STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)

Until the Dawn

CRY OUT

Open and Affirming † Intergenerational † A Just Peace Church

"We share in God's love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people." *~ Our Mission at SCC*



SUNDAY, NOVEMBR 29, 2026

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOPE

Please stand as you are able ''.*

*Please remember to **silence cell phones** and other devices and be mindful of those who wish to use the prelude as a time of prayer, meditation, and preparation for worship.*

***Accessibility:** See an usher for **large-print** bulletins and **wheelchair** or **accessible seating**. Devices necessary to access worship fully are welcome.*

***The restroom in this building** is at the front of the church behind the doors to the right of the Chancel. A **PRAYGROUND** is also located in the northeast corner of the building and available for children and families.*

Our services are recorded on Zoom and live streamed on YouTube.

GATHERING

Whatever your faith tradition, doubts or questions about God; whatever your color skin, gender identity or expression, wherever you find yourself on life's journey, you are welcome here. You matter to God, and you matter to us. Welcome!

Prelude – "Watchman Tell Us of the Night" by Healey Willan *Dr. Patricia Snyder*

Call to Worship: Lighting the Advent Candle *Paul Schur*

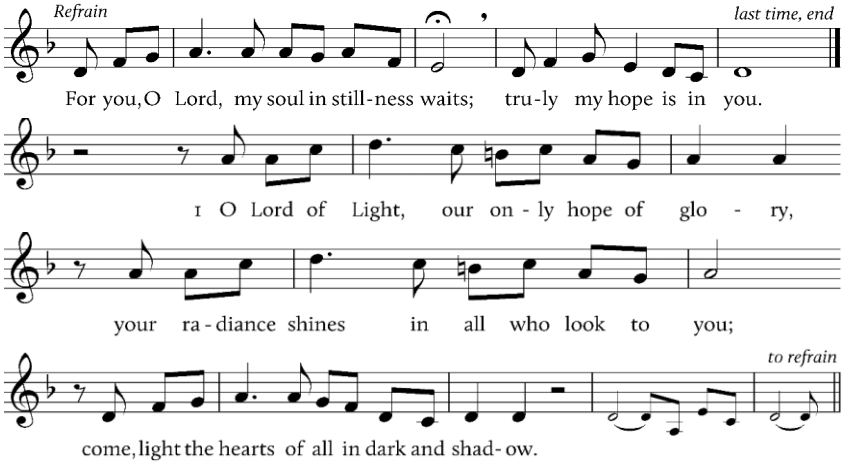
One: When the nights are long and the roads are hard,
Many: **we turn our eyes to the stars.**
One: When the work is demanding and injustice unending,
Many: **we stand together, arm in arm.**

One: When fear looms large and grief weighs heavy,
Many: **we cry out to God without holding back.**
One: And when the dawn of tomorrow feels far away,
Many: **we gather together to light the candle of hope.**

(the first Advent candle—the candle of hope—is lighted.)

One: Like the stars above, may this light shine bright.
Many: **May it guide our path. May it inspire deeper hope.**
And until God's promised day, may it be so. Amen.

Response — "For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits" MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS



***Sharing the Peace of Christ** *Paul Schur*

One: Friends, we invite you to rise in body or in spirit and offer one another a sign of God's peace. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you!**

***Hymn** – "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" *Glory to God p. 82* *this bulletin p.* **14**

Call to Confession *Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn*

In scripture, we see people cry out to God with honesty and authenticity. The Psalmists pray, "How long, O God?" They beg, "Come and save us," and "Let your face shine upon us." From their raw honesty, we know that we can go to God with just as much honesty about the truth of our lives. So, join me in the Prayer of Confession. Join me in this moment of truth-telling. Just as the Psalmists did, let us go to God in prayer. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Holy God, we have been known—to bite our tongues, to work through a broken heart, to don our favorite rose-colored glasses. We have been known—to look for the bright side, to sweep the pain under the rug, to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss. We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves. Forgive us for filtering our honesty. Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament. Forgive us for not turning to you first. Remind us that you are a God who listens and you are a God who restores. With open hearts, we pray. Amen. *(time of silent confession)*

Words of Assurance

One: Family of faith, whether you pray like the Psalmists—raw and unfiltered—or you can't remember the last time you were honest with God, God still loves you. God sees you. And God longs to be in relationship. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Many: **There is nothing we could do or say that will keep God's love at bay. We are seen, forgiven, and invited—into deeper honesty and deeper relationship. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Children's Moment

Our Family Room is not staffed; however, it is open and available to interested children and their grownups as desired/needed. Children of all ages are, naturally, always welcome to remain in worship.

WORD

God Speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

ANTHEM — "O Savior, Rend the Heavens on High" Opus 74, No. 2 by Brahms *Adult Choir*

O Savior rend the heav'ns on high; Rise up, go forth, and quit the sky;
Break down the gates and doors of heav'n; break them till all the locks are riv'n.

God send Thy dew from heav'n above; pour down on us our Savior's love;
O clouds rain down your precious rain; and Israel's King on earth ordain.

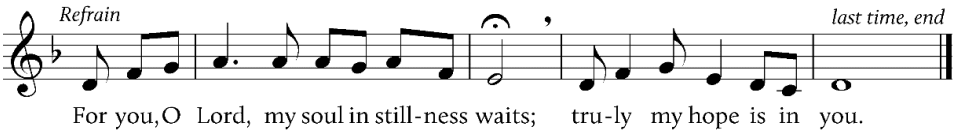
Prayer of Illumination *Paul Schur*

Gracious God, for generations, we have cried out to you, and you have listened. So as we turn to hear your Word read and proclaimed, give us the ability to listen as well as you do. Give us the ears and the heart to hear your words. In hope we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading -

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, *pew Bibles p.* **470-1,** *bulletin insert*

Refrain — "My Soul in Stillness Waits"



Second Scripture Reading – *Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn*

Isaiah 64:1-9 *pew Bibles p.* **606,** *bulletin insert*

Sermon – "Cry Out" *Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn*

***Hymn** – "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper" *Glory to God p. 94* *this bulletin p.* **12-13**

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

A Time of Offering

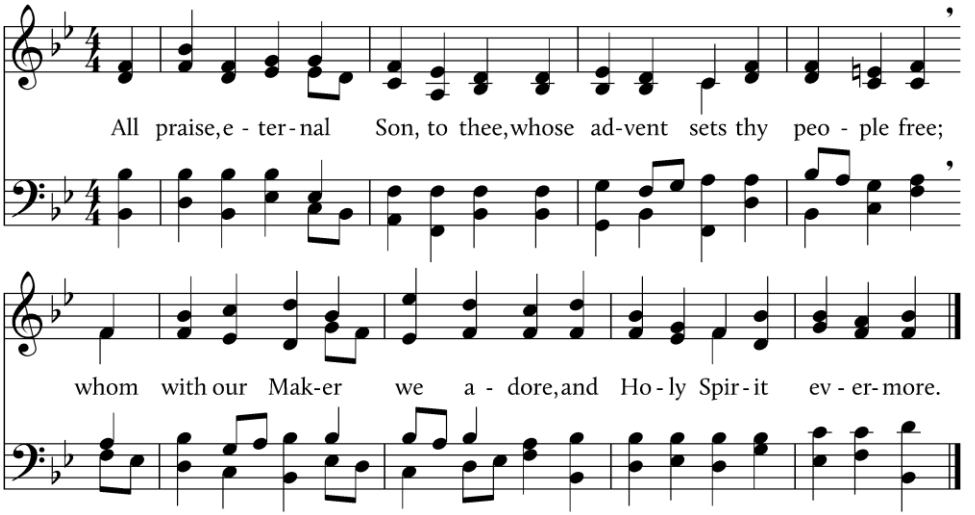
As the offering is collected, prayers of either joy or concern may be written on the purple prayer request cards found in the pew rack and placed in the offering plates as they are passed. Offerings may also be made electronically through our online 'Give Now' option. Scan the QR code for easy access.

Call to Offering

OFFERTORY MUSIC - "You Do Not Walk Alone" by Elaine Hagenberg *Adult Choir*

May you see God's light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone,
May you always remember when the shadows fall, you do not walk alone.

* ***PRESENTING OUR GIFTS:*** *from* "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" WINCHESTER NEW



***Prayer of Dedication** *(unison)*

God-with-us, shine your light of hope upon us. We offer ourselves as instruments of healing. We pray these offerings help to spread your good news. Amen.

FEAST OF HOLY COMMUNION

The congregation will be invited to come forward to receive bread and cup. If you prefer a blessing, simply cross your arms and Pastor Diane will offer you a blessing. For those unable to come forward, kindly signal our servers and we will be glad to serve you at your pew.

The Invitation

Hymn – "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" *Glory to God p.* **103** *this bulletin p.* ***13***
Please remain seaterd during the communion hymn

Litany

One: God be with you.
Many: **And also with you.**
One: Lift up your hearts.
Many: **We lift them to God.**
One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.
Many: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Holy God, our loving Creator… Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.
Many: **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Sharing the Feast

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Holy One, until the dawn, until your promised day, until the sun rises on a world that finally knows peace and harmony, until all people know their love and worth, until that day, until that dawn, until that holy tomorrow, we will gather at this Table. We will break bread, and we will remember what it looks like for all to be fed. Thank you, loving God, for meeting us here. In Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People, ending with **The Lord's Prayer**

Many: **Creator/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 glory forever. Amen.**

SENDING

God Blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

News from our Life Together

Hymn** – "Soon and Very Soon" *Glory to God p.* **384** *this bulletin p.15**

***Benediction**

As you leave this place, may you speak the truth in love, may you hold fast to courage, may you be quick to joy, may you listen for the angels, and may you build each other up, until we reach God's promised day—when the lion will lie down with the lamb and the sun will rise over all of us. That is what we move toward. That is what we dream of. So look toward the horizon and go with hope. Go in peace.

Postlude – *A special musical offering by your SCC Ringers*

CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

December 6, 2026

following 10:00 am Worship in the Meeting House and on Zoom

Pursuant to the By Laws of the Storrs Congregational Church:

By vote of the Governing Board, the members of the Storrs Congregational Church are called to the Annual Budget Meeting to be held December 6, 2026. The meeting will be held following the Sunday morning worship service. The meeting will be in the same format as worship, in-person and/or online via Zoom Meetings. The business of said meeting shall be to:

Discuss and approve the 2027 budget for the Storrs Congregational Church

Discuss any items the congregation wishes to raise.

The presence and participation of all members is requested; a minimum of thirty is required to transact business. In the event that the scheduled meeting must be postponed due to weather or other emergency, it shall be held on the following Sunday.

Rationale – This is the annual budget meeting to discuss and approve the budget for 2027

Be Our Guest for Potluck Fellowship!

Come on over to the Parish House Lounge and share a beverage, a bite to eat, and a chat! The Parish House is in the buildings to the west of the Meeting House. Follow the others on over, or ask an usher to guide you… We look forward to seeing you! Remember to wear your Name Tag!

Worship

Every Sunday, 10:00 am, in the Meeting House and on Zoom & YouTube. Expressive, participatory liturgy; thoughtful preaching; and a soul-stirring blend of new and traditional music are some of the elements you can expect to encounter each Sunday.

Thank You for Assisting in today's service ...

Liturgist: Paul Schur; ***Greeter***: Erin Scholes; ***Ushers:*** Dana Gregus, Paul Smith; ***Welcome Table:*** Carolyn Holmy; ***Fellowship Host:*** Diana Alvarado; ***Tech Team:*** Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine; ***Communion:*** Marsha Creese, Laurie Brookes.

Sunday Morning Server Reminder for Next Week: ***Liturgist:*** Heather Elliot-Famularo; ***Greeter:*** Wes Lang-Rodean; ***Head Usher:*** Paul Schur; ***Usher:*** Lyle Yorks; ***Welcome Table:*** Jamie Lang-Rodean ***Fellowship Host:*** Dana Gregus;

Announcements

Today, Sunday November 29, 2026

8:45-9:45 am	Student Breakfast
9:00-10:00 am	Adult Choir
10:00-11:00 am	Worship
11:00-12 pm	Fellowship
11:00-11:30 am	Library Open
11:30-12:30 pm	Food Pantry Open
2:30-5 pm	Consonare

News and Notes

Toys for Tots: FILL THE BOX BEFORE DEC 1!! ~ $20 per toy for either a boy or girl. Please call Lois at (860) 614-2014 with any questions.

Our Annual Christmas Fair planning is underway! This beloved community event captures the true spirit of Christmas all around us—from the fresh aroma of fragrant greens to the cheerful sights of festive crafts, baked goods and soups, and holiday treasures. Plan on bringing your family or inviting a neighbor, and join us for warm fellowship, seasonal cheer, and fun for all ages. Whether you love to bake, craft, organize, or simply welcome guests, there is a place for you to help make this event shine. Contact Jeri for information hepworthjeri3@gmail.com

To ALL SCC Bakers: It is not too early to start planning what goodie you plan to make for our Christmas Fair. As you gather recipes and items for your holiday with family please add ingredients for a bake sale item you can donate to SCC December 5th Bake sale. Thanks so much, The Bake Sale Ladies: Laurie Brookes, Marsha Creese, Eileen Metzgar

The SCC Lunch Bunch will gather next on Friday, December 11 at Fenton River Grill, Mansfield, 1:00 pm. **Note that we're meeting the second Friday of the month** (rather than the first Friday) due to the activities of the Christmas Fair. All are welcome - men, women, singles, couples - anyone who would like to join in a casual meal together. To save a seat, please contact Nancy Tomastik, email: etomastik@earthlink.net or call 860-429-3593.

Until the Dawn

ACTIONS FOR THE WORK OF ADVENT

In this season of Advent, a time of waning daylight and darker nights,
Jesus will come. Even in darkness, we insist upon hope!
We call upon God's light, the light that accompanies one and all.
Together, we await the Wondrous One.
Come join the season of anticipation and hope!

Advent I: Hope

November 29, 2026, 10am
Communion will be served

Advent II: Peace

December 6, 2026, 10am
featuring Lessons and Carols
Annual Budget Meeting

Advent III: Joy

December 13, 2026, 10am
Soup Fellowship and Christmas Caroling

The Longest Night

December 17 2026, 5:30pm
contemplative service in the Waggoner Chapel

Advent IV: Love

December 20, 2026, 10am

Christmas Eve: Light

December 24, 2026, 5:30pm
featuring a candlelight service

2026 Advent Offerings

December 6th: Join us for Lessons and Carols

Lessons & Carols is coming December 6! We have a very fun Advent Processional piece planned with percussion instruments and a congregational refrain. If you would like to contribute to the merry noisemaking by playing with the percussion section, please email trisha@storrscongchurch by November 29.

December 13th: Christmas Caroling after worship!

Joins us directly after worship for a Soup Fellowship, then, we carolers will go out with jingle bells and caroling music, joining our voices to offer holiday cheer to at-home church members and our community. We hope our UConn students will also join in the fun! Questions? Email Trisha Snyder: trisha@storrscongchurch.org

December 17th: The Longest Night

Join in the Waggoner Chapel for contemplative worship on Thursday, December 17th at 5:30pm. For those of us who may find the holiday season difficult, for those seeking a quieter space away from the rush of Christmas, come be together. We will join our voices in prayer, silence, and song. We will light candles and pray. Come find solace on the shortest day of sunlight, where God's light remains inextinguishable. Our service will be livestreamed.

A Weekly Devotional Gathering

"Until the Dawn, Actions for the Work of Advent"

Mondays on Zoom at 7pm (11/30, 12/7, 12/14, and 12/21)

We will gather Monday evenings during Advent. Pick up a hard copy of our Advent Weekly Devotional booklet at the church (in the Narthex, the Lounge, or the Lobby). You can also access an online "e-reader" of the devotional booklet. Together we will share the poetry, reflections, and art images of Advent as we move through this season of waiting, and hope. The zoom link can be found on our website and through a reminder E-News every Tuesday during Advent. Won't you join us?

***Our friends at "A Sanctified Art" provided this special e-reader version of this year's Advent devotional. In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.*

Advent Resources

Weekly Devotional Booklets, Advent Calendars, Activity bags for Children. Resources can be picked up after worship or accessed digitally.
Scan the QR code for an up-to-date Calendar of events as well as digital links and resources.



Bread of Tears: by Hannah Garriety – inspired by Psalm 80:1-7 ,17-19

Look: Let your eyes follow the roots in the image. Now imagine them as tears flowing into the loaves of shining bread. What do you notice in your body as you look closely at the art?

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

- Scripture readings: The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
- Worship Liturgy - Prayers modified from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed |A Sanctified Art LLC | sancrifiedart.org
- Refrain – "My Soul in Stillness Waits": Text and music by Marty Haugen, 1982; ©1982 GIA Publications, Inc.; all rights reserved; reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-719182. Reprinted from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #89Presenting Our Gifts: Doxology: Text by Thomas Ken, 1674, alt. Music attrib. Louis Bourgeois; from Trente quatre pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551.
- Presentation of our gifts – from "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry": Text by Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837; alt. Music from Musicalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk, 1847, alt. Reprint adapt. from Pilgrim Hymnal, ©1958 The Pilgrim Press, #115.

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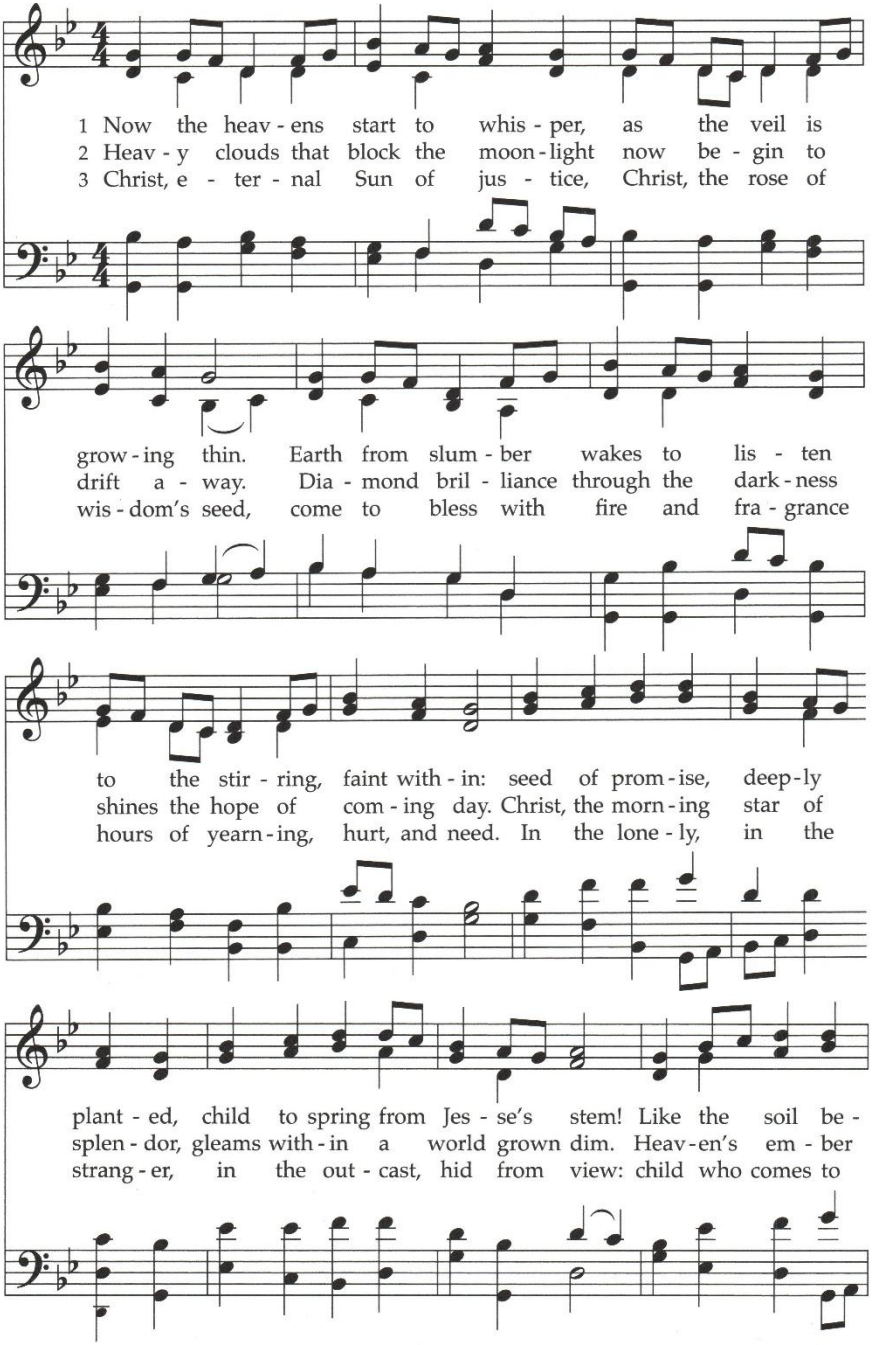
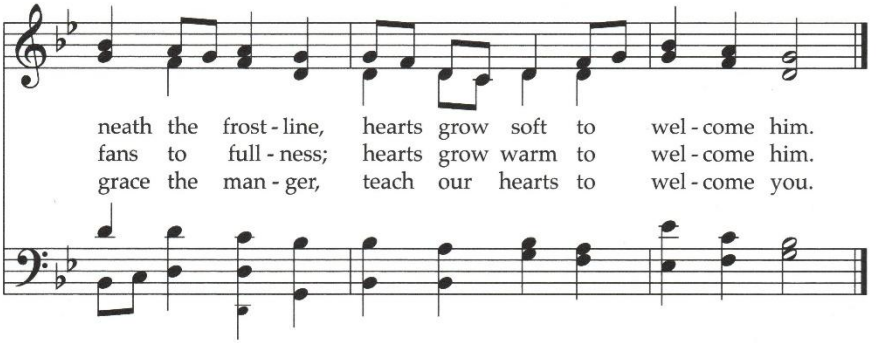
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:

WE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE LAND ON WHICH WE GATHER IS THE TERRITORY OF THE MOHEGAN, MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT, EASTERN PEQUOT, SCHAGHTICOKE, GOLDEN HILL PAUGUSSETT, NIPMUC, AND LENAPE PEOPLES, WHO HAVE STEWARDED THIS LAND THROUGHOUT THE GENERATIONS. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE IN PROTECTING THIS LAND, AND ASPIRE TO UPHOLD OUR RESPONSIBILITIES ACCORDING TO THEIR EXAMPLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION:
https://nacp.uconn.edu/land-acknowledgement/

94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper





103 Come Now, O Prince of Peace

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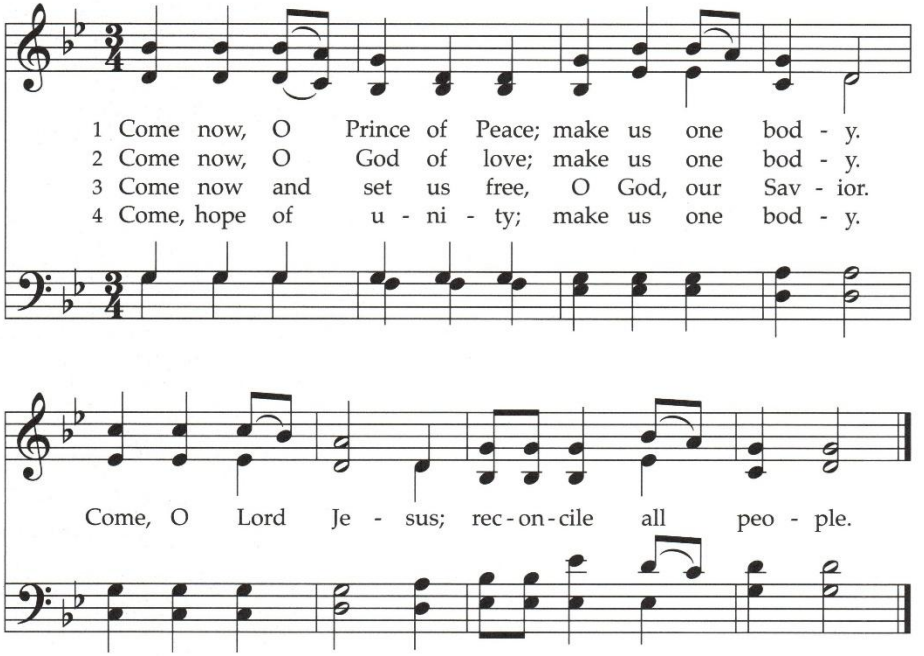
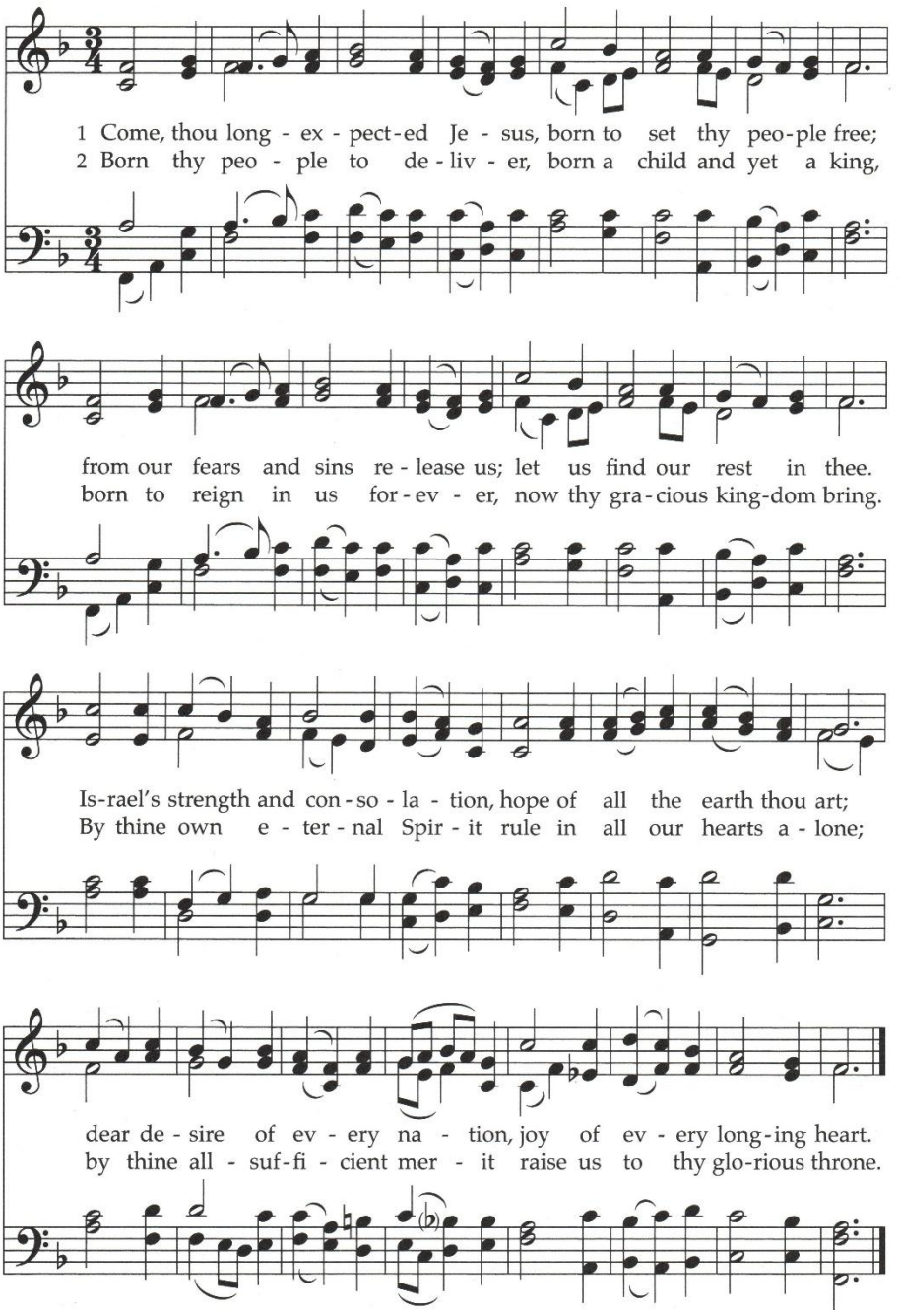
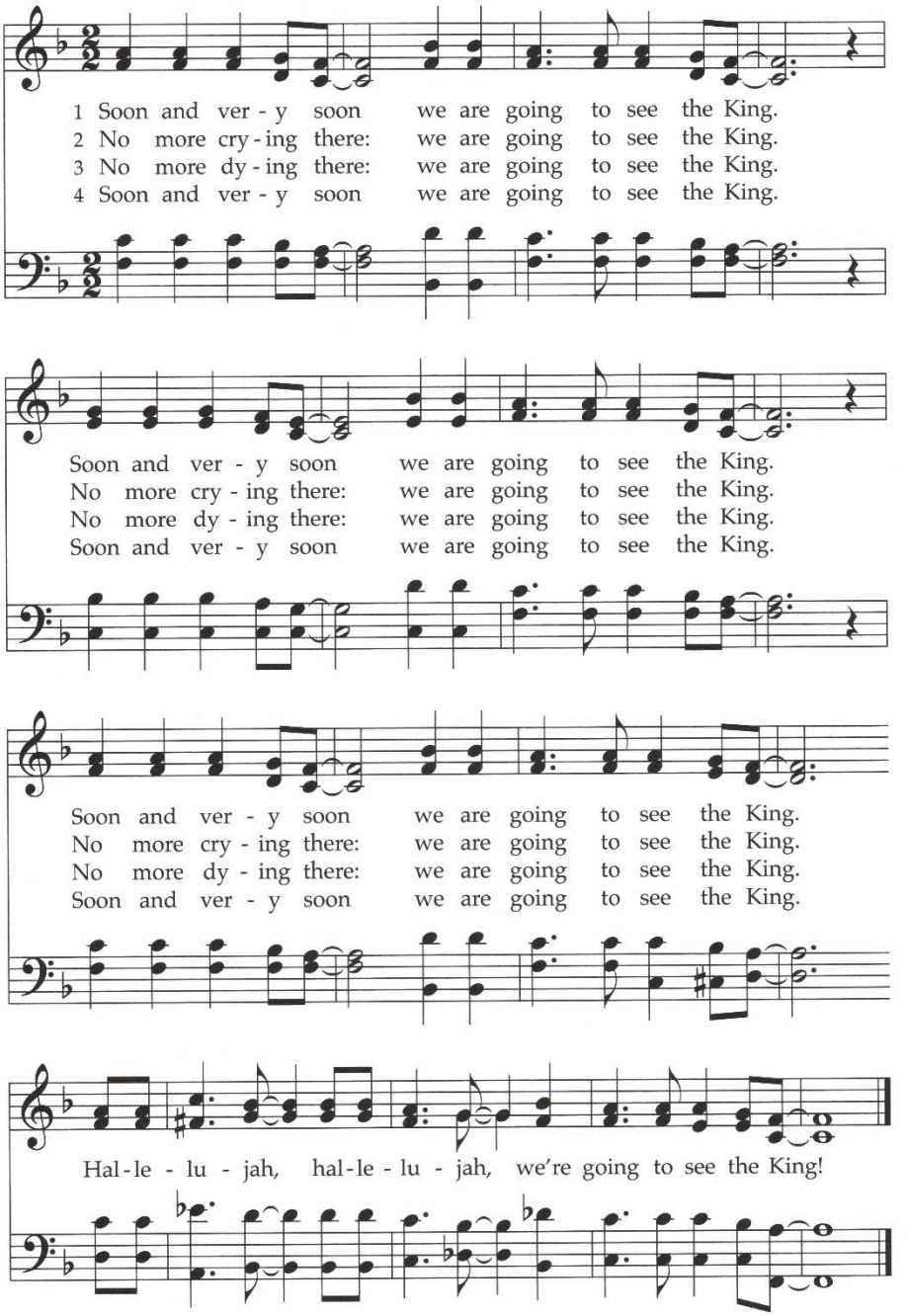


Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



384 Soon and Very Soon







STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Communications & Digital Ministry Specialist	Ellen Bradley – ellen@storrscongchurch.org | Ext. 22
Visitation Minister	Pastor Mike Lake - mike@storrscongchurch.org | 785-760-4983
Office Administrator	Katie Bienvenue – sccoffice@storrscongchurch.org | Ext. 21
Sexton	Antonio Aguilera – antonio@storrscongchurch.org | Ext. 21