CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)
Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
People: And also with you.

Leader: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I put my hope.
People: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.
Leader: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord.
People: For with the Lord there is unfailing love, with Him there is plenteous redemption.

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Festive Improvisation on VENI EMMANUEL” Aaron David Miller

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL
(stanzas 1,2,3)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
To us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai’s height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE
Lighting the Candle

Nancy Stevens & Ellen Stoup
The reader offers words about the candle of hope.

RESPONSE
Reader: ….and so we offer this mysterious prayer:
All: Lord Jesus, into our darkness, quickly come.
All singing: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)
Holy God, we confess that far too often we do not walk in the light of your love. We use, manipulate and hurt others to get what we want, and all the while not taking seriously the poor and hungry. Forgive us, God of grace. Awaken us to your transforming Word, so that we may be ready to live a life of faith and welcome you with joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Come home with shouts of joyous praise; let now your weeping cease.
Good news will come to broken hearts, good news love and peace.
Proclaim God’s favor every day, and comfort those who mourn.
Oppressed will hear of liberty, and hope will be reborn.

ANTHEM

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

(Westminster Youth Choir, recorded on December 10, 2017)

Watchman tell us of the night. Tell us of the coming Light.
Comfort, comfort ye my people. Sing of peace, thus saith our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning ’neath their heavy load.

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

CALL TO OFFERING

HYMN #82

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our dears 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.

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.

WE GROW IN THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 64:1-12 NRSV
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 NRSV

SERMON

Advent Series: The World Is Not Yet Finished
#1 “Turning Towards Hope”
Chris Curvin, Pastor
WE GO OUT TO SERVE

HYMN #93                               “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”
Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love
and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY                           “Lift Up Your Heads”                                    David Cherwien
                                               from Advent Suite

Stephanie Carson, Music Director
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director
JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

2 O come, thou Word of the Father, who dost come to render the captivity captive, to loo for the Son of God, arise from death's dark domain.

3 O come, O come, thou Prince of our peace, to make known to us the way of salvation; O Lord of hosts, dost come to us, and that which you impart to us, to multiply and abound;

4 O come, thou Root of Jesse, from thine own people here unti the Son of God appear.

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.

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.

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.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:


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

1. Come, thou long-expect 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.

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

HYFYDOL
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the
2 Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a
3 Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to

King of glory waits; the King of kings is
temple, set apart from earthly use for
thee; here, Lord, abide. Let me thy inner

drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.
heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer’s heart, and concludes with the individual’s welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

TEXT: Georg Weissel, 1642; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863
MUSIC: Mosica Sacra, c. 1778