



## **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

**DECEMBER 11, 2022**

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Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

*(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

John Weicher

**PRELUDE**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
(arranged for hand chimes)

*Veni Emmanuel*  
(15 c. French tune)

**INTROIT**

*How Shall I Fitly Meet Thee? (from "Christmas Oratorio")*  
*How shall I fitly meet Thee and give Thee welcome due?*  
*The nations long to greet Thee and I would greet Thee too.*  
*O Fount of light, shine brightly upon my darkened heart*  
*that I may serve Thee rightly, and know Thee as Thou art.*

J.S. Bach

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE**

Steve Rimmer, John and Lyn Williams

Leader:

On the first Sunday of Advent, the candle of hope was lit.  
On the second Sunday of Advent, the candle of peace was lit.  
Today, the third Sunday in Advent, we light the candle of joy.  
(*The pink candle is lit.*)

Just as Moses and the Israelites wandered through the wilderness,  
waiting to enter into the Promised Land,  
Advent is our time of waiting.

We wait for the day when we can join our voices with the angels  
to sing "Joy to the world, the Lord has come!"

We wait for the day when everlasting joy will be on each of us.

May the light of these candles fill us with joy as we wait for the coming of the Lord.

People:

**On this day, we remember the Spirit who breathes joy into our lives.**

**\*HYMN NO. 106**

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

*Bereden Väg För Herran*

**\*CONFESSION OF SIN**

John Weicher

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**O Lord our God,**

**you call us to work for a world**

**where all will be fed and have dignity,**

**but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires.**

**You call us to seek justice and peace,**

**but we are satisfied with injustice and discord.**

**You call us to bring liberty to the oppressed,**

**but we do not insist on freedom for all.**

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**Forgive us, O Lord.**

**Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit,  
so that all may know your justice and peace;  
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Response (sung three times)

*Wait for the Lord*

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 3/2 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and "Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!". The score consists of two systems, each with a Treble and Bass staff. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. The music ends with a double bar line.

**\*THE PEACE**

John Weicher

**COLLECT FOR THE DAY**

Carl and Lisa Rist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth,  
in a serious seeking after you,  
and in an affectionate walking with you,  
every day of our lives;  
that when you come,  
we may be found not hiding our talent,  
nor serving the flesh,  
nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished,  
but waiting and longing for our Lord,  
our glorious God for ever. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Isaiah 35:1-10

(Pew Bible, OT page 683)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Carl and Lisa Rist

People: Thanks be to God!

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 1:46b-55

(Pew Bible, NT page 57)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God!

**SERMON**

*"A Scandalous Song of Hope"*

Mindy Douglas

**\*HYMN NO. 100**

*Canticle of the Turning*

*Star of the County Down*

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Brent Curtis

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

John Weicher

Invitation to Give

Offertory Anthem

*The Lord Shall Come and Not be Slow*

Zebulon Highben

*The Lord shall come and not be slow; his light is soon appearing.*

*Prepare, you sinners, here below who are these tidings hearing:*

*Arise, O sleepers, trim your lamps! Their flames so swiftly burning*

*reveal the path to hope and peace, the dawn for which you're yearning.*

*Come forth, you weary, meek, and poor! Forget your strife and labor.*

*Messiah comes to those who toil, bestowing God's own favor.*

*Your king eternal, Lord on high, in humble form and lowly,*

*transforms a simple oxen stall into a throne most holy.*

*For Christ shall come and not be slow; his light is now appearing.*

*Rejoice, you saints on earth below! His reign of love is nearing.*

Offertory Prayer

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All: Thanks to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth —

giver of justice, lover of righteousness,

hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor.

Your faithfulness never fails.

Take and use these gifts we offer

to further your purpose to the world

and to fulfill the promise of the world to come;

through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

**NEW MEMBERS SERVICE OF WELCOME**

Words of Welcome and Introduction

Mindy Douglas

\*Affirmation of Faith (*in unison*)

*The Apostles' Creed*

John Weicher

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus**

**Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the**

**Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;**

he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Prayer

Song of Welcome (Hymn No. 306, verse 1; *all sing*)

Dennis

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.*

*The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

John Weicher

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (*in unison*)

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.

## \*HYMN NO. 88

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*Veni Emmanuel*

*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, 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.*

*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.*

## \*BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

## \*POSTLUDE

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Paul Manz

## Christmas Fellowship this evening

At 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, our children, youth, and adults will present a pageant, "Room for a Little One." At 6:00 p.m. we will gather in Watts-Hill Hall for a potluck supper (bring a side item or dessert with serving utensil). After supper, stay and participate in the sing-along.





**Welcome! Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning this QR code.**

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, economic circumstance, and ability to participate fully in the life of the church. So that you may know who is sitting nearby, please sign the *Friendship Pad*, pass it along the pew, and then return it to the starting point, noting the names of those sitting near you.

**We welcome and introduce the following new members in worship today:**

- **Steve and Patsy Bowman** are married and live in Hillsborough. Steve is a retired architect who grew up in Hermosa Beach, CA. His hobbies include woodworking, playing the trumpet and fiddle, and helping with Iglesia Emanuel's food pantry. Patsy is a retired fiber artist who was born in Lincolnton, NC and raised in Charlotte. In addition to weaving, spinning, and felting fiber art, Patsy enjoys gardening, travel, sports, and her grandchildren. They join FPC by letter of transfer.
- **Taylor and Meredith Crabtree** are married and live in Durham. Taylor was born in Nashville, TN and grew up in Gastonia, NC. He works for the NC Department of Justice. He enjoys cooking. He joins FPC by reaffirmation of faith. Meredith grew up in Rutherfordton, NC. She works at UNC-CH. She enjoys gardening, reading, and raising their two sons, Jude (age 4) and Sam (age 5). Meredith joins FPC by letter of transfer.
- **Caroline Means** lives in Durham and works as a product development engineer with Restor3D. She came to Durham in 2022 from Suwanee, GA where she grew up. She enjoys baking, reading, visiting record stores, embroidery, and yoga. Caroline joins FPC by letter of transfer.
- **Jim and Patti Rogers** are married and live in Bahama. Jim originates from Marion, VA and Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He is retired and an ordained elder. He enjoys flying, amateur radio, cycling, and driving. Patti originates from Clearwater, FL and is also retired and an ordained elder. Jim and Patti moved to Durham in December of 2020. They join FPC by letter of transfer.
- **Bill and Mindy Wigger** are married and live in Durham. Bill was born in Rogers, AR and has lived all over the U.S. He is retired and enjoys playing sports. Mindy was born in Columbus, OH and grew up in Houghton, NY. She is retired and enjoys hiking. Bill and Mindy join FPC by letter of transfer. Their daughter Julia Wigger Luffman, and her husband, Nash, are already members of FPC.

The *sanctuary table* upon which the Advent Wreath sits was made by **George Danser** and is given to the church by him and his wife, **Jean Cary**. George has drawn design features from our communion table and used oak removed from the sanctuary during our renovation and from a tree in their backyard that Jean saw get hit by lightning some years ago.

**Advent paraments:** In 2012, First Presbyterian Church commissioned internationally known fiber-artist Laurie Wohl to create paraments to be hung in the sanctuary during Lent and Advent. We are grateful that the bequest of Anne 'St. Clair' Williams made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

**Restroom locations:** To the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the second floor of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

**Hearing Assistance Receivers** are available from the ushers. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle by the door or return it to an usher. Receivers are sanitized after each use.

**Childcare:** A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. **Activity bags** are available in the foyer for children.

**Today's texts** were taken from *Feasting on the Word* (Year A, volume 1), *Book of Common Worship* (2018), and *Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal*.

**Today's bulletin cover**, "Mary & Elizabeth," is by Lauren Wright Pittman. Purchased December 9, 2022 from *A Sanctified Art* website.

**These Days** devotional books for January-March 2023 have arrived. While supplies last, pick up a free copy (regular or large print) from the table in the foyer.

## **December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Faith Formation Classes (all ages) – 9:45 a.m.**

**Worship: A Service of Lessons and Carols – 11:00 a.m.**

*The Christmas Joy offering* will be received during worship.

## **December 24 - Christmas Eve**

**Communion and Candle Lighting Service - 5:00 p.m.**

An offering will be received for Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry and FPC's Walk-in Ministry.

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### **~ CONCERNS ~**

**Pam Hanson**, mother of Laura Hanson, under Hospice care

**Paul Cornsweet**

**Susan Cyr**

**Kerry Holbrook**

**Lee House**

**Rebekah Jakel**

**Chris James**

**Jancy Johnstone**

**George Kafula**

**Mitzi Leshner-Thomas**

**Franzi Rokoske**

**Carol Wills**

### **Care Communities**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Gulley**

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: **Arthur Clark**

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: **Phillip Herndon**

Hillcrest Convalescent: **Julian Boswell, Maxie Honeycutt, Jim Wolfe**

### **Family and Friends of the Congregation**

**Liz Block**, cousin of Jane and Bill Brown

**Bob**, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore

**John Carter**, brother of Conrad Carter

**Grace**, Chris James' great-niece

**Diane Lesman**, friend of FPC

**Karen Shelton**, mother-in-law of Dawn Carsey Shelton

**Jim Vacca**, father of Jamie Chambliss

**John Wakefield**, cousin of Vernon Neece

# Prepare the Way, O Zion

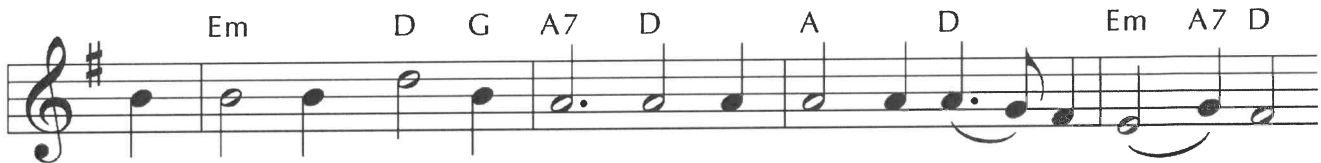
106



- 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,

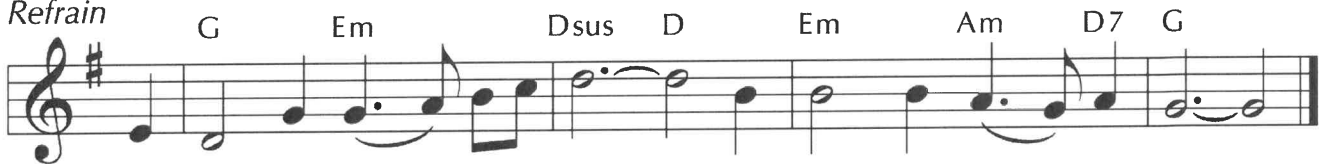


Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



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.

*Refrain*

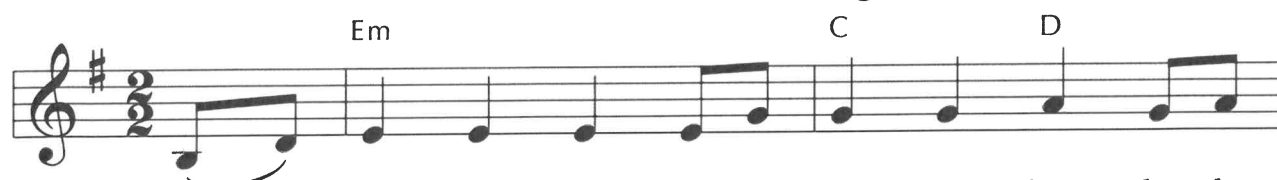


O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.



# 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

## Canticle of the Turning



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 -



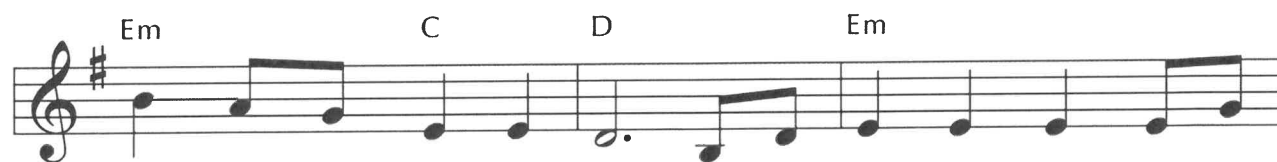
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



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.

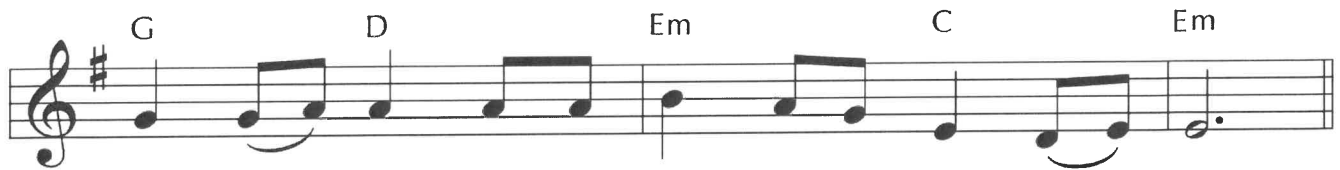


You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



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

# JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



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.

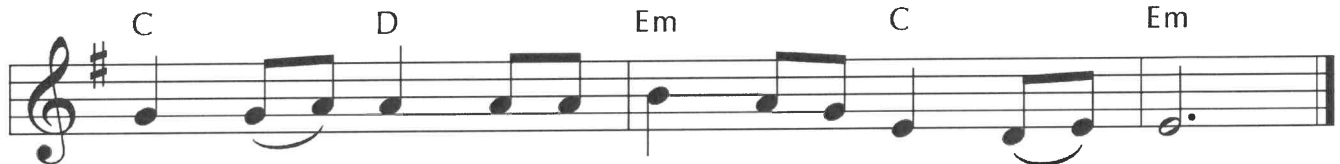
## Refrain



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.

# 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!



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

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.

## The Week at a Glance!

<b>Later Today</b> <b>Annual Christmas Fellowship</b> Christmas Pageant (5:30 PM in the sanctuary)  Christmas Potluck (6:00 PM in Watts-Hill Hall) followed by a Carols Sing-Along  <b>8:00 PM</b> Meaning in the Middle Fellowship (via Zoom)	<b>Monday, December 12</b>  <b>9:00 AM – 12 Noon</b> Walk-in Ministry  <b>1:30 PM</b> Worship Planning  <b>6:30 PM</b> Conversation on Cash Bail Reform (via Zoom)	<b>Tuesday, December 13</b>  <b>3:00 PM</b> Grandparents' Tea Party at Covenant Presbyterian Church  <b>6:00 PM</b> Tutoring Sessions at Iglesia Emanuel  <b>6:15 PM</b> Book Study: <i>Hope</i> (via Zoom)	<b>Wednesday, December 14</b>  <b>11:00 AM</b> Book Study: <i>Hope</i> (via Zoom)  <b>12 Noon</b> Seniors' Christmas Luncheon in Watts-Hill Hall (Gather at 11:30 AM in the Wilson Parlor)  <b>1:30 PM</b> Program Staff Meeting  <b>7 PM</b> Chancel Choir
<b>Thursday, December 15</b>  <b>9:00 AM-12 Noon</b> Walk-in Ministry  <b>6:00 PM</b> Tutoring Sessions at Iglesia Emanuel	<b>Friday, December 16</b>	<b>Saturday, December 17</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Durham Holiday Parade watch party (from FPC's sanctuary steps with coffee and hot cocoa available)	<b>Sunday, December 18</b> <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>9:45-10:45 AM</b> Faith Formation classes for all ages  <b>11:00 AM</b> Service of Lessons & Carols Christmas Joy Offering received

### Monday night ZOOM about Cash Bail Reform

On Monday night, December 12, at 6:30 p.m. you are invited to devote 20 minutes to hear a brief Zoom presentation by two members of the NC Interfaith Cash Bail Reform Committee, sponsored by FPC's Service and Mission Committee and Racial Equity Task Force. A project of the NC Council of Churches, their mission is to educate faith community members to help reform "for-profit cash bail," which they call one of the most egregious cancers within our criminal justice system. Please join **David Bland** and **Peter van Dorsten** at this link – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88594343660?pwd=V0p4SUZETEFmMmhqZVdOVEU0bkRrZz09>

### CHURCH STAFF

*Tom Bloom*, Business Administrator  
*Lenore Champion*, Children's Ministry Director  
*Vernon Cooper*, Sexton  
*Mindy Douglas*, Pastor, Head of Staff  
*Susan Dunlap*, Parish Associate  
*Omar Guess*, Sunday Morning Sexton  
*Joseph Harvard*, Pastor Emeritus



*Amy Bowers Heit*, Parish Associate  
*Esther Hethcox*, Temp. Stated Supply Associate Pastor  
*Sybil King*, Administrative Assistant  
*Mitzi Leshner-Thomas*, Associate Pastor (Medical Leave)  
*Valerie McMillian*, Parish Administrator  
*Kathy Parkins*, Minister of Music  
*John Weicher*, Associate Pastor

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office: [info@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:info@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

**305 EAST MAIN STREET   DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701   919-682-5511   ORGANIZED 1871**