



Gilead Presbyterian Church November 27, 2022, 10:00 a.m. First Sunday of Advent, Year A

Convinced of God’s Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, ability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

HERALD CALL

Evan Steinberg, French Horn

OPENING MUSIC

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”
Mary Temple, organ

arr. by Lani Smith

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Josh Steinberg

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

People: Advent means coming.

Leader: We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares

People: Their spears shall become pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

ALL: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

(The people sing:)

(Purple Hymnal #92)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.



***PURPLE HYMNAL #82**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

**1. 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.**

**2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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 seek our own comfort above all; we ignore our neighbors in need; we embrace the lies of culture and earthly powers; and we 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.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***THE GLORIA, from "Angels We Have Heard on High"**
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: Peace be with you. **People: And also with you.**

ANTHEM

"To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"
Gilead Singers; Mariah Warren and Paul Francis, soloists

Gindal & Edwards

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

The children are dismissed to Sunday School.

SCRIPTURE

² In days to come the mountain of God'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.

³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Almighty, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us the divine ways and that we may walk in paths of the Almighty." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Almighty from Jerusalem. ⁴ God 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. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Almighty God!
Isaiah 2:2-5

³⁶ "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Chosen One, but only God Almighty. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Chosen One. ³⁸ 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, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Chosen One. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the

thief was coming, the owner would have stayed awake and would not have let the house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Chosen One is coming at an unexpected hour.

Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON “Come, Thou Very Very Long Expected Jesus” Rev. Martin McGeachy

***PURPLE HYMNAL #97 “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”**

**1. 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.**

**2. Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o’er all the earth.**

**3. Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER: 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“An Advent Prayer”
Mary Temple, organ

by Louise E. Stairs

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***PURPLE HYMNAL #135 “There’s a Star in the East”**

**1. There’s a star in the east on Christmas morn. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Refrain: Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**

**2. If you take good heed to the angel's words, rise up, shepherd, and follow.
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Refrain: Follow, follow; rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC

“Hail to the Lord's Anointed”
Mary Temple, organ

by Henry Balcombe
tune: Ellacombe

**Please stand, if you are able.*

Thank you to our videographer today, Stephanie Gould.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ Masks are optional at Gilead, but please be careful, and respect distances.
- ▶ The November mission is the Gilead Food Pantry. We can use monetary donations, as well as all non-perishable foods. Leave in the outside bin or fill the sanctuary box.
- ▶ Join us Wednesdays on Zoom at 8:30 a.m. for prayer and 7:30 p.m. for Bible Study. The link is in the weekly email.
- ▶ This morning, November 27, Gilead Singers rehearse at 9:15 to sing in worship.
- ▶ Next Sunday, December 4, Bell Chimes rehearse at 8:45, Singers at 9:15.
- ▶ Sunday, December 4, Elders and Deacons meet after worship.
- ▶ Christmas Caroling Saturday, December 17 at 3pm; party at Mary's to follow at 6:00.
- ▶ See Pastor Martin to reserve a Christmas poinsettia in honor of a loved one. Cost will be \$16.



† *We accept offerings through the “Online Giving” link on our website, www.gileadchurch.org, or mail checks made out to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. In doing so, we brighten the world, and brighten our hearts.*

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Martin McGeachy, Pastor
Mary Temple, Music Director
Diana Drake Behan, Church School Superintendent

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Follow us online! Visit our website for links to our social media and to subscribe to our email list!
www.gileadchurch.org



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.

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,

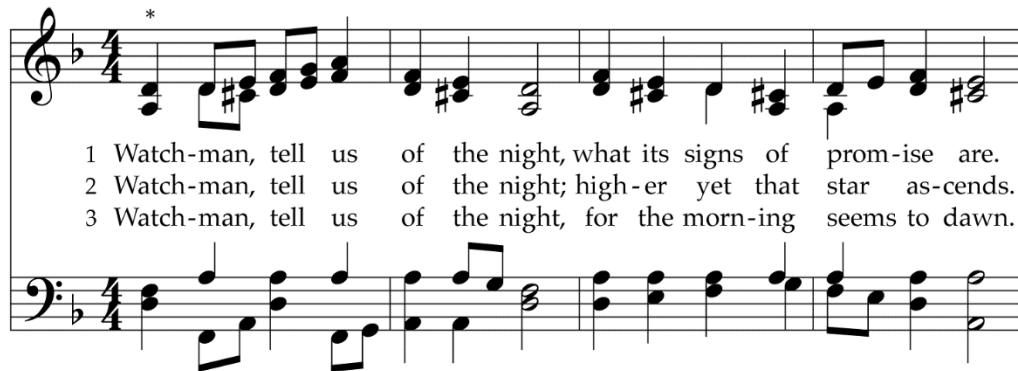
from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

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;

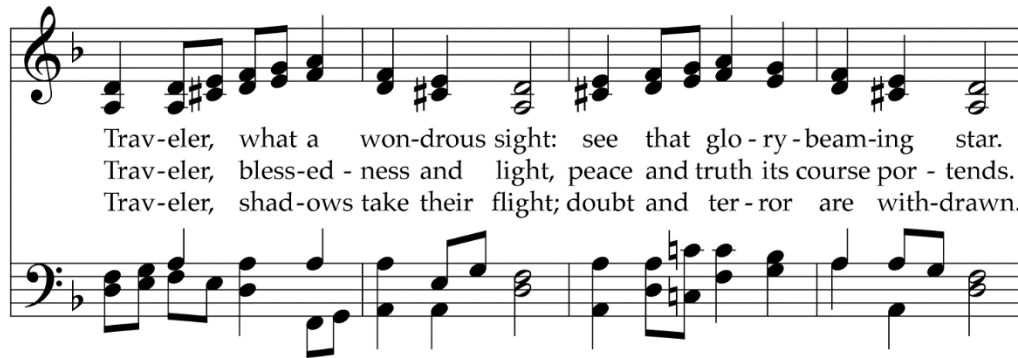
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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.

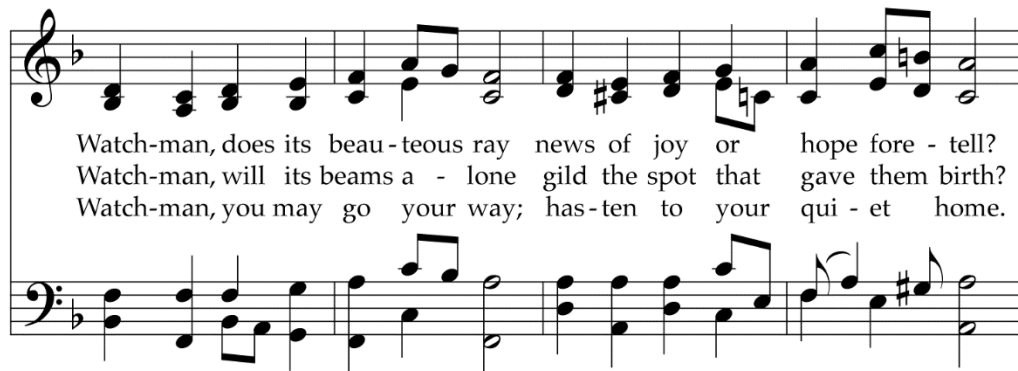
Watchman, Tell Us of the Night 97

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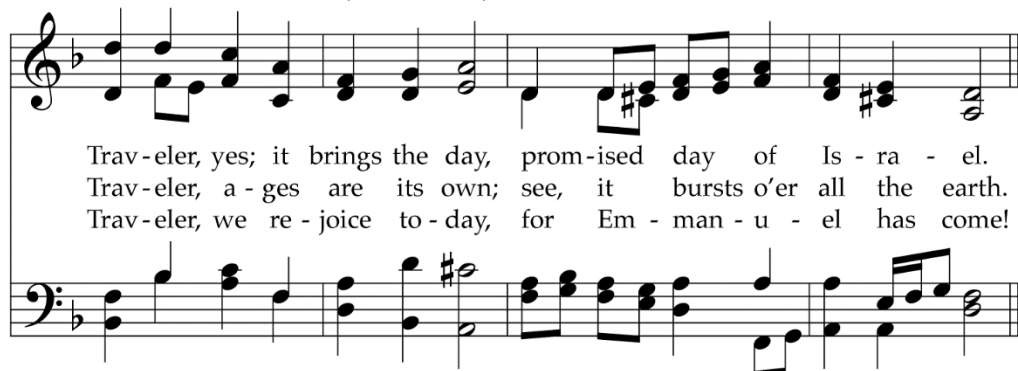
1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star as-cends.
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.



Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.
 Trav-eler, bless-ed-ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.
 Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.



Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?
 Watch-man, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
 Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.



Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.
 Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
 Trav-eler, we re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

*May be sung antiphonally.

This unusual dialogue hymn alternates between the voice of a traveler and that of a watchman, setting up an exchange that creates parallels between the coming of dawn and the birth of Christ. The tune is named for a Welsh town whose name means "mouth of the bending river."

There's a Star in the East 135

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

1 There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn. Rise up, shep-herd, and
 2 If you take good heed to the an - gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and

fol - low. It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.
 fol - low. You'll for - get your flocks; you'll for - get your herds.

Refrain

Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low. Fol - low, fol - low;

rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low. Fol - low the star of

Beth - le - hem. Rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.

This African American spiritual, cast in a characteristic call-and-response style, provides a reminder that the good news of the Incarnation should lead Christians not only to awe and adoration but also to living and acting in ways that make God's purposes known to others.