed,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God.

Passing The Peace

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD



Children’s Message

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

Mark 13:24-37



Hymn 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (stanzas 1,2)
(words and music at end of bulletin)

HYFRYDOL

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

Gabriel Ofori-Okai

The Lord's Prayer

Solo

But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming? (*Messiah*)
 Siddharth Dubey, *bass*

G. F. Handel

But who may abide the day of His coming?
 And who shall stand when He appeareth?
 For He is like a refiner's fire.

Malachi 3:2



Offering

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn 348

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending (stanzas 1,3)
(words and music at end of bulletin)

HELMSLEY

Charge and Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Closing Voluntary

Festival Postlude on "Hyfrydol"

Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953)



Leading the singing of the hymns this morning is Susan Fedak.

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, November 29, 2020

10:00 am Worship, *via Zoom only*

11:00 am Second Hour, *via Zoom only*

Tuesday, November 30, 2020

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast-Choice of 7 or 8 AM sittings, *Assembly Room*

12:00 pm Vigil for Racial Justice, *In front of State Street Doors*

Wednesday, December 1, 2020

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast-Choice of 7 or 8 AM sittings, *Assembly Room*

7:00 pm Westminster Prayer Line, *via Zoom only*

Sunday, December 6, 2020

10:00 am Worship, *via Zoom only*

11:00 am Second Hour, *via Zoom only*

CHURCH OFFICERS

Session

Leah Threatte, Clerk

Jessica Chamberlain

Fatmata Hilton

Sheila Wrede

Kelly Crisfield

Tom McPheeters

Larry Volk

Arthur Fullerton

Valerie Shanley

Deacons

Peter McKee & Linore Southworth, Co-Moderators

Christabel Abban

Ruthanne Brod

Elizabeth McMillan

Ervin Ashburn

Kate Gallagher

Ned Trudeau

Kris Wilhelm

Trustees

Dixon Southworth & Nancy Ost, Co-Chairs

Gilbert Asante

Laura Moody

Peter Wrede

Leif Hartmark

Marie McClumpha

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Pastor

pastor@wpcalbany.org

Cell: 240-281-5005

Jennifer Schoenfisch, Office Administrator

Belinda Quaye, Director of Christian Education

Alfred V. Fedak, FAGO, ChM, Minister of Music and Arts

Joy L. Tallmadge and John Fox, Associate Sextons

Forrest Holroyd, Treasurer

Carlie D'Annunzio, Comptroller

Kim Deal, Communications

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



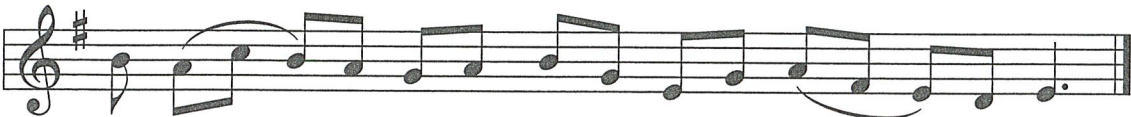
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



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-joice! Re-joice!
 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:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

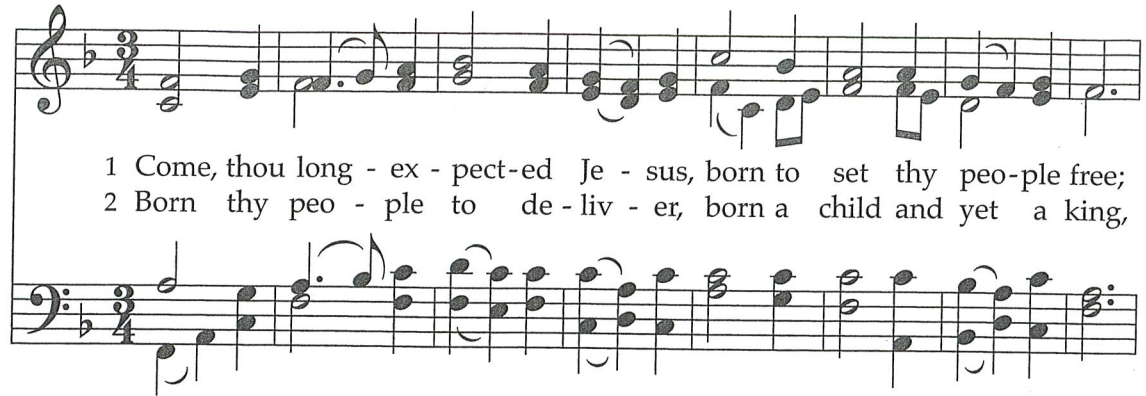
Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

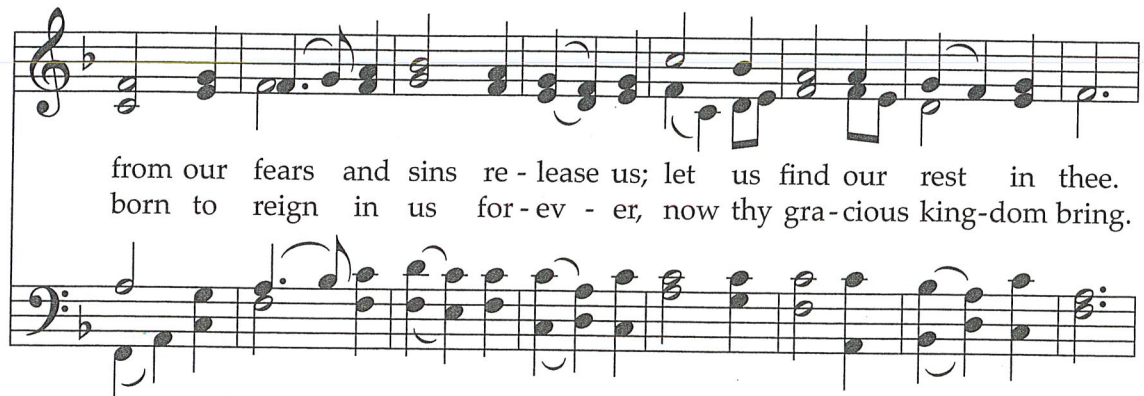
Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

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.

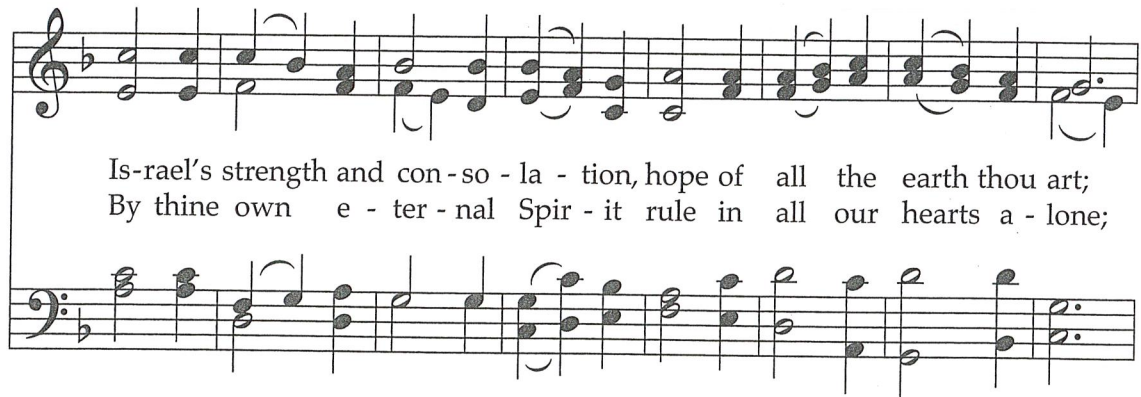
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



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.

Descending

1 Lo, he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pect - ed,
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand,
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near; all the
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior,

thou - sand saints at - tend - ing join to
 saints this world re - ject - ed thrill the
 take the power and glo - ry; claim the

Despite unclear musical origins, the result here is a characteristic early Methodist hymn tune, notable for its breadth and range. It effectively sets a text of similarly mixed sources, one that Charles Wesley regarded as related to "Thy kingdom come" in the Lord's Prayer.

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT

sing the glad re - frain: Al - le -
 trum - pet sound to hear: Al - le -
 king - dom as thine own. Come, Lord

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Je - sus; come, Lord Je - sus; come, Lord

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 Je - sus. Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!