



THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 14, 2025

Livestream & In-Person

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

* GREETING ONE ANOTHER

PRELUDE

"What Child Is This?"

English Ballad

* CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 35:1-2 and Matthew 11:4-5)

Linda Franke

Leader: What if joy were to break out unrestrained in our world? What would we notice?

People: The wilderness and dry land would be glad; the desert rejoice and blossom.

Leader: The blind would see and the lame would walk. Lepers would be cleansed, and the deaf would hear.

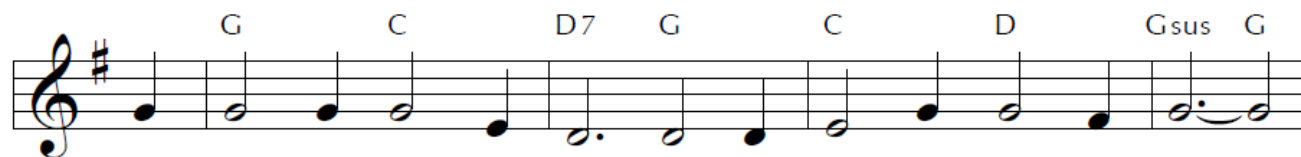
People: The dead would rise and the poor would receive good news.

Leader: May joy break out in our worship today as we anticipate the One who comes into our world!

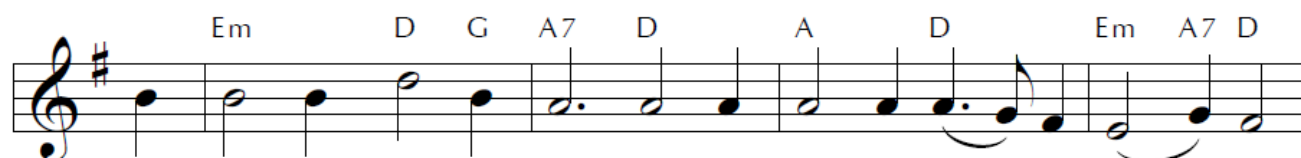
People: Come, thou long-expected Jesus!



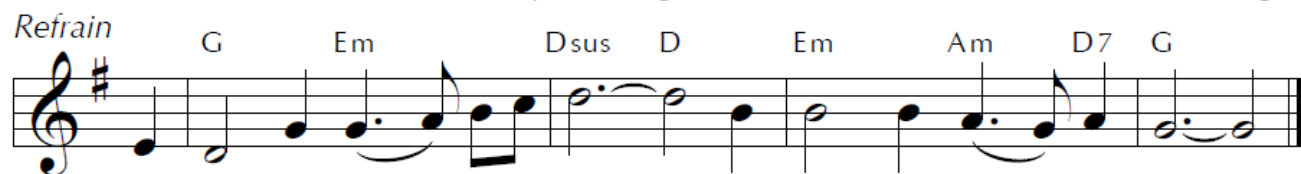
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Linda Franke

Leader: There are two great equalizers among us. One is that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory. The other is that we are all now justified by God's grace through the gift of Christ Jesus. Confident of both, let us admit where we have fallen short and receive grace without limit. (Romans 3:23-24)

All: **Holy and wonderful God, we confess that we have closed our eyes to what you are doing. We prefer to concentrate on problems, bad news, and violence. When we do, we miss all the healing, freeing and helping you accomplish in our world. We pass up opportunities to participate in your Good News. We rob ourselves of so much joy. Forgive us and give us eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to treasure your mission in the world. Fill us with unquenchable joy at the coming of Jesus.**

silence

Leader: The angel told Joseph, "You are to name the baby Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Believe the good news of the gospel. (Matthew 1:21)

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Amen.**



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Justin, Caron, Elise, & Nell Treon
and Carol Honnold

UNISON ADVENT PRAYER

**All: We delight in the joy of your presence, which no hardship can steal away.
Come, Lord Jesus, and make joy our strength.**

ANTHEM

"An Advent Acclamation"

text: Roger Thornhill

Sanctuary Choir

tune: Bensançon,

Mission Bells

arr. Stacey Nordmeyer

Look to the light, prepare the way. Turn from night, embrace the day.

Let all creation praise with singing; set ev'ry bell in heaven ringing.

Raise ev'ry candle, shine the news; Christ, the Light, is coming soon!

Look to the dawn, prepare your heart. Waken your song, let worship start.

This is a day of celebration; join in the music of jubilation.

Raise ev'ry candle, shine the news; Christ, the Light, is coming soon!

Look to the star the gilds the East, golden of heart and burning with peace.

See now the torch is rising yonder, lifting our hearts with glorious wonder.

Raise ev'ry candle, shine the news; Christ, the Light, is coming soon!

Christ, the Light, is coming soon! Prepare the way!

TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

(All children are invited to the front of the church. Afterwards, children 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to Sunday School in Room 205 and Room 207.)

* SONG

"You'll Come"

Brooke Ligertwood

I have decided, I have resolved to wait upon You, Lord
My rock and redeemer, shield and reward
I'll wait upon You, Lord
As surely as the sun will rise, You'll come to us
Certain as the dawn appears
You'll come. Let Your glory fall as You respond to us.
Spirit, rain, flood into our thirsty hearts again
You'll come, You'll come
We are not shaken, we are not moved. We wait upon You, Lord
Mighty deliverer, triumph and truth
We wait upon You, Lord
As surely as the sun will rise, You'll come to us
Certain as Your word endures
You'll come. Let Your glory fall as You respond to us.
Spirit, rain, flood into our thirsty hearts again
You'll come, You'll come
Chains be broken. Lives be healed.
Eyes be opened. Christ is revealed.
Chains be broken. Lives be healed.
Eyes be opened. Christ is revealed.
You'll come. Let Your glory fall as You respond to us.
Spirit, rain, flood into our thirsty hearts again
You'll come, You'll come.
Let Your glory fall as You respond to us.
Spirit, rain, flood into our thirsty hearts again
You'll come, You'll come

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

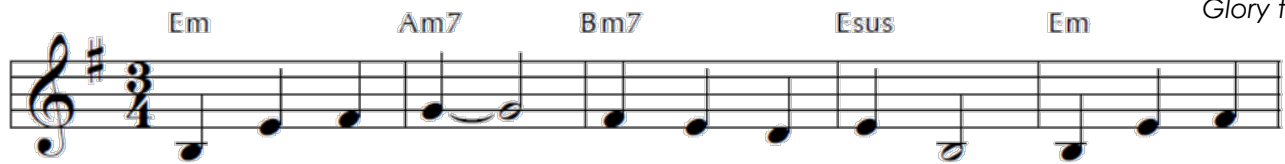
⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

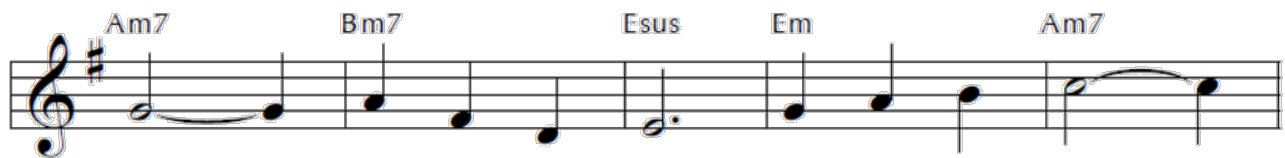
* SONG

"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

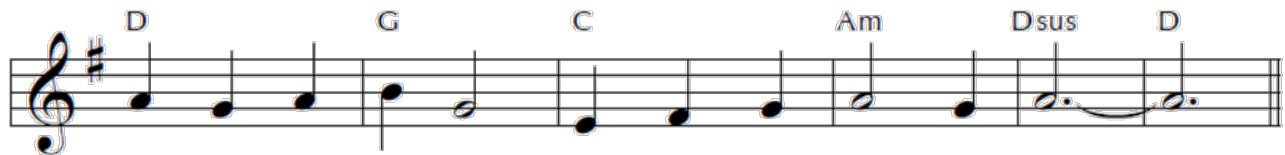
No. 314
Glory to God



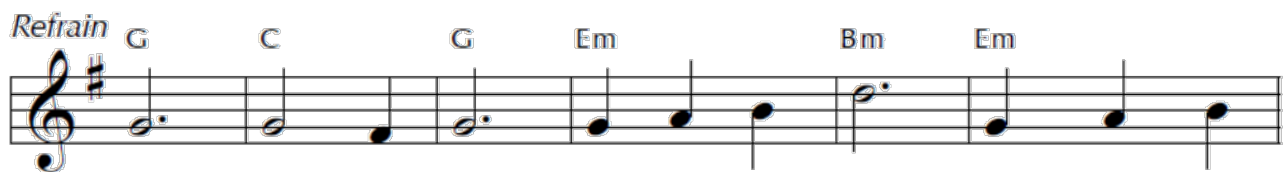
1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



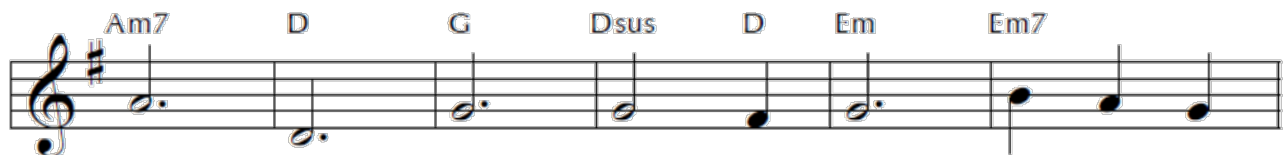
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

Barbara Farley

OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY

“Breath of Heaven”

Amy Grant & Chris Eaton

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: God who promises to be with us, open our eyes:
To see all you are doing in our midst
To observe all the places in need of help and healing
To marvel at the resources you have placed in our hands for your work in the world.

God who longs to be with us, open our ears:
To hear the moans of the hungry
To listen to the cry of the oppressed
To discern that far off hymn the angels sing.

God who comes to be with us, move our feet:
To walk into the darkest corners with your light
To run into violence with your peace
To tiptoe beside those who mourn with your compassion.

O come, O come Emmanuel, God with us in Jesus Christ, to loosen the chains:
That prevent us from forgiving
That constrict our hearts from loving
That tighten around us in anxiety and fear.

We boldly ask these things with confidence, knowing your will in Christ Jesus our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying:

All: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

If you would like to privately share a concern, thanksgiving, or request for healing, please come to the Stephen Ministry banner on the east wall of the Sanctuary immediately following the service for individual prayer with a Stephen Minister.



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the

2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you

3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a



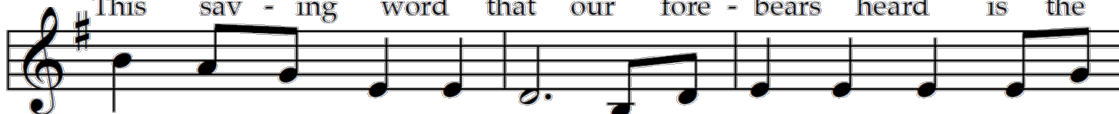
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



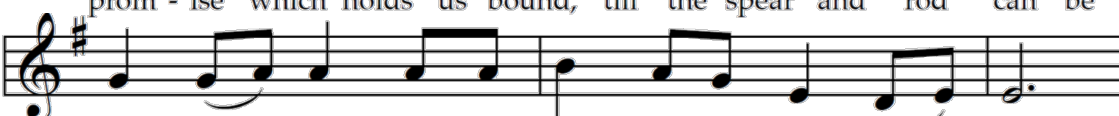
won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



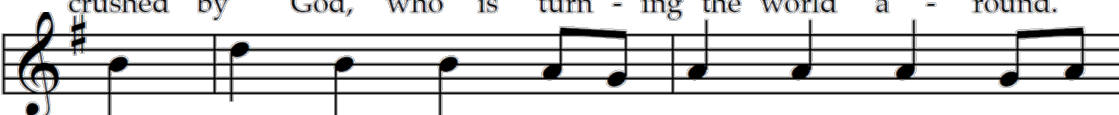
You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



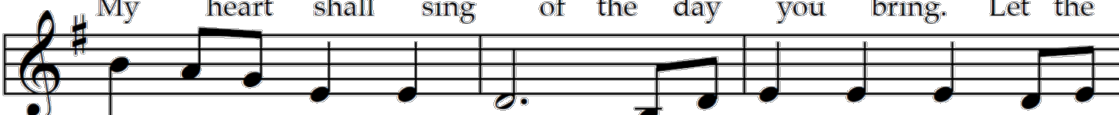
weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

“Etude in C Major Op. 72 No. 4”

Moritz Moszkowski

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Liturgy by Tracey Davenport, © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2025, adapted

Advent Candle Liturgy by Shardaé Henry and Shea Watts, © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2025

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Audio/Video: Noor Bitar and Michael Gray

Music Director: Keith Atwater

Guest Pianist: Zorana Randjelovic-Flores

Piano: Gabe Bisho

Drums: Will Condrey

Bass: Merlyn Van Regenmorter

Vocals: Karen Gray, Anita Lawson, and Laura Leek

