

The Falls Village Congregational Church

December 5, 2021 10:00 a.m.

2nd Sunday in Advent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Church Bell

Prelude *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Introit #121 *Prepare the Way of the Lord (2x)*

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

God of the watching ones, the waiting ones, the slow and suffering ones, the angels in heaven, the child in the womb,

Give us your blessing in this time, your good word for our souls, that we might rest and rise in the kindness of your company.

In this time of worship, let us come to know the living God in spirit and in truth.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (see insert)

Old Testament scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7, John 14:27

Song #128: One Candle is Lit, v. 2

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Prepare our hearts, O God, to hear and receive your word.

Silence in us any voice but your own, so that hearing, we may also trust you and learn to obey your will. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

Hymn #119 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of the past: in the wilderness of Jordan you sent a messenger to prepare human hearts for the coming of Christ.

God of the present, even now you are among us. Forgive that we often have failed to discern your presence with us, and have felt deserted and alone.

God of the future, you have promised God's reign is coming. Teach us to live in expectation that what we are and do today may be anchored in the certainty of your tomorrow. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace of Christ.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading - Malachi 3:1-4

Kay Blass

New Testament Reading - Luke 3:7-18

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: "The Ethics of Readiness" The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation

"Come to the Table of Grace"

Grace/hope/peace/joy/love

The Communion Prayer:

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your heads

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God

It is right, and a good and joyful thing.

(The Minister continues the prayer)

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(Please partake of the bread individually, when it is received, as a sign of our individual relationship to God, but hold the cup so we may drink together, as a sign of our unity before our God)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Closing Hymn: # 129 *Lift Up Your Heads*

Benediction

Benediction Response

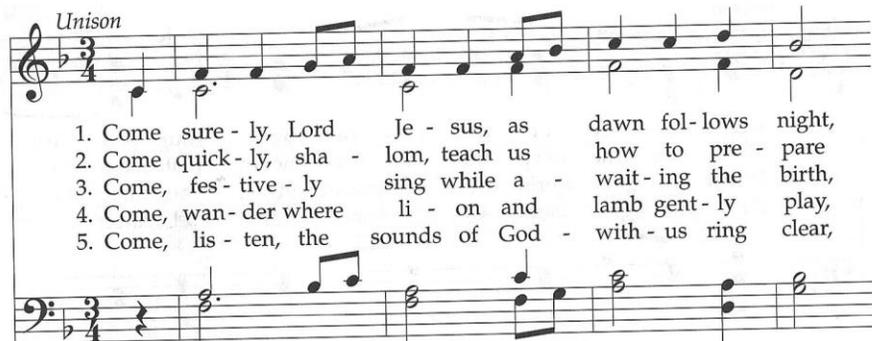
God Be With You Till We Meet Again

Prepare the Way of the Lord 121

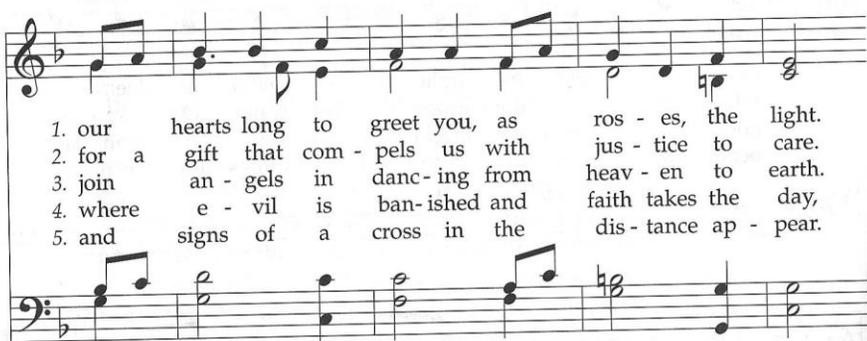
Musical score for the hymn "Prepare the Way of the Lord" (numbered 121). The score is written in G major (one flat) and 6/8 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a circled number 1 above the first measure and a circled number 2 above the eighth measure. The second staff begins with a circled number 3 above the first measure and a circled number 4 above the fourth measure. The lyrics are: "Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord, and all peo- ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -".

One Candle Is Lit

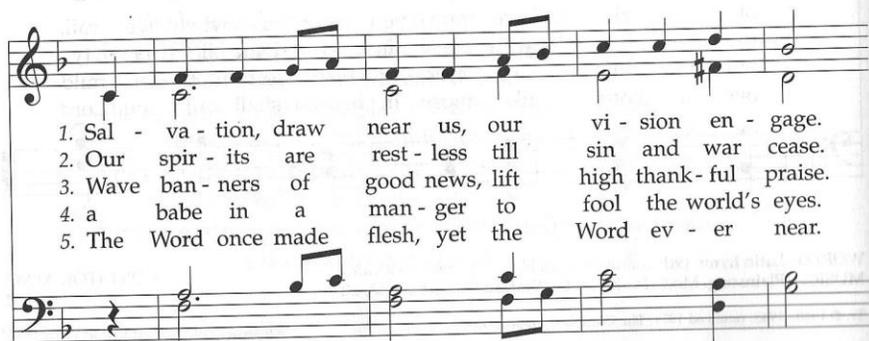
Unison



1. Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night,
 2. Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare
 3. Come, fes - tive - ly sing while a - wait - ing the birth,
 4. Come, wan - der where li - on and lamb gent - ly play,
 5. Come, lis - ten, the sounds of God - with - us ring clear,



1. our hearts long to greet you, as ros - es, the light.
 2. for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to care.
 3. join an - gels in danc - ing from heav - en to earth.
 4. where e - vil is ban - ished and faith takes the day,
 5. and signs of a cross in the dis - tance ap - pear.

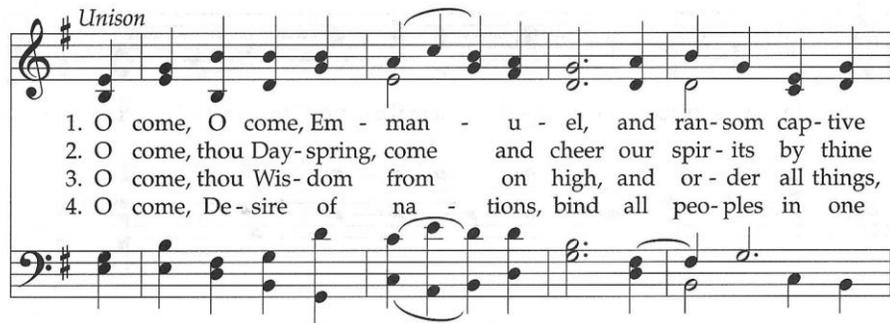


1. Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our vi - sion en - gage.
 2. Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease.
 3. Wave ban - ners of good news, lift high thank - ful praise.
 4. a babe in a man - ger to fool the world's eyes.
 5. The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ev - er near.

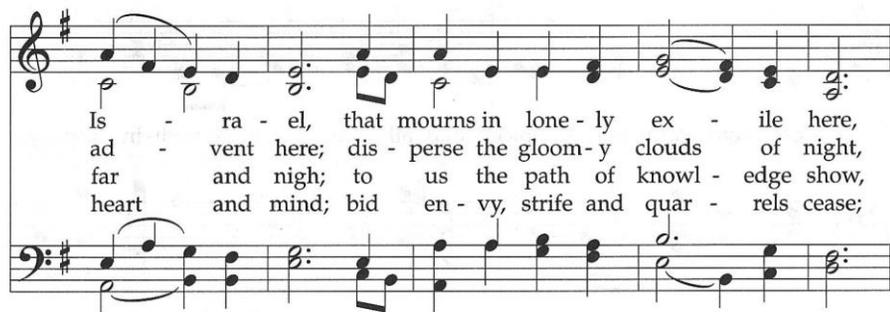


1. One can - dle is lit for the hope of the age.
 2. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.
 3. One can - dle is lit for the joy of these days.
 4. One can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.
 5. One can - dle is lit for the Christ - birth - day here.

Unison

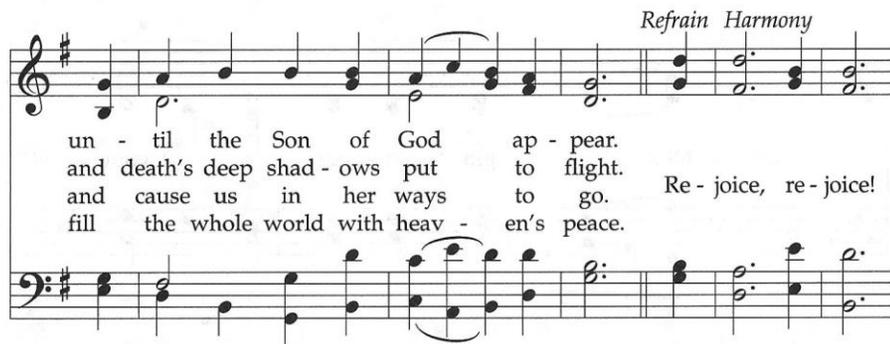


1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

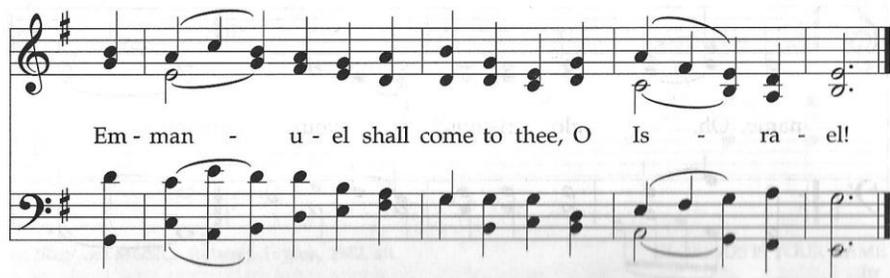


Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease;

Refrain Harmony



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
and death's deep shad - ows put to flight. Re - jice, re - jice!
and cause us in her ways to go.
fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

MALACHI 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

LUKE 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

1. Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo-ri-ous
 2. Fling wide the por-tals of your heart; make it a tem-ple,
 3. Re-deem-er, come! We o-pen wide our hearts to you; here,
 4. So come, our Sov-ereign; en-ter in! Let new and no-bler

Rul-er waits! The Sov-ereign One is draw-ing
 set a-part from earth-ly use for heav-en's em-
 Christ, a-bide! Let us your in-ner pres-ence
 life be-gin; your Ho-ly Spir-it guide us

near; the Sav-ior of the world is here.
 ploy, a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 feel, your grace and love in us re-veal.
 on, un-til the glo-ri-ous crown be won.