



Havenwood Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

November 30, 2025



Advent Wreath, Leah Newton

The Service of the Lord's Day

Order of Worship

**Please stand if you are able.
Congregation to recite bolded passages.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jenn DiFrancesco

PRELUDE

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”
by Todd Beaney

Valerie Adelung

THE MEANING OF THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

Donna Marshall

Advent is not a countdown to Christmas, but a sacred invitation to prepare our hearts. Each decoration we place tells a story. The evergreens whisper of life that endures. The nativity reminds us that God moved into our neighborhood. The lights declare that darkness never gets the last word. As we ready this space, we ready our hearts. The Lord has come. Let earth receive her King.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jenn DiFrancesco

The world is weary, but God is still moving.

We are waiting for hope to take root again.

Darkness lingers, yet the light has not gone out.

We watch for the first small flicker of dawn.

The Lord is near, though not yet fully revealed.

**We open our hearts to the promise of hope. Come, Lord Jesus. We are waiting,
and we are ready to begin again.**

***OPENING HYMN # 82** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

PREPARING THE SPACE AND OUR HEARTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Joyce Beall

In a weary world, hope can feel fragile. Still, God keeps showing up. From the first light of creation to a promise whispered in the dark, God's presence has always found a way to break through.

Today we light the candle of Hope. It may be just one small flame, but it's enough to remind us that the story isn't over yet. The Lord has come, and we are not alone. Let every heart prepare Him room.

SUNG RESPONSE

"Joy to the World" (verse 1)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

HANGING OF THE EVERGREEN WREATHS

Wende Smith

We hang these evergreen wreaths as signs of life that will not end. Their circle reminds us that God's love has no limits. May these greens draw us into the promise of new life already stirring.

*HYMN # 85

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

WORD AND REFLECTION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Donna Marshall

Holy One, sometimes we rush right past the moments when You're speaking.

Slow us down. Clear the noise. Help us listen with hope. And as we listen, may

Your Word take root and grow. Amen.

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PLACING OF THE NATIVITY SCENE

Judy Binkley

We place this nativity scene to remind us what we're waiting for— the promise of God choosing to dwell among us. In a humble manger, divinity will meet humanity, and heaven will touch earth. May this scene prepare our hearts for that holy arrival still to come.

*HYMN # 107

“Awake! Awake. and Greet the New Morn”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38

Judy Binkley

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“For the Lord is Good” by Gary Sadler

Valerie Adelung

SERMON

Hope Begins in Small Places

Jenn DiFrancesco

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Jenn DiFrancesco

Hope takes practice. Every gift we give, every act of care, helps build the world God dreams of. Let us offer what we have with hearts full of hope.

During this time of offering, you may place your gift in the plate as you leave this morning, or give in any of the other ways listed in your bulletin's announcement page.

OFFERTORY

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” by Lloyd Larson

Valerie Adelung

*DOXOLOGY # 144

“In the Bleak Midwinter” (verse 4)

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND TREE LIGHTING

Steve Plano

Sharon Huber-Plano

God of light and promise, bless these gifts and the hearts that bring them. May they carry Your hope into every corner that feels forgotten. And as this tree shines before us, may Your Spirit shine within us. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN # 772

“Live into Hope”

*BENEDICTION

Jenn DiFrancesco

POSTLUDE

“Lord of the Wind and Sea” by Lloyd Larson

Valerie Adelung

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our liturgists: Donna Marshall

Thank you to our ushers: Joyce Beall, Elaine DePoy

HAVENWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Jenn DiFrancesco, Supply Pastor

The Rev. Cathy Bashore, Parish Associate

Susan Riegger, Preschool Director

Valerie Adelung, Music Director

Jake Miller, Worship Technology Coordinator

Julia Wells, Administrator

Lloyd Martin, Facilities Manager

SESSION

Sharon Huber-Plano – Clerk of Session

Joyce Beall – Personnel Committee

Judy Binkley – Worship Committee

Wende Smith – Preschool Committee

Chip Hurley – Stewardship Committee

Donna Marshall – Scouts Liaison

Samuel Gatua Muiruri – Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Support

DEACONS

Susan Bond

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Jane Shaffer

Judy Yeager



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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.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

85



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the



light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -
light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the
light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and
light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;



va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
tell the glad ti - dings. Let your lights be shin - ing.

This text works best when used incrementally during the four weeks of Advent. It underscores the "waiting" theme of the season and concludes appropriately with reference to Matthew 25:1-13. The tune name meaning "deep in the forest" comes from the opening of a Yiddish love song.

TEXT: Wayne L. Wold, 1984

MUSIC: Yiddish folk song; arr. Wayne L. Wold, 1984

Text and Music Arr. © 1984 Fortress Press (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

TIF IN VELDELE

10.7.9.6

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.

772

Live into Hope

1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -
 2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight
 3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to
 4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the
 and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of
 speak, the right to be, the right to have one's
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
 pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.
 dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.
 full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

This text on Luke 4:16–20, the author's first, was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976 because the team planning worship could not find a suitable hymn on that passage. She wrote the words with this vigorous 18th-century tune in mind.