Havenwood Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

November 29, 2026



Cry Out

The deep blues and purples are interrupted by jagged openings of light, reflecting Isaiah's desperate prayer for God to tear open the heavens and come down. Advent begins by acknowledging that the world is not as it should be, and that God's people have never been afraid to cry out for something better. The light breaking through the darkness reminds us that even our cries of frustration and grief can be acts of faith.

The Service of the Lord's Day
Order of Worship

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

<u>The Meaning of the Hanging of the Greens</u>
Today we begin the season of Advent by preparing our sanctuary for Christmas. We hang wreaths, bring in evergreens, light candles, and set out the nativity. These are familiar traditions, but they are also reminders of the promises we are waiting for God to fulfill.

Advent begins with a cry. The prophets cry out for God to come near. The psalmist asks God to restore what has been broken. And we enter this season carrying our own prayers for a world that desperately needs hope, peace, and justice.

As we prepare this sanctuary, we remember that Advent asks us to prepare more than a building. We are preparing ourselves to welcome Christ, even as we continue to cry out for the world God has promised.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Advent Star" by Edward Broughton Valerie Adelung

CALL TO WORSHIP — Donna Marshall

In God's house,
we are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.
In God's house,
we may come exactly as we are.
In God's house,
we dare to hope. We dream new dreams. We cry out. We call upon God.
In God's house,
all are welcome and all are heard.
So come and worship.
God is here. God is listening.
Let us worship our God who is with us.

*HYMN # 82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

INVITATION TO CONFESSION — Donna Marshall

The psalmists were never afraid to tell God the truth. They cried out in frustration, questioned God's silence, and begged for the world to be made right.

We do not have to pretend that everything is fine when we come before God. We can bring our grief, our anger, our doubts, and the things we have been afraid to say aloud. Trusting that God listens, let us pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION — Donna Marshall

Holy God, we have been known to bite our tongues, to work through a broken heart, and to put on our favorite rose-colored glasses.

We have looked for the bright side when the truth was difficult to face. We have swept pain under the rug and sometimes chosen not to know because knowing would ask something of us.

We have kept our hurt to ourselves, remained silent in the face of injustice, and forgotten that lament is also a form of prayer.

Forgive us for filtering our honesty. Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament. Forgive us for forgetting to turn to You with the full truth of our lives.

Remind us that you are a God who listens and a God who restores. Give us the courage to cry out when something is wrong and the faith to trust that you hear us.

With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

(Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON — Jenn DiFrancesco

Whether you pray like the psalmists, with raw and unfiltered honesty, or cannot remember the last time you spoke openly with God, God still loves you. God sees you. God hears you. And God continues to welcome you into relationship.

Hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel: Nothing we say or do can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We are forgiven and invited to begin again.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS # 582

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you.

and also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE — Grace McDowell, Jayn Osler

When the nights are long and the roads are hard, we turn our eyes to the stars.
When the work is demanding and injustice seems unending, we stand together, arm in arm.
When fear looms large and grief weighs heavy, we cry out to God without holding back.
And when the dawn of tomorrow feels far away, we gather together to light the candle of hope.

Light the first Advent candle.

Like the stars above, may this light shine bright. May it guide our path. May it inspire deeper hope.
Until God's promised day, may it be so. Amen.

*HYMN # 85 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" *(verse 1)*

HANGING OF THE EVERGREEN WREATHS AND GARLANDS

Even in winter, when the branches of other trees stand bare, evergreens remain green. We bring them into the sanctuary as signs of God's enduring faithfulness.

As these wreaths and garlands are hung, we remember the psalmist's prayer: "Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved."

PREPARING THE SANCTUARY FOR ADVENT

Today begins a new year in the life of the church. The blue or purple cloths of Advent remind us that we are in a season of waiting and preparing. We have not yet arrived at Christmas.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION — Donna Marshall

Gracious God, for generations Your people have cried out to You, and You have listened. As we turn to hear Your Word read and proclaimed, help us listen with the same care. Give us ears to hear the cries of Your people, hearts that remain open to Your promises, and the courage to respond when You call. In hope we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE — Isaiah 64:1-9 — Donna Marshall

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

PLACING OF THE NATIVITY SCENE

Isaiah cries out, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down!" It is a prayer from people who have waited a long time for God to act.

As the nativity figures are brought forward, we remember that Jesus was born into a world marked by occupation, poverty, and fear. God came among people who knew what it was to cry out.

As we wait for Christmas, may we learn to recognize Christ among those whose cries too often go unheard.

SERMON "Cry Out" Jenn DiFrancesco

*HYMN # 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Jenn DiFrancesco

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,
and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING Jenn DiFrancesco

When we cry out for God to restore the world, we are also reminded that God calls us to participate in that work. Through our giving, we help feed our neighbors, care for those who are struggling, welcome those pushed aside, and share the good news of Christ. Let us offer what we have in gratitude and hope.

During this time of offering, we can share our financial gifts by placing them in the offering plates as we leave, or giving online.

OFFERTORY "An Advent Introit" by Tom Birchwood 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 Jenn DiFrancesco

God of hope, we offer these gifts with gratitude for all You have given us. Bless them and use them to bring comfort to those who are hurting, food to those who are hungry, and hope to those who have grown weary. Help us to remember that when we pray for Your kingdom to come, we are also called to live as people of that kingdom. May our gifts, our actions, and our lives bear witness to the love and justice of Jesus Christ. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

We began today with a single Advent candle. Now, as we prepare to leave, we light the Christmas tree.

The Gospel of John tells us that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. We do not pretend that everything is right with the world. We light this tree because we are still waiting and still trusting in God's promises.

May Christ's light accompany us as we work for justice and peace. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN # 722 “Live into Hope”

*BENEDICTION Jenn DiFrancesco

POSTLUDE “The Advent of our God” by Edward Broughton Valerie Adelung

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our liturgist: Donna Marshall
Thank you to our ushers: Betty Crovo, Dave Binkley

Adapted from A Sanctified Art, Until the Dawn, First Sunday of Advent: Cry Out, with additional Hanging of the Greens readings and prayers for Havenwood Presbyterian Church.

HAVENWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Jenn DiFrancesco, Supply Pastor

The Rev. Cathy Bashore, Parish Associate

Susan Riegger, Preschool Director

Kathy Stewart, Assistant Director of Preschool Operations

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

DEACONS

Susan Bond

Betty Crovo

Elaine DePoy

Grace McDowell

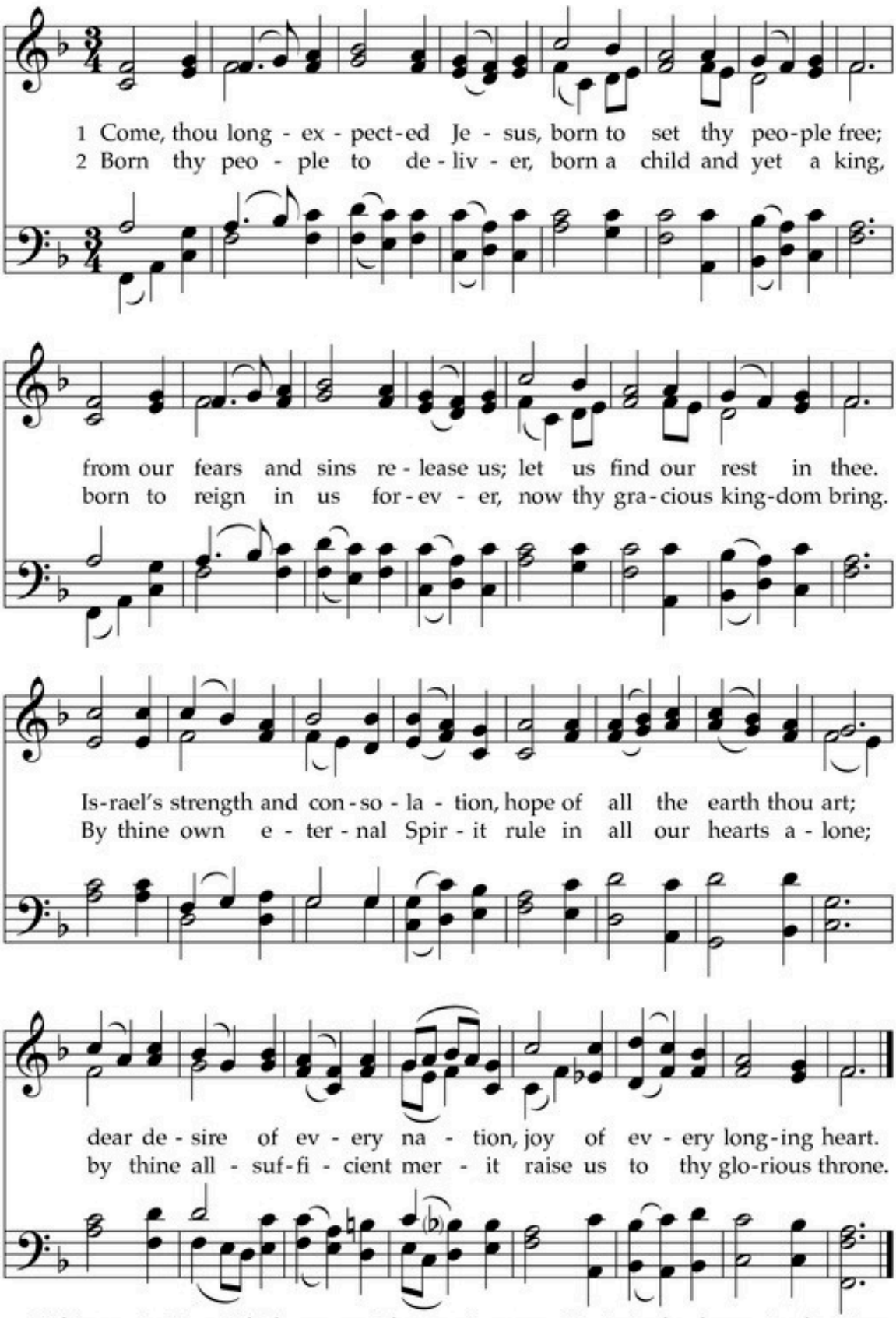
Cynthia Smith

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Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

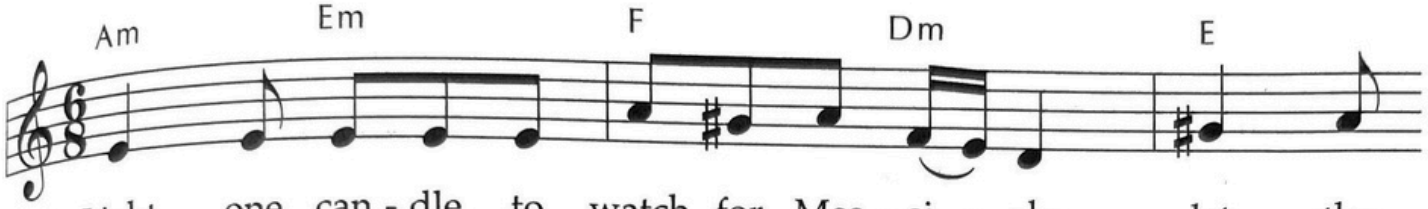


With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

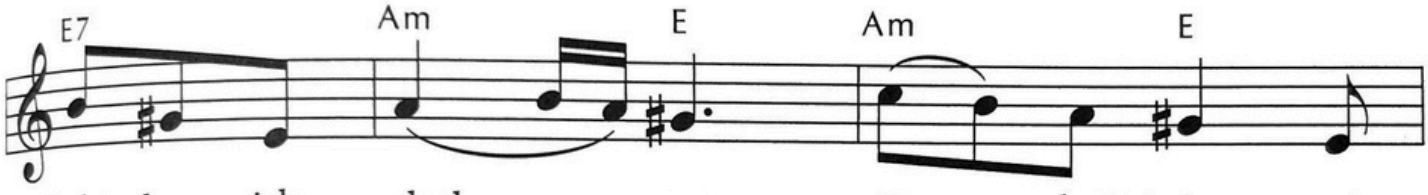
TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)

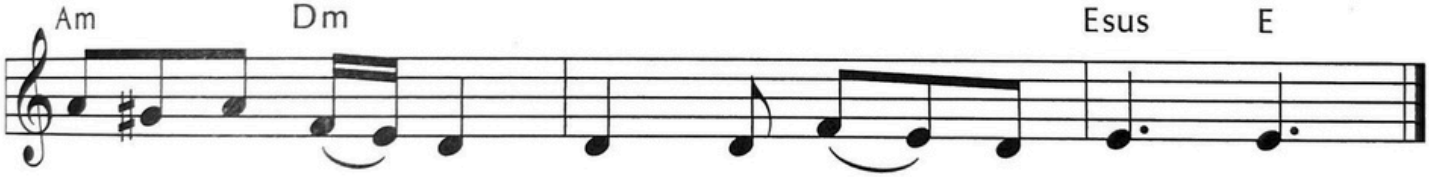
Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



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;



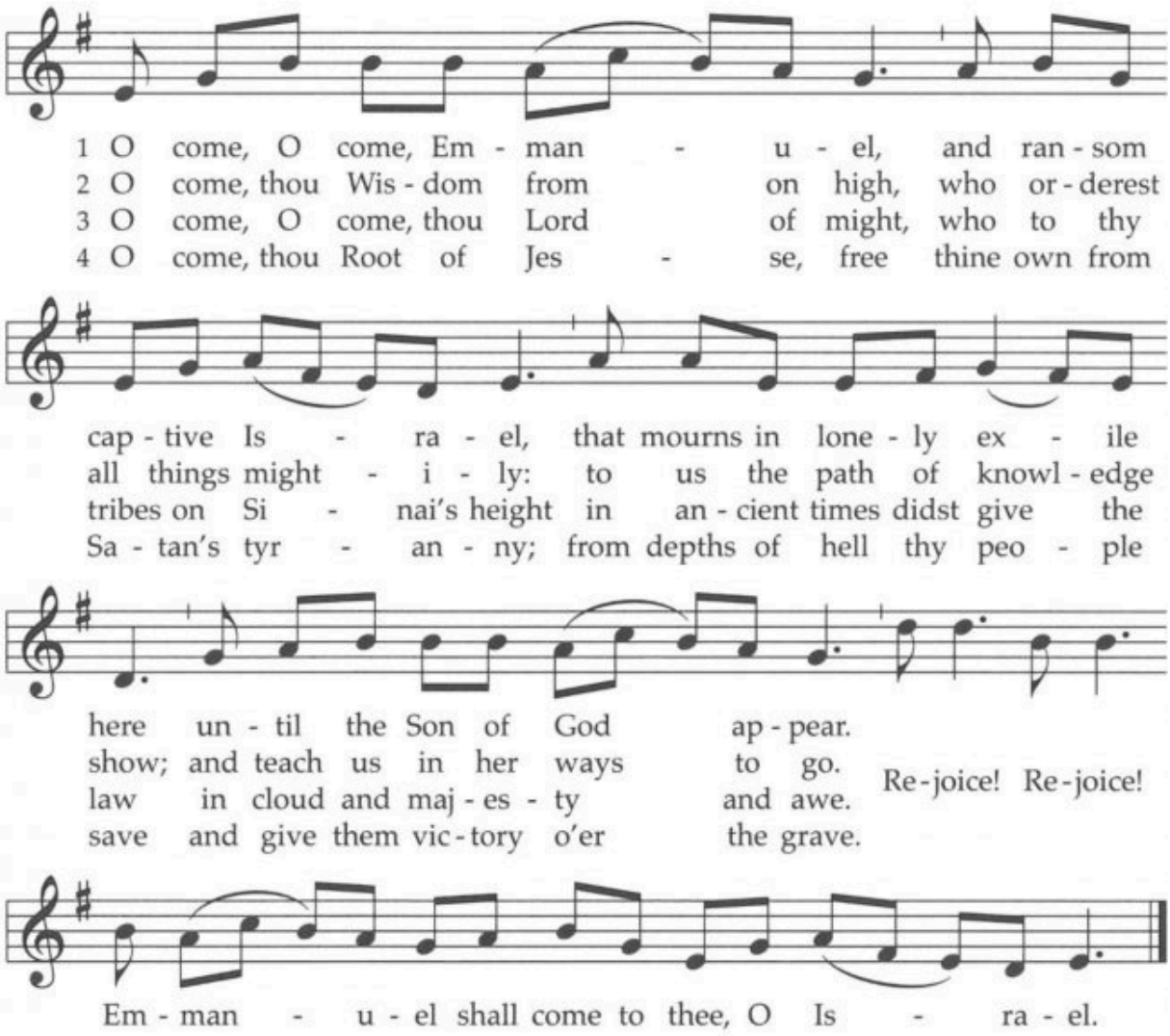
va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
tell the glad ti - dings. Let your lights be shin - ing.

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

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



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:

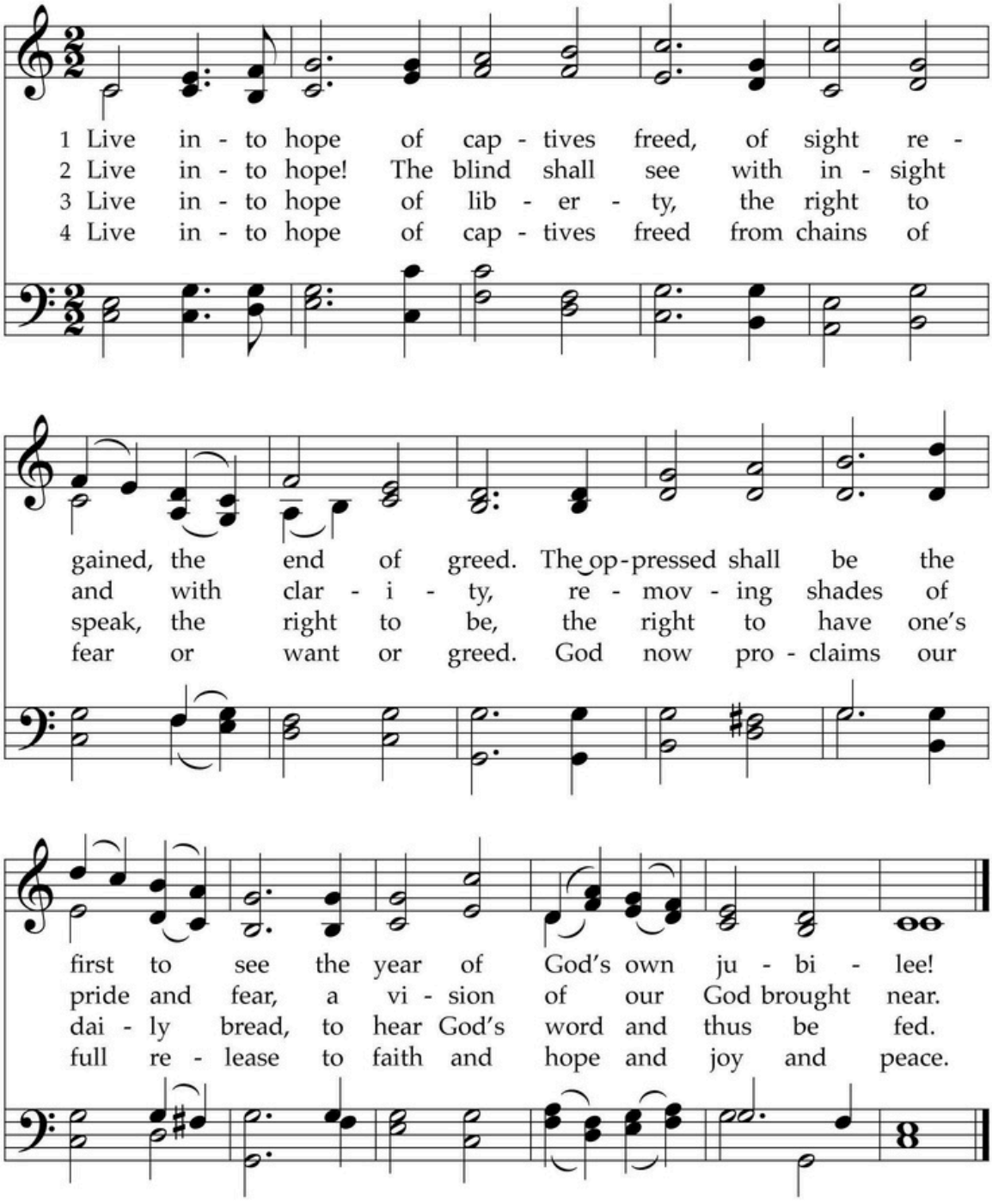
Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)
Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)
Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)
Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)
Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)
Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)
Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

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.

TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with refrain

772 Live into Hope



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.

TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1976
MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778
Text © 1980 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

TRURO
LM