Westminster Presbyterian Church

November 28, 2021
1st Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements **Joel Chupp**

Prelude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" TRADITIONAL/ARR. DON WYRTZEN

Let us open our hearts and minds to the rhythm of the gathering music as it centers us in God's presence for worship.

***Gathering Words** **Ferenc Relle**
*The * in the liturgy indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

Can one be homesick for something you've never known?
We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers,
for the end of suffering.

Yes, we are homesick—
for joy that is contagious,
for nations that feel like neighbors, and for hospitals that run empty.

We are homesick for the world God promises.
We are homesick, but we are on our way.
God is here. God is still creating.
Let us worship Holy God.

***Lighting the Candle of Hope** **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

We hope for a world where all are fed.
We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.
We hope for a world with wide open doors.

We hope for a world with contagious laughter.
We hope for a world where trees grow tall, and creeks run clean.
We hope for a world where all people feel at home—in their bodies,
in the church, in their physical homes.

We hope for that world.
We long for that world.
We are homesick for that world.

So today we light the candle of hope because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.
May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.
We are close to home. May we carry hope with us. Amen.

***Opening Hymn No. 82** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

Call to Confession **Candy Relle**

When you're a kid and you get homesick at a sleepover or a summer camp, you call home and your parents come and get you. Sometimes, that's what love looks like. Love bails us out.

In the same way, when we call upon God to confess that we've messed up, or forgotten something, or overlooked the truth, God answers with grace. God answers with love. So let us confess today, knowing that nothing could keep God from loving us.

Prayer of Confession **Candy Relle**

Gracious God,
We find ourselves with two options every day—
to stay homesick for the world you had in mind,
or to allow cynicism to win.

Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?
Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible?

Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.
Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world.
Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness **Candy Relle**

Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel,
even when we give up on hope,
God does not give up on us.
We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home.
So hear and trust this good news:

There is room for us in God's house,
and nothing can separate us from that love.
We are claimed. We are forgiven.
We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Musical Response "Meditation on **Veni Emmanuel**" GILBERT MARTIN

Prayer of Illumination **Joel Chupp**

Scripture Reading Luke 21:25-36 **Joel Chupp**

25 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by
the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the
world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud'
with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near."

29 Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see
for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you
know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have
taken place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of
this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, 35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the
face of the whole earth. 36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things
that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Homily **Joel Chupp**

***Hymn (printed music at end)** "See Fig Leaves Now Sprouting" REV. ANNA STRICKLAND

Sharing Joys and Concerns **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

Prayer of the People **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

We ask through the power of your Spirit and in the name of Jesus the Christ,
who taught us to pray, saying:

Our God in heaven, holy is your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn No. 88** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL
Verses 1, 2, 6, 7

***Benediction** **Joel Chupp**

Postlude "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" GEORG BOHM

The service continues with refreshments and fellowship.

To assure the safety of all, currently we are not passing the offering plates. They are in the back of the sanctuary. We invite you to place your gifts there. Thank you for your generosity.

Note: Prayers were adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Music:	Piano	Mary-Marie Deauclaire
	Drums	Divine Gbagbo
	Organ	Ken Shafer
Tech. Assistant/Event Steward		Tony Mendiola
Refreshments		Candy Relle
Flowers		Candy Relle
Sunday Assistant		Candy Relle

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Office Administrator Judy Mowrer
Minister of Music and Worship Arts Dr. Divine Gbagbo
Worship Accompanists Mary-Marie Deauclaire, Ken Shafer
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola
Custodian Kara Akers

353 East Pine Street, Wooster, OH 44691 Phone: 330-263-2398
Office Hours: 9am–noon, Tuesday through Friday
Website: www.wpcwooster.org or www.facebook.com/wpcwooster

Westminster Presbyterian Church strives to be a safe place for all people to worship regardless of ethnicity, creed, age, cultural background, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)

See Fig Leaves Now Sprouting

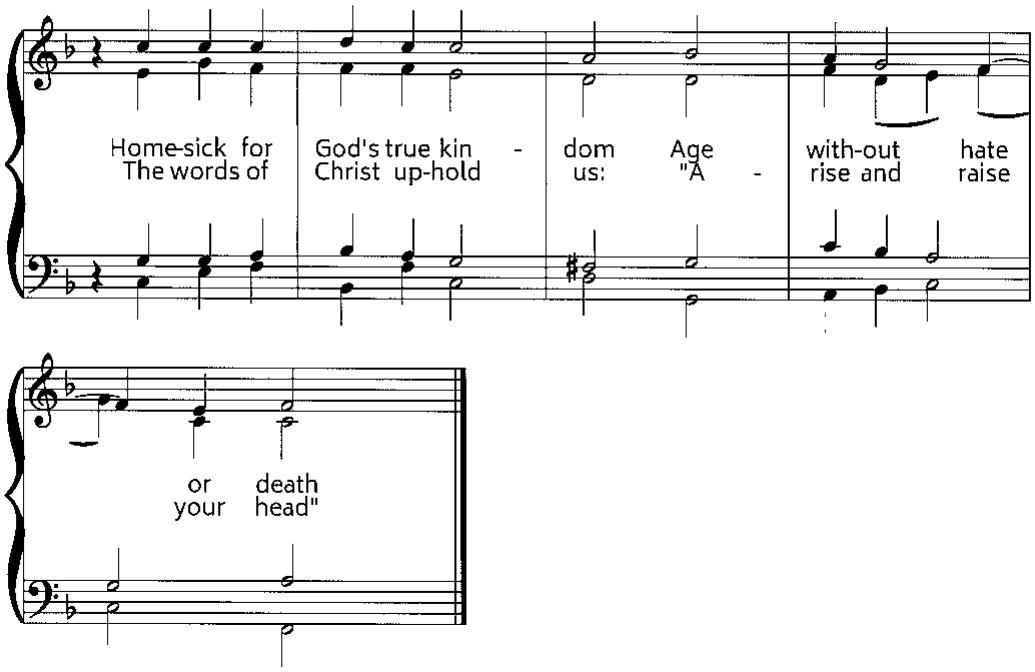
ES IST EIN' ROS' 7.6.7.6.6.7.6

Text: Anna Strickland (2021) Music: Geisliche Kirchengasäng (1599)



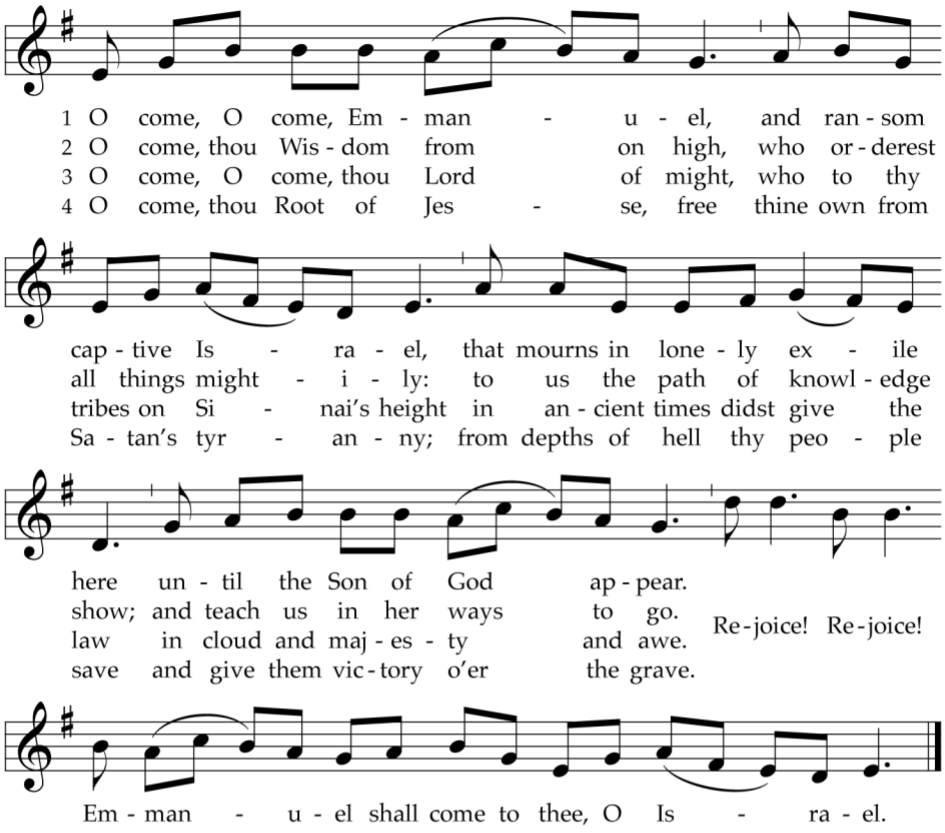
© Anna Strickland, 2021. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC. Free for congregational use.

2



© Anna Strickland, 2021. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC. Free for congregational use.

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)
Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)
Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)
Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)
Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)
Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)
Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with refrain