



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A Season of Expectation

the First Sunday in Advent: Hope

December 3, 2023 • 11 a.m.

PRELUDE	CHORALE PRELUDE ON "WACHET AUF" <i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i> ("Wake, awake, for night is flying") (1685–1750)
	THE ANGEL GABRIEL <i>Alan Bullard</i> (2021)

☞ Please rise in body, mind, or spirit, as you are able, for every hymn. ☞

PROCESSIONAL HYMN	COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS <i>"Stuttgart"</i> (see next page)
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CALL TO WORSHIP Seth Patterson

One: As the earth turns away from light and the days grow shorter, we enter into the holy season of Advent. Hope is where Advent begins.

***All:* We light our first Advent candle and pray for hope to illuminate our lives.**

One: God invites us to summon our hope within so we can share it with each other.

***All:* The source of God's love is deep and there is grace for all.**

One: God's light is present even in the places where despair threatens our hope.

***All:* May we respond to God's hope with wonder and anticipation, immersed in beloved community, as we enter this season of blessed waiting.**

☞ Please be seated. ☞

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.

Melody attr. to Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716

"Psalmodia Sacra," Gotha, 1715

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth thou art;
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in thee.
Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now on earth thy glo - ry bring.
By thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn's lyrics. The second system contains the remaining four lines. The music is in 4/4 time and features a melody in the treble staff and a bass line in the bass staff.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Tender, loving God, 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 for ever. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE RESPONSE

INTROIT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Robert Wetzler
(1964)

Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul; O my God, I trust in Thee; let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me; yea, let none that wait on Thee be ashamed.

Show me Thy ways, O Lord; teach me Thy paths.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FELLOWSHIP JOY

Judy Takkunen

SHARING GRACE

ANTHEM

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL
(sung in Latin and English)
Randall Davidson, *cello*

Kyle Pederson
(2020)

O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

O come, Desire of nations,
Bid envy, strife and discord cease
And fill the whole world with peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

—9th century Latin hymn

SCRIPTURE READING

MARK 13:24–33

SERMON

EXPECTING HOPE

Beth Hoffman Faeth

INVITATION TO OFFERING

One: In deep humility and gratitude to God, who shepherds and comforts us,
let us bring our offerings to God.

All: In thanks and gratitude, we offer these gifts to you.

OFFERTORY

SIM SHALOM (GRANT US PEACE)
Kathryn Rupp, *soprano*, and the Plymouth Choir
(sung in Hebrew)

Max Janowski
(1912–1991)

Grant peace, goodness and blessing, grace, kindness and mercy
to us who fear Your name. Bless us, our Creator, all of us together,
through the light of Your Presence. Truly through the light of Your
Presence, Adonai our God. |

(continued)

You gave us a Torah of life—the love of kindness, justice, and blessing, mercy, life and peace. May You see fit to bless Your people Israel at all times, at every hour with Your peace.

Blessed is Adonai, source of peace.

☞ *Please rise in body, mind, or spirit, as you are able.* ☞

DOXOLOGY

"Dix"

**Praise to God, immortal praise, for the love that crowns our days!
Bounteous source of every joy, let thy praise our tongues employ;
Singing thus through all our days: Praise to God, immortal praise! Amen.**

☞ *Please be seated.* ☞

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

DeWayne L. Davis

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION MUSIC

ADVENT MEDITATION
Randall Davidson, cello

Randall Davidson
(2023)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God, thank you for the gracious gifts of your loving presence and generous abundance. In faith and gratitude, we offer our hearts and lives in service. Through the nourishment of the bread and cup, we go forth inspired by hope, moved to pursue peace, awakened in joy, and surrounded by love. May your light shine on your beloved in every place and time, uniting all in love and peace forever more. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS! *"Haf trones lampa färdig"*
(see next page)

COVENANT BENEDICTION

We covenant with you, O God, and one with another, and do bind ourselves in your presence to walk together in all your ways, according as you are pleased to reveal yourself to us in your blessed word of truth.

—based on the Salem Covenant of 1629

REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS!

Laurentius Laurenti, 1700
Tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1854, alt.

HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG 7.6.7.6.D.
Swedish Folk Melody



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers! And let your lights ap - pear;
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, Re - plen - ish them with oil;
3 All you who wait God's com - ing, Re - hearse the joy - ful song,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing And dark - er night is near.
Look now for your sal - va - tion, The end of sin and toil.
Which we shall sing in glo - ry With all the an - gel throng.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, A - bove this dark - ened sphere!



The Lord is now a - ris - ing, And quick - ly will draw nigh.
The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Lord is near.
The ho - ly feast is wait - ing, The gates wide o - pen stand.
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! At mid - night comes the cry.
Go greet the Sav - ior, com - ing With al - le - lu - ias clear.
Rise up, o heirs of glo - ry! The Sav - ior is at hand.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free.



As the postlude is played, you are welcome to leave the sanctuary or stay and enjoy the music.

POSTLUDE

TOCCATA ON "VENI EMMANUEL"
("O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!")

Adolphus Hailstork
(1982)



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES that we are on the sacred traditional territory of the Dakota people. It is an honor to live, pray, seek justice, and create community alongside Dakota, Ojibwe, and other Indigenous people in the Twin Cities.

MANY AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUALS AND HYMNS were never credited to their creators or were claimed by other individuals. When Plymouth Congregational Church uses music or music texts created by people who were kept in chattel slavery, we will donate to a historically Black institution as a reparative action in honor of the creators and their descendants.

CHURCH REGISTER

RECENTLY BEREAVED

Beth Comeaux & Dan Dressen, death of Beth's mother, Shirley Comeaux (November 23, 2023)

HOME AND HOSPITAL VISITS: Plymouth's ministers call upon members of the church in their homes, in hospitals or care and rehabilitation centers. If you know of someone who would like a visit from a minister, please contact Rev. Beth Hoffman Faeth (612/871-7400).

CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in loving memory of Beth Hoffman Faeth's first daughter, Julia Anne, who would have been 25 years old on December 4.

WORSHIP STAFF: DeWayne L. Davis, *Lead Minister*; Beth Hoffman Faeth, *Minister for Congregational Life*; Seth Patterson, *Minister for Justice & the Arts*; Philip Brunelle, *Organist-Choirmaster*; Marie Scholtz, *Associate Music Director & First Service Music Coordinator*; Laura Caviani, *First Service Trio Director*; Cody Bourdot, *A/V Production Manager*

ADULT CHOIR: Philip Brunelle, *director*; **SOLO QUINTET:** Maria Jette & Kathryn Rupp, *soprano*; Lisa Drew, *alto*; Dan Dressen, *tenor*; and James Bohn, *bass*

CELLO: Randall Davidson

Today's Music: We feature two Lutheran Minneapolis composers today: Robert Wetzler's introit has been heard every year on the the first Sunday in Advent. He studied with Dominick Argento at the University of Minnesota and was organist for many years at several Lutheran churches. Kyle Pederson has composed music in many genres and serves at Prince of Peace Lutheran in Burnsville and as composer-in-residence for VocalEssence Singers Of This Age. English composer Alan Bullard has composed many choral works which have been sung by the Plymouth Choir.

Max Janowski was a composer of Jewish liturgical music and served for more than 60 years as music director at KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation in Chicago. Adolphus Hailstork is an African American composer/educator who taught many years at Old Dominion University in Virginia.

ACCESSIBILITY: Plymouth is equipped with a hearing loop in our Sanctuary for those with compatible hearing aids. Sit in the long pews on the ground floor. To receive the audio, hearing aids need a telecoil, also known as a "T coil," which needs to be activated similar to Bluetooth. Ask your audiologist for more information.

Wireless FM listening devices are available for use throughout the Sanctuary and balcony. Ask an usher or the staff at the tech desk.

COLORING PAGE FOR EVERY AGE



If you'd like to share your art with the church,
please drop off this page at the Jones Commons desk after worship!