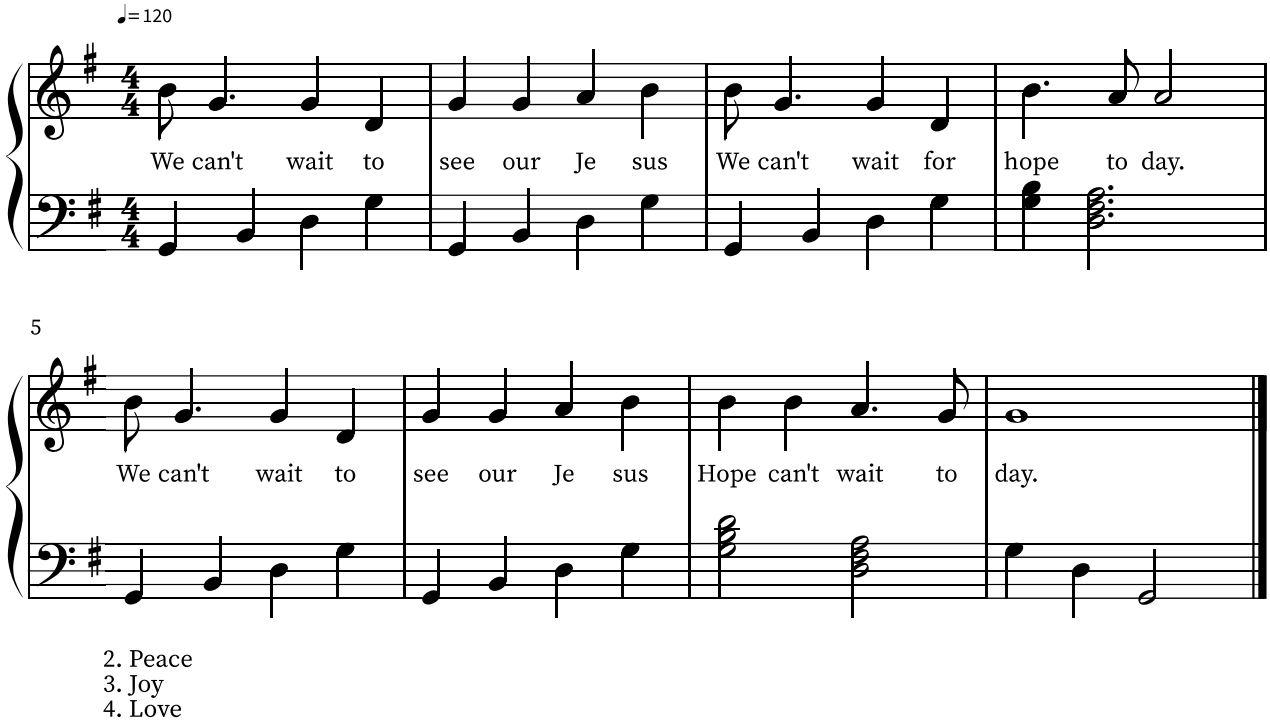
Westminster
Presbyterian Church
353 E. Pine St., Wooster, OH. 44691
330-263-2398 / wpcwooster.org

December 11, 2022
Third Sunday in Advent

Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

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 Song **"We Can't Wait"** **Pam Funai**



2. Peace
3. Joy
4. Love

Candle Lighting Litany **Cheryl and Bill Weiss**

What brings you joy?
Hear the answers of different generations from our community:

Sunshine.
Sleeping in my own bed after a night away.
My loved one's laugh.
Bedtime books.
Being outdoors.
Good ending for kids from hard places.
Giving and receiving kindness.
Connection to God.

Today we light the candle of joy.
May its light remind us of all the good news this season brings.
May its light remind us of the many sources of joy in our lives and may
that joy not only draw us closer to one another, but closer to God. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn No. 106** **"Prepare the Way, O Zion"** **Bereden Vag For Herran**

Call to Confession **Cheryl Weiss**

According to psychologists, it only takes a tenth of a second for us to look at someone's face and determine a stereotype about who they are. With decisions happening that quickly, it is not hard to imagine why we might need this moment of confession.

The prayer of confession is an opportunity to slow down. We take that tenth of a second and give it room to breathe. We reflect on the decisions that we've made this past week and we ask for God's mercy to be in all of them.

And without fail, God wiggles God's self into the cracks of our lives, and we are made better for it. So with that confidence, let us go to God in prayer:

Prayer of Confession **Cheryl Weiss**

God of mercy, a million times a day
we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others,
to give the benefit of the doubt.
A million times a day we could choose the better way,
but so often we don't.

Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.
Comparison and critique lead the charge.

Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph.
Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood.
Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.
Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,
and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response #90 **"Wait for the Lord" (refrain sung multiple times)** **Taize, Berthier**

Assurance of Forgiveness **Cheryl Weiss**

Family of Faith, hear this good news:
We who have chosen wrong, are given a second chance.

We who have lost our way, are welcomed into community.
We who feel alone, are seen, held, and known.

This is the good news of the gospel.
No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way,
God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Musical Offering **"When He Comes"** **G. Parker**

We offer our gifts of money, talents, time, and energy—the gifts of our lives in gratitude for God's relentless love and grace for all. These gifts represent our commitment to heed God's call and join God in God's mission of healing and transforming our world.

Prayer of Illumination **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading **Matthew 1:18-25** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**
(Common English Bible translation)

18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. **19** Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. **20** As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit.**21** She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." **22** Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

23 *Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,*
And they will call him, Emmanuel. (*Emmanuel* means "God with us.")

24 When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. **25** But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

Sermon **We Can Choose a Better Way** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

***Hymn** **"A Better Way"** **text by Rev. Anna Strickland**
(Tune: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen")

Sharing of Joys and Concerns **Bill and Cheryl Weiss**

Prayer of the People **Bill and Cheryl Weiss**

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 kin-dom 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. 110__ __"Love Has Come"__ __Bring a Torch/French Melody__

__*Benediction__ __Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy__

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation,
we have been claimed and loved.
From generation to generation, God has been by our side.
From generation to generation, we are not alone.

The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name,
loves you, and calls you forth, saying,
"Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."
May it be so. Amen.

__Postlude__ __Chorale prelude on "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"__ __J S Bach__

*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*The words for worship were *Adapted from a liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org."*

*Music: Tom Shaw – Organ
Ken Shafer – Piano
Bob Iams – Piano
*Flowers: Dorothy Iams
*Treats: Cheryl Weiss

The service continues with fellowship.



To continue to assure the safety of all, the offering plate is located on a table in the back of the sanctuary. If you are moved to support our ministry, we invite you to place your gifts in the plate.

You may also give online through our website by clicking on the "GIVE NOW" button at the bottom of the home page.

GIVE NOW

Your generosity helps us to fulfill our calling to engage in God's transformative mission in our community.

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 11, Third Sunday in Advent
- Choir Rehearsal – 9 am – The Meeting Place
- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10:30 am – The Meeting Place

Wednesday, December 14
- Final Advent Dinner Conversation – 6 pm – Mackey Hall

Thursday, December 15
- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place

Friday, December 16
- Salvation Army bell ringing 9 am -3 pm, Save a Lot
-

Sunday, December 18, Fourth Sunday in Advent – Commitment Sunday
- Choir Rehearsal – 9 am – The Meeting Place
- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10:30 am – The Meeting Place

Westminster Presbyterian Church
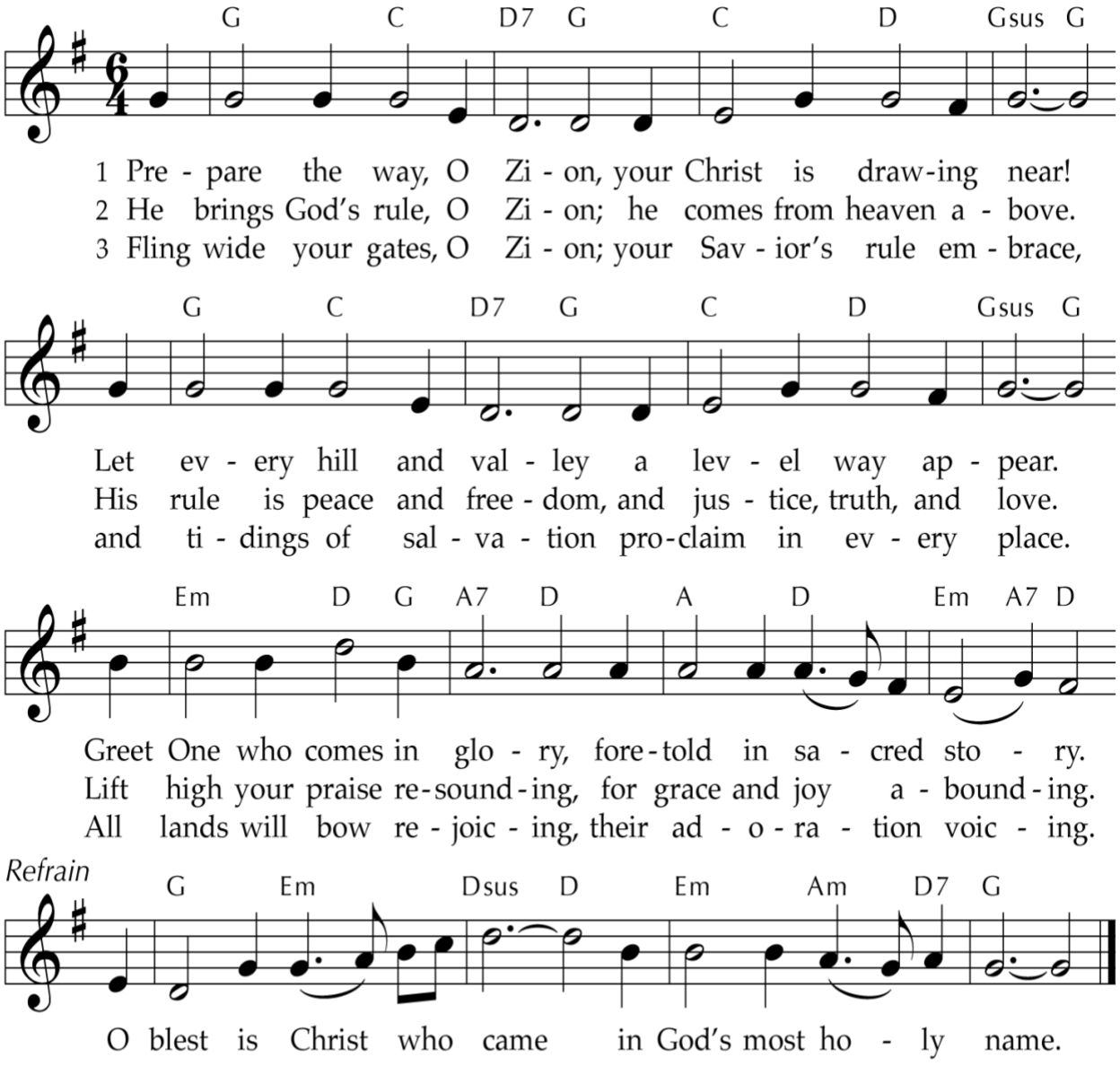
Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Minister of Music Rev. Dr. Thomas Shaw
Office Administrator Rev. Dr. Jim Henery
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola
Custodian Kara Akers

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.

wpcwooster@gmail.com: 330.263.2398
facebook.com/wpcwooster | instagram.com/wpc_wooster/

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.

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.
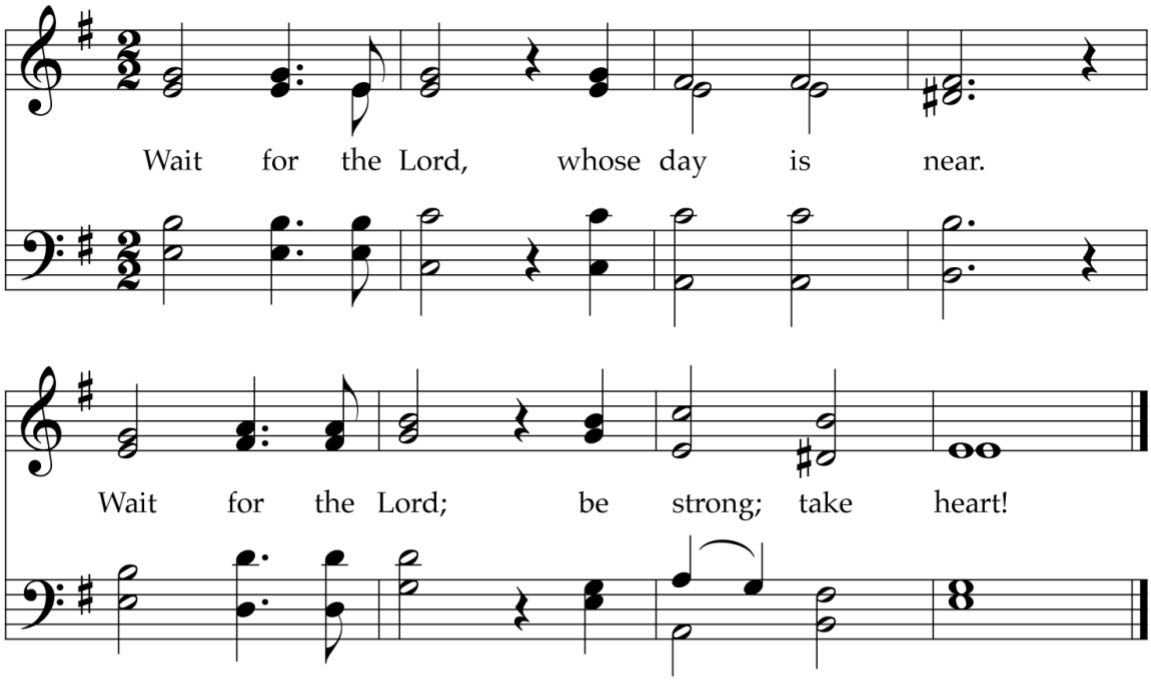
TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958; adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.
MUSIC: *Then Swenska Psalmboken,* 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal,* 1930
Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

90 Wait for the Lord

(Psalm 27)

Refrain



PSALM 27

Refrain

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?
the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

2 **When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,**
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

3 Though an army should encamp against me,
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

and though war should rise up against me,
yet will I put my trust in the LORD.

4 One thing have I asked of the LORD;
one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

to behold the fair beauty of the LORD,
to seek God in the temple. *Refrain*

5 For on the day of trouble the LORD shall shelter me in safety;
the LORD shall hide me in the secrecy of the holy place
and set me high upon a rock.

6 **Even now the LORD lifts up my head**
above my enemies round about me.

Therefore I will offer in the holy place an oblation
with sounds of great gladness;
I will sing and make music to the LORD. *Refrain*
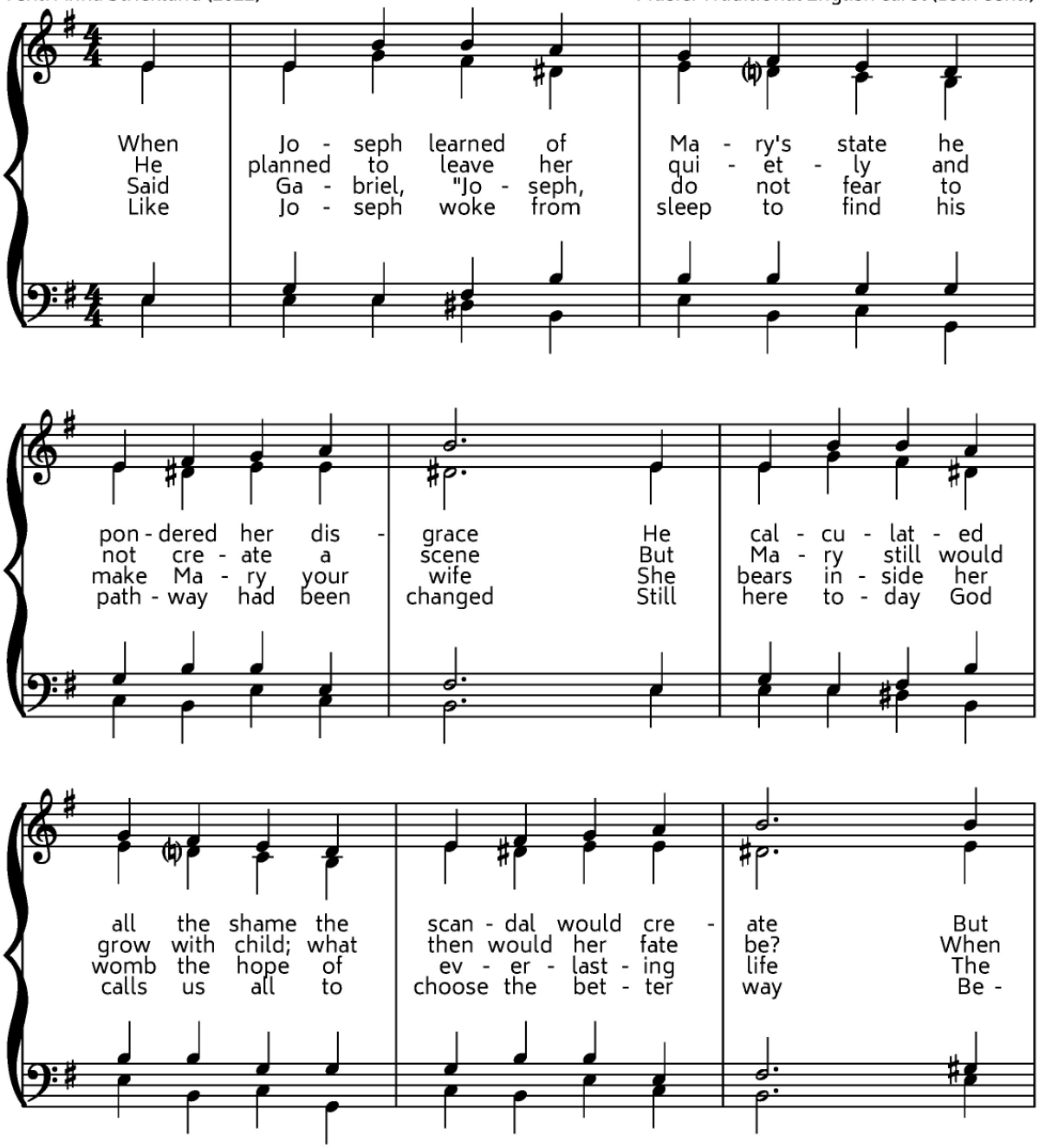
The refrain for this psalm, drawn from Psalm 27:14, comes from the ecumenical Community of Taizé in France and is most effective when sung in parts. With repeated singing, it can also be used by itself as a contemplative prayer and is especially appropriate in Advent.

A Better Way
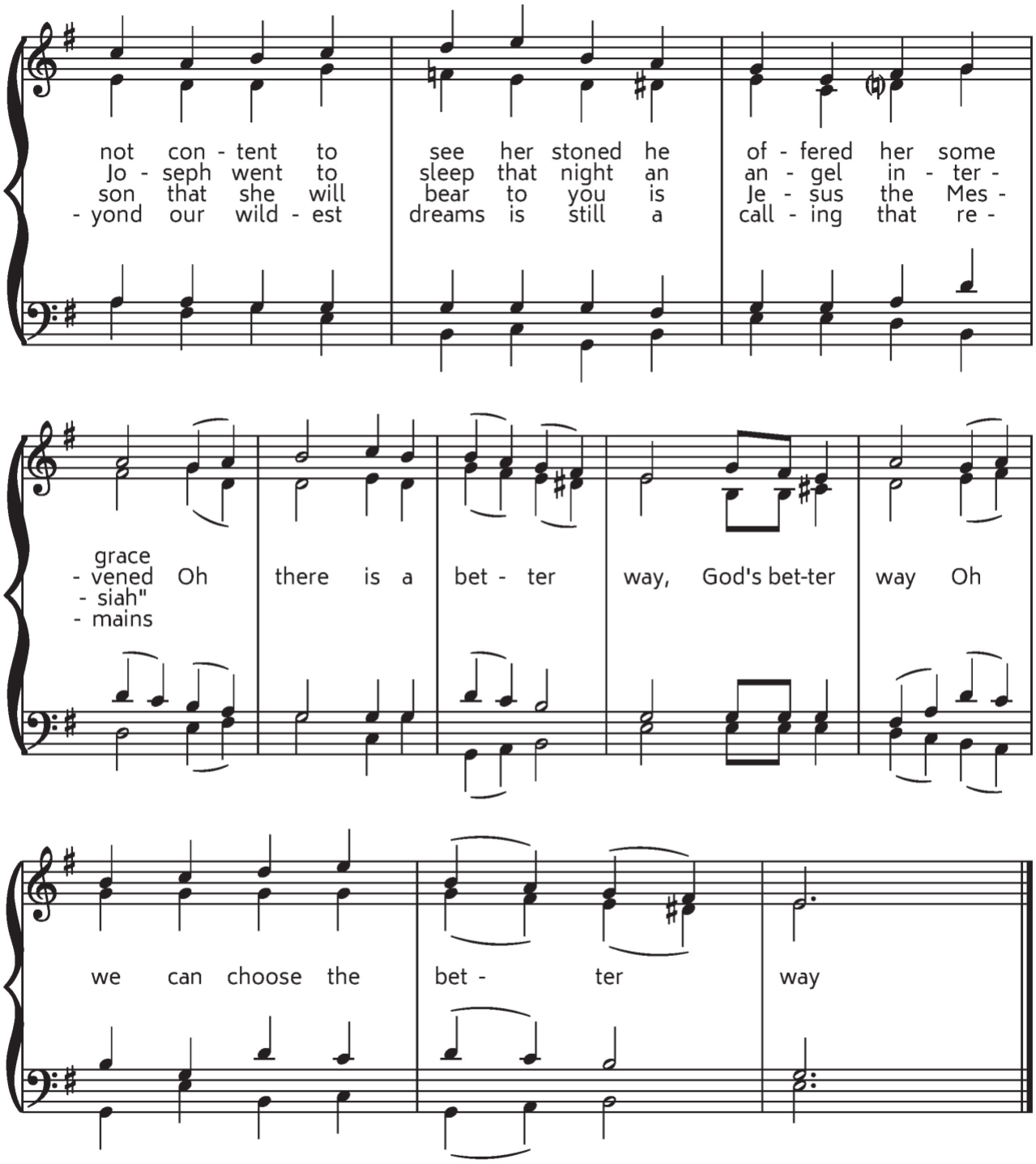
GOD REST YOU MERRY 8.6.8.6.8.6 with refrain

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)
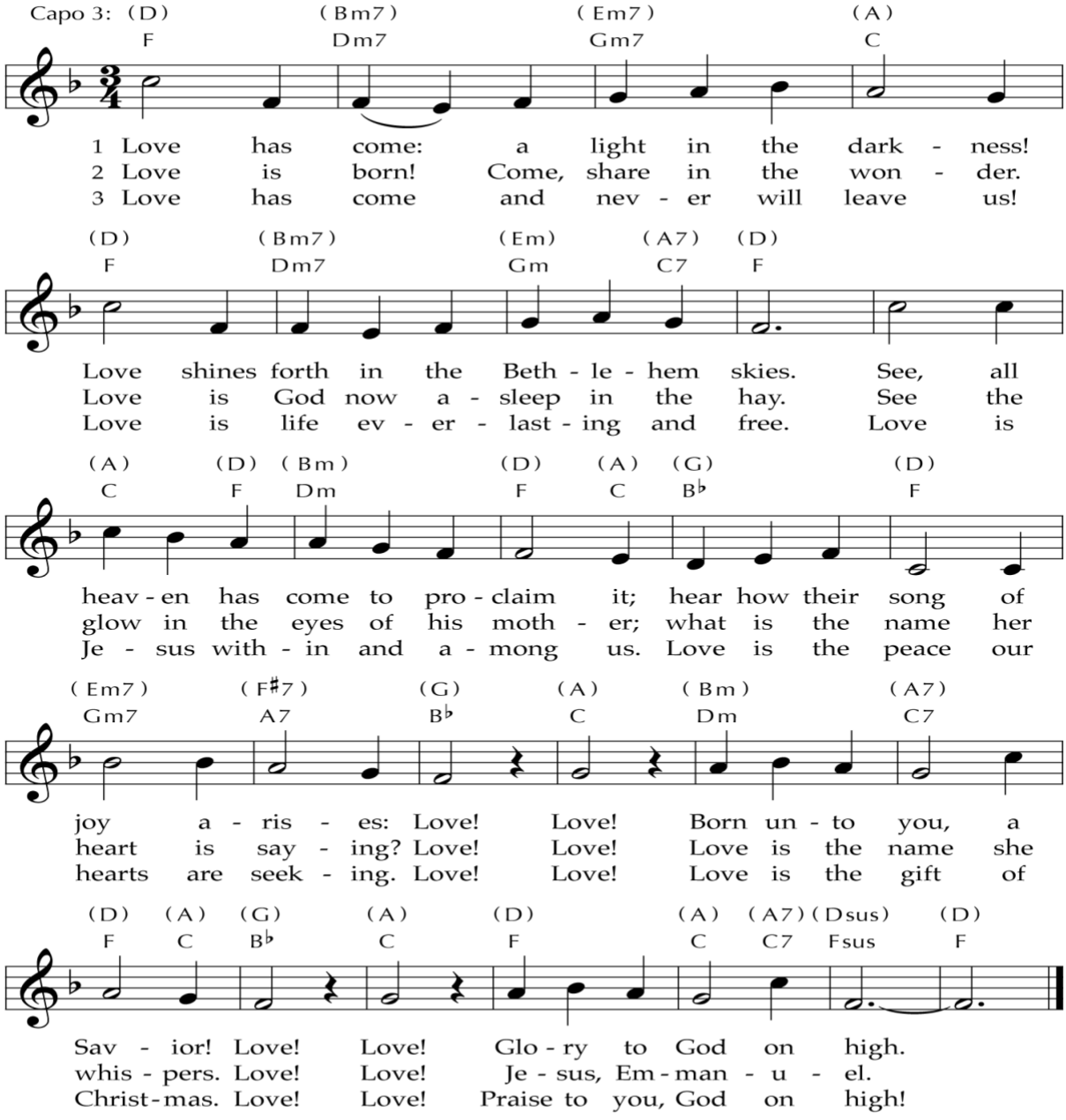
Music: Traditional English carol (18th cent.)



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not con - tent to see her stoned he of - fered her some
Jo - seph went to sleep that night an an - gel in - ter -
son that she will bear to you is Je - sus the Mes -
- yond our wild - est dreams is still a call - ing that re -
grace
- vened Oh there is a bet - ter way, God's bet-ter way Oh
- siah"
- mains
we can choose the bet - ter way

Love Has Come 110



Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

TEXT: Ken Bible, 1996
MUSIC: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012
Text © 1996 LNWhymns.com (admin. Music Services)
Music Arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

BRING A TORCH
9.9.10.9.9.8