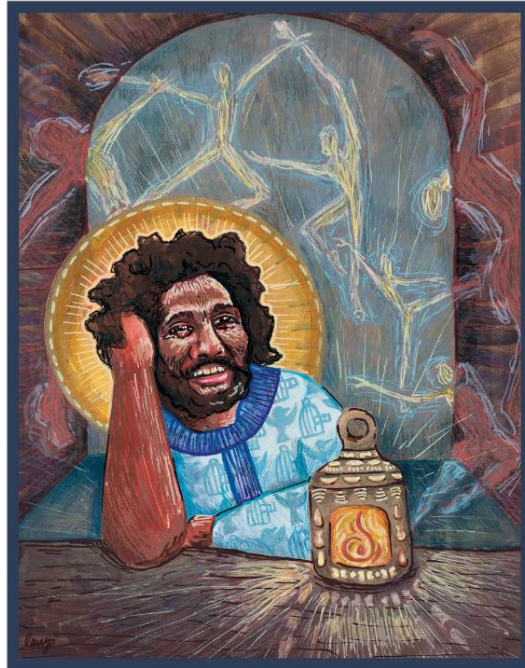


PAXTON

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Hope Like a Dancer by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC

When we're running out of
Hope, God is at work

December 7, 2025

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"
"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

-arr. R. Lau
- arr. D. Johnson
-arr. R. Hudson

WORSHIP PREPARATION

**In preparing for our worship together please quiet yourself
and allow God's Spirit to ready your heart, mind, and soul.**

During this time, we invite you to sign the **guest book**, pass it down your row and back again and note friends and guests worshipping next to you. Please also complete a **prayer request card** at this time if you have a joy or concern for which you would like special prayers during the service. The ushers will collect them during the first hymn.

GREETINGS AND NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

THE WORD GATHERS US

CALL TO WORSHIP

Advent is marked by a spirit of yearning for peace.

May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.

We long today for peace among nations.

May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.

We long today for peace among races.

May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.

We long today for peace in our hearts and in our lives.

May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.

* CANDLELIGHTING SONG – "Come, Lord Jesus, Come"

-see music on page 6

***Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our sins and fears release; let us find our rest in thee.***

* PRAYER FOR ADVENT PEACE

Gracious God, we thank you for your promise of peace, and we know that because of Christ, peace is possible. We pray today for the nations of the world, that we could find a way to live together in peace. We pray for our brothers and sisters everywhere, that we could become more forgiving, more understanding, and more loving to one another. Flood our hearts with the light of peace today so that we might take that light and spread your love to the whole world. Amen.

* HYMN - 87

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

* GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

* OUR RECOGNITION OF BROKENNESS†

On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, "Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?" Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the

places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray, Amen.

* GOD'S ASSURANCE OF RECONCILIATION

* OUR GRATEFUL RESPONSE - No. 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

* PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

THE WORD PROCLAIMS TO US

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE PROPHETS Isaiah 43:19-21 (OT 823)

ANTHEM "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" -arr. Joan Pinkston

READING FROM THE GOSPELS Matthew 11:1-11 (NT 13)

SERMON "Lights On: Work Zone"

HYMN - 94 "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

THE WORD INVITES US

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation for the Offering

* Response of Praise - No. 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SCAN HERE
TO GIVE
VIRTUALLY



* Prayer of Dedication

Offertory "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

-arr. G.W. Cassler

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER†

Traditional (p. 35)

THE WORD SENDS US

* HYMN - 105 "People, Look East"

* INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

* POSTLUDE "Tell Out My Soul" -arr. P. Manz

The () indicates that those who are able may stand.

The words printed in ***bold face italics type*** are said by all.

CCLI#2707192

†Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Please use your phone's camera to scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.

Directing our worship today: Preacher, Pastor Margaret Poteet;
Worship Assistant, Don Laughery; Conversation with Our Children, Happy Barber;
Director of Music, Sue Beckley; Organist, Jeanne Bruce;
Director of Youth Music, Andrew Vinton

NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL today are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Jane's mother, Susan Leahy, by Bill and Jane Sanford.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS Poinsettias will again be used for the poinsettia tree and to decorate the sanctuary this December. Anyone wishing to purchase a plant may do so by completing the form and returning it to the church office or placing it in the offering plate. Additional forms can be found outside the office. Each plant is \$10.00 with checks payable to Paxton Presbyterian Church accompanying each order. Please complete one for each plant purchased to simplify the printing of the dedication. The deadline to place an order is **TODAY**.

SANTA SHOP elves are busily working! Thank you for all your donations!! Our shops started December 2. One thing we ask you to KEEP BRINGING IN are 2026 calendars. We're a little short this year (Get it?) -The Elves

BREAKFAST FOR TWO The Stewardship Ministry invites you to help support our neighbors in need by contributing to our Little Free Pantry. You can sponsor a Breakfast for Two meal bag for just \$3. We encourage you to visit the library before or after worship services on 14th, or 21st to share the gift of food this holiday season. For more information, please contact Cindy Mory at 717-460-1142.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING The Session has called a meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, December 14th immediately following the 10:30 am service of worship. The meeting is called for the purposes of presenting the 2026 budget, approving the 2026 terms of call for Rev. Poteet, electing new Elders and Deacons, and to nominate Members-at-Large to the Officer Nominating Committee. There will be a Zoom option available for those unable to attend in the Sanctuary.

MUSIC SUNDAY Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 14, for Paxton's Christmas Music Sunday when we celebrate "All Things Music"! Come and hear the Agape Choir sing, "Mary Did You Know?" and then be joined with the Adult choir for "Away in a Manger." The Bells will play, "On Christmas Night" and "And the Glory of the Lord" from The Messiah. Jeanne will play a big arrangement of "Carol of the Bells" on the organ and the Adult Choir will sing, "Noel We Sing" and Good Christian Men, Rejoice!"

CHRISTMAS JUBILEE The Christian Education Ministry invites the congregation and community to our Christmas Jubilee tonight from 4-7pm. Invite your friends and neighbors for an evening that includes dinner, crafts for kids and adults, gingerbread houses, calm coloring, and a visit from St Nick. At 6:15pm we will travel to the upper grove worship space for carols, scripture from our children and a live nativity. Cookies and hot chocolate around the fire will follow in the cabin.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES 2026 Offering Envelopes are available. They may be picked up after worship or from the church office during the week.

THE NEXT COMMUNITY CLOTHING DRIVE PICK-UP WILL BE DECEMBER 14. All men's, women's, and children's clothes for winter are needed including pants, shirts, jackets, coats, shoes, underwear, socks, and dresses. Additionally, sheets, towels, and washcloths can be used. Please drop off the clothing at Norm Daniels' house (500 Bonnymead Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111) by 5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 14th. Questions? Call or text Norm at 717-712-7494.

PW's LOAVES AND FISHES day is 12/17 at 9:30am! Come help pack Christmas gift bags for the women at Bethesda Mission, Shalom House, and the YWCA Shelter!

INCIDENT REPORTS AT PAXTON When an incident happens involving a medical emergency or resulting in an injury the witness should assign someone to call 911 if necessary. The witness should also fill the Paxton Presbyterian Church Incident Report Form. The form is located around the building in EAP bins and can also be found in the office. Once completed please place the form in the Safety and Security mailbox outside of the office so the Safety and Security Committee can review what took place.

COMMUNITY MEAL Our next community/congregational meal will be held on Wednesday, December 10 from 5pm-6:30pm. Take out meals will be available if needed. Please consider lending a hand to help make this new endeavor a success. If you can give your time, please contact Dawn Palmer 717-877-9013. All are welcome to enjoy food and fellowship.

JOY OFFERING the Christmas Joy Offering will be collected between December 7 and 28. Please read the bulletin insert to see how your gift helps others.

NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH ON DECEMBER 14 The nursery will be available for children in kindergarten or younger.

ANTHEM

JESUS, THE VERY THOUGHT OF THEE

-ARR. JOAN PINKSTON

Jesus! The very thought of Thee with sweetness fills my breast; but
sweeter far Thy face to see and in Thy presence rest.

Jesus, no voice nor heart can frame, nor can the memory find, a sweeter
sound than Thy blest Name, oh, Savior of mankind.

Jesus! Hope of the contrite heart; O joy of all the meek; to those who
fall, how kind Thou art; how good to those who seek.

Jesus! May we confess Thy name, Thy wondrous love adore; and seeking
Thee our love enflame to love Thee more and more!

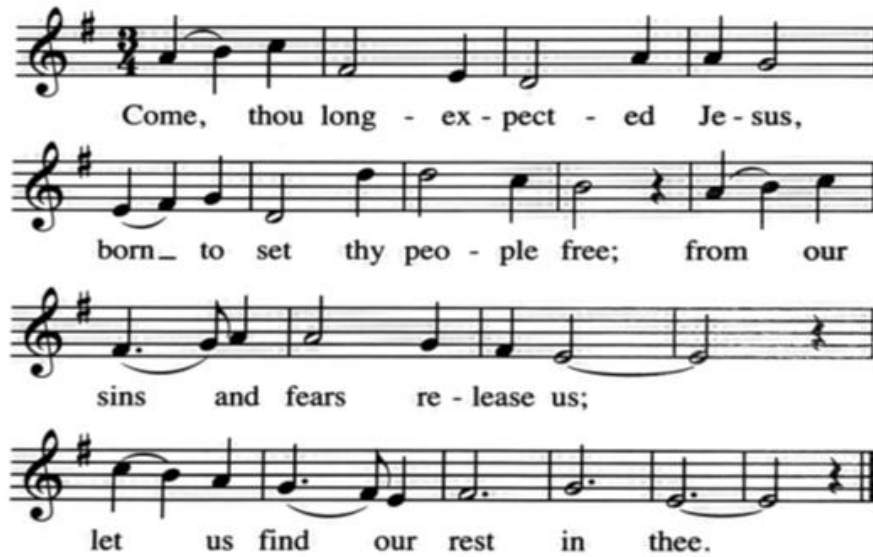
Jesus! Our only joy be Thou, and Thou our prize wilt be; be Thou our only
glory now and all through eternity.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come

Congregational part

Words by
CHARLES WESLEY

Music by
JOEL RANEY



Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus,
born_ to set thy peo - ple free; from our
sins and fears re - lease us;
let us find our rest in thee.

© 2017 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049
All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

The Publisher grants permission to reproduce this page for performance.

Prayer Square

Please keep the following church members and friends in your prayers.

Members

Nancy Bingaman, Jim Brillinger, Brenda Brinkley, Friends and Family of Dave Foreman, Fran Gilchrist, Shirley Grunden, Don Hoopes, Nancy Hutchison, Larry and Annette Kilpatrick, Jim Knight, Penny Knight, Anita Laughery, Robert Martin, Nedra Maxwell, Joanne Miller, Donna Powers, Elsie Williams, Dave Wion, Kathie Zimmerman

Friends

Gamber Family, Dr. and Mrs. Kent Groff, Kate Humphrey, J Jackson, Joey Koch, Beau MacGinnes, Linda Molner, Price Family, Frank Sallusti

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer Square
please contact Janice at 717-418-1526 or momjakh@aol.com

December 7 - 14

Sunday, December 7	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	Great Room
	4:00 PM	Christmas Jubilee	Fellowship Hall
Monday, December 8	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
		Santa Shop	Vista School
Tuesday, December 9	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	11:45 AM	Staff Meeting	Room 202
	6:30 PM	Paxtang Lions	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 PM	Budget and Finance Ministry	Room 201
Wednesday, December 10	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	9:30 AM	Sewing Circle	Fellowship Hall
	10:00 AM	Evangelism and Outreach	Room 201
	5:00 PM	Community Dinner	Fellowship Hall
	6:00 PM	Theatre Harrisburg	Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Worship and Music	Room 201
Thursday, December 11	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:15 PM	Bell Choir	Sanctuary
	7:30 PM	Choir	Choir Room
Friday, December 12	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
Sunday, December 14	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	Great Room

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The office is open to the public

9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday through Friday

If you need to visit the office or building at another time, please call the office.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT PAXTON

5:00 PM Family Service with our Children's Choir | 8:00 PM Traditional Service

Come join us in celebrating the wonder and hope of Christ's birth this Christmas Eve. All are welcome - families, friends, visitors, and neighbors - as we gather for carols, Scripture, and candlelight. May the light of Christ bring peace to your heart and home.

Paxton Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor	x105	Margaret Poteet	pastor@paxtonchurch.org
Director of Faith Formation	x104	Michelle Sheppard	michelle.sheppard@paxtonchurch.org
Director of Music		Susan Beckley	
Organist		Jeanne Bruce	
Director of Youth Music		Andrew Vinton	
Office Administrator	x101	Abby Spencer	office@paxtonchurch.org
Financial Office/Treasurer	x102	John Palmer	treasurer@paxtonchurch.org
Nursery School Director	x103	Nicole Evenhuis	nurseryschooldirector@paxtonchurch.org
Custodian		Mary Bowers	

Board of Deacons

Tara Frank '25	Moderator	Merideth Staudenmaier '25	Secretary
Sally Appleby '25		Rich Lengler '26	
Jim Bruce '26		Diana Robertson '25	
Linette Burd '26		Deb Trephan '27	
Judy Frankford '27		Brenda Vinton '27	
Cheryl Holtzman '26		Bev Ziebell '27	

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Leaders	Gary Myers	Jane Sanford
Stephen Ministers	Karen Cirillo	Karen Herrold
	Cheryl Holtzman	Janice Hutchison
	Annette Kilpatrick	Nancy Lengler
	Steve Miller	Kathy Woodbridge

For a confidential referral please contact a Stephen Leader.

Session *Chair

Margaret Poteet	Moderator
Kitti Taylor	Clerk of Session
Karen Herrold '25*	Christian Education
Janice Hutchison '25*	Evangelism and Outreach
Nancy Lengler '26*	Budget and Finance
Judy Schmidt '27*	Mission
Gary Myers '26*	Nominating
Jay Kealey '26*	Personnel
Nino Giambrone '27*	Property Management
Craig Staudenmaier '25*	Stewardship
Sharon Webb '26*	Technology
Anita Laughery '27*	Worship and Music
Bob Frank '25	

At Paxton Presbyterian Church, we believe that every person is a beloved child of God, made in God's image and worthy of love, dignity, and belonging. Rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be a welcoming and affirming community for all people - no matter their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, mental or physical ability, or religious background.



Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



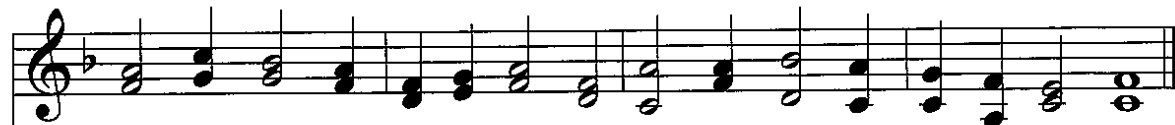
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



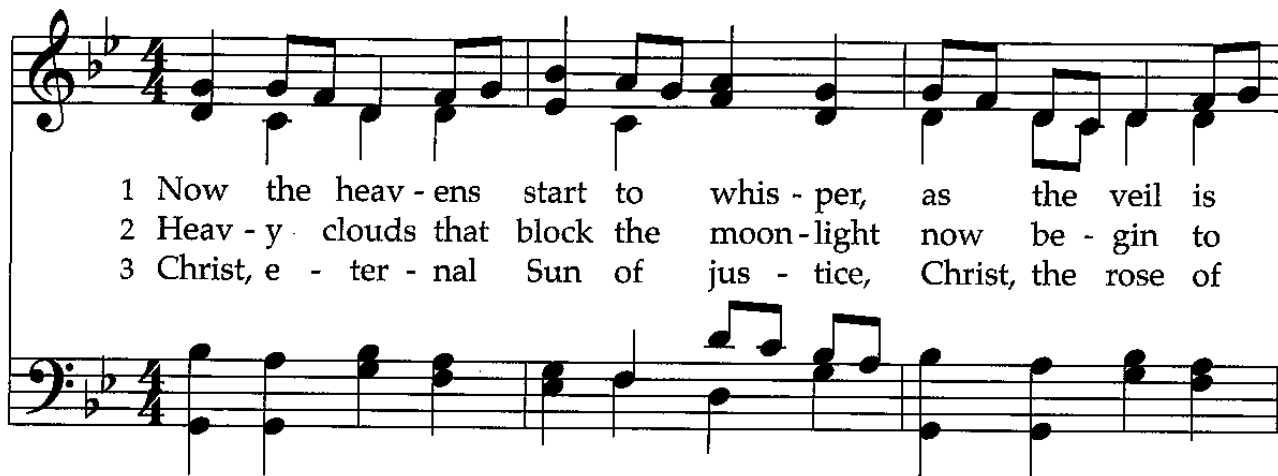
To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.



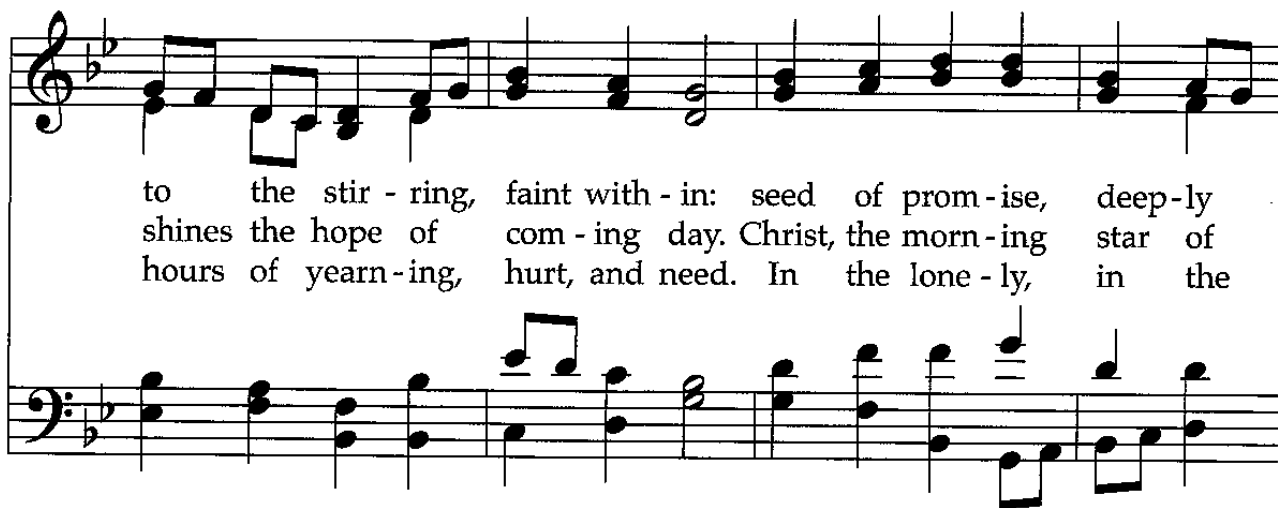
94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

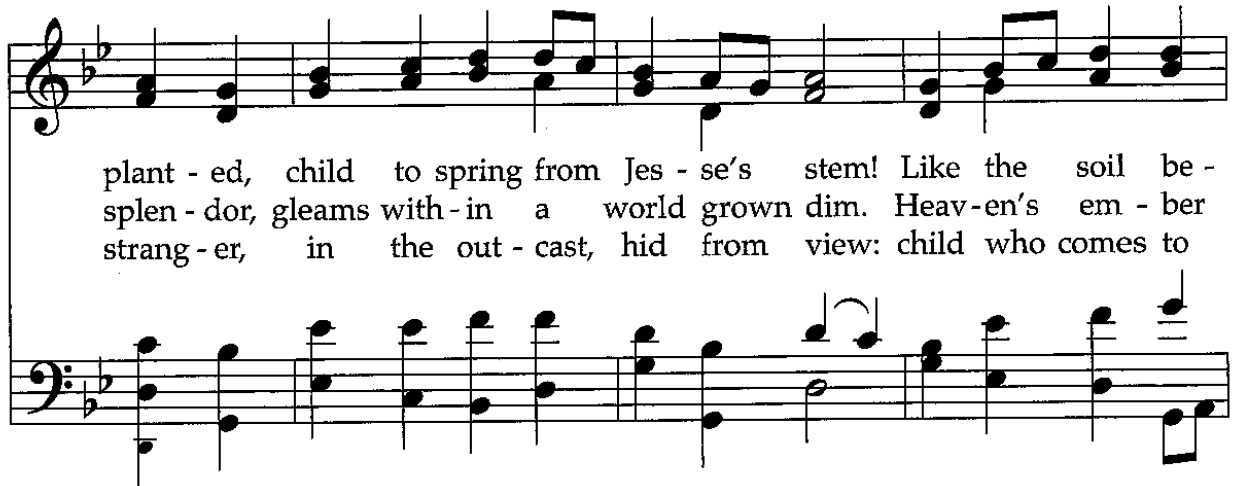


grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance

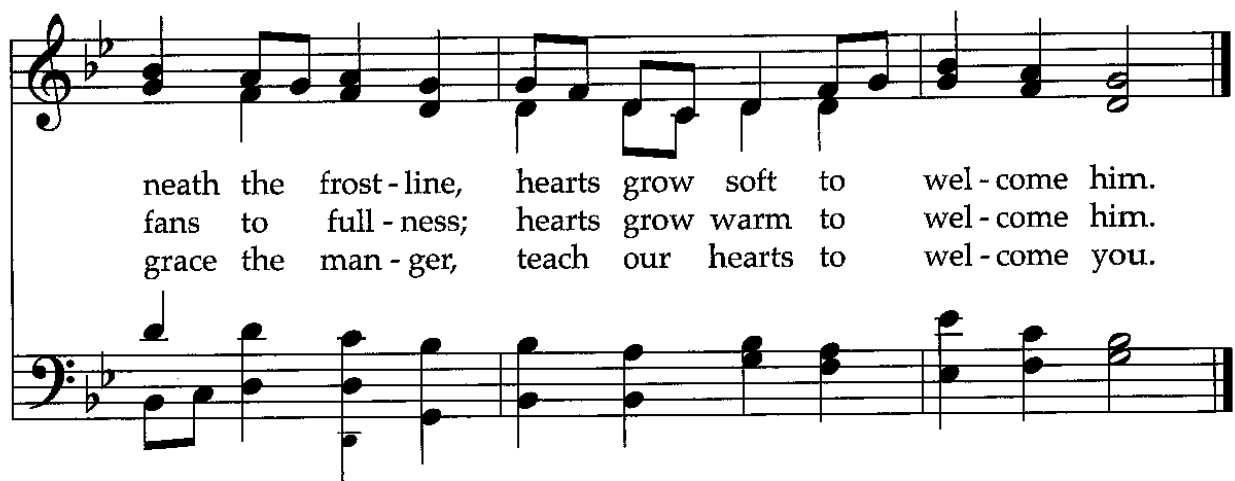


to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to



neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

105 People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crow - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look

a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:

Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)