



10:30 am Worship Service  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2024



+ stand, as able  
UMH = red United Methodist Hymnal. TFWS = black The Faith We Sing hymnal supplement

## GATHERING

Prelude: O Rex Genitum – Cecilia McDowall

Welcome & Announcements

+Call to Worship

Rejoice in God our Savior!

**Our souls magnify the Sacred.**

For God has done great things for us.

**God looks with favor on all who serve Love.**

God uplifts the overlooked and underrepresented  
**and tears down the powerful from their thrones.**

God fills the hungry

**and redistributes the resources of the rich.**

The promises made to the ancestors of our faith are fulfilled.

**Blessed are those who believe.**

A new day is dawning.

**Christ is being birthed among us.**

+Entrance Hymn: O come, O come, Emmanuel (UMH 211 vv. 1, 5-7 – see bulletin)

+Opening Prayer

Advent Wreath Repair the Harm with Love

Witness

Candle litany\*\*

Because hurt people, hurt people, we enter the Advent season to be healed.

May God heal us so that we would become the repairers of harm.

**“O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.”**

Advent 1, we lit the candle of hope and said:

**hope is the courage and discipline  
of imagining healing and working toward healing.**

Advent 2, we lit the candle of peace and said:

**peace is shalom that restores  
through justice and righteousness.**

Advent 3, we lit the candle of Joy and said:

**joy is a response to God  
who speaks that which did not exist into becoming.**

Today we light the candle of love and say

**Love is the power that heals.**

In the words of Cornel West: Justice is what love looks like in public

In the words of Thomas Merton: Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.

In the words of First Church member Fay Godman, "I trust that God is love - the power that evokes, and energizes humans to relate, redeem, and to celebrate one another - over time."

**"O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me."**

In her book, "A Theology of Love", Mildren Bangs Wynkoop writes: Love is outreach. Love destroys indifference, isolationism, the pride that cuts off fellowship, partiality, aloofness, exclusiveness.

Christmas is God's mission outreach!

Response: He came down (TFWS 2085 singing "Love")

## WORD

Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

+Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia



Words: Philipp Nicolai, 1599, trans. William Mercer.

Music: *Wie schön leuchtet*, Philipp Nicolai.

+Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-56

Hear what the Spirit says to the church.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

+Gospel Acclamation

*Children may come forward for time with Young Disciples*

Time with Young Disciples

Sermon

## RESPONSE

Hymn: Canticle of the turning (see bulletin)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

+The Peace

## Offertory Anthem: Anthem: Ave Maria – Franz Biebl

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae  
concepit de Spiritu sancto.

The angel of the Lord made his annunciation  
to Mary and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum;  
benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui Jesus.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;  
blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini;  
fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

Mary said, "Behold the servant of the Lord;  
let it be unto me according to Your word."

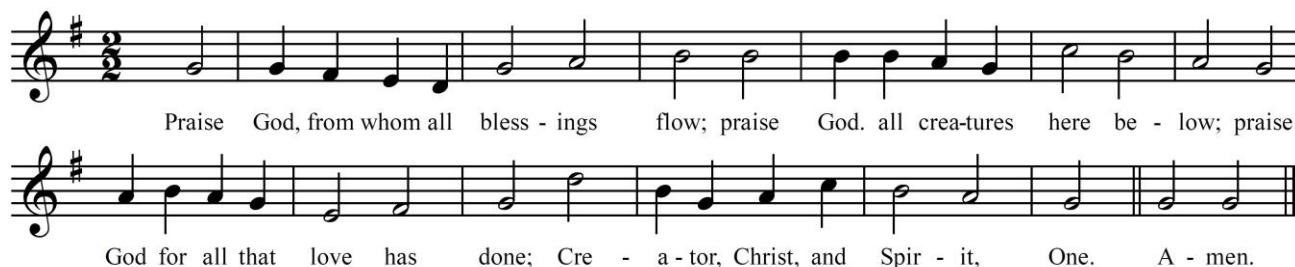
Et verbum caro factum est  
et habitavit in nobis.

And the Word was made flesh  
and dwelt among us.

Sancta Maria, mater Dei,  
ora pro nobis peccatoribus.  
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis  
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Holy Mary, mother of God,  
pray for us sinners.  
Holy Mary, pray for us  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## +Presentation Hymn: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God. all crea-tures here be - low; praise  
God for all that love has done; Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Spir - it, One. A - men.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. William B. Abernethy    Adapt. © 1995 The Pilgrim Press  
Music: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Old 100th

## +Offertory Prayer

### SENDING

## +Sending Hymn: Singing promise on the way (see bulletin) [OB]

### +Benediction

### +Benediction Response: Amen



A - men!    A - men!    Come, Lord Je - sus!    Crown of glad - ness,  
we are yearn - ing    for the day of    your re - turn - ing.

Words: Philipp Nicolai, 1599, trans. William Mercer.  
Music: *Wie schön leuchtet*, Philipp Nicolai.

## Postlude: O Clavis David – Cecilia McDowall

*The postlude is the final musical offering of our worship service.  
All are invited to remain in the Sanctuary for a time of prayer.  
After worship, all are invited to a time of fellowship in the Great Hall.  
As per our Safe Sanctuary commitment, children must be signed in/out from third-floor classrooms  
following the Time with Young Disciples and end of worship.*

## **Worship Leadership**

**Preacher:** Rev. Britt Cox

**Liturgist:** Rev. Grace Imathiu and Sydney Harkrider

**Scripture Reader:** Elizabeth Raymond

**Modern Mary:** Zoe D.

**Repair the Harm Witness:** Jessica Chadwick

**Advent Wreath:** Sierra Radcliffe

**\*\*excerpts from Jim Hagedorn reflections about Advent**

**Acolyte:** Benjamin L

**Cross Bearer:** Bruce Greene

**Time with Young Disciples:** Colin McDonald

**Minister of Music & Organist:** Dr. Brian Schoettler

**Music Assistant:** Cody Michael Bradley

**Chancel Choir**

**AV:** Terrance Alexander and volunteers

**Usher Captains:** Ed Webler (December); Carol Barnett (January)

*First Church celebrates Communion (Eucharist) every Sunday: in the Sanctuary at the 10:30am service on the first Sunday of the month and in Tittle Chapel at 11:45 am on all the other Sundays. All are invited.*

*The altar poinsettia today are given with gratitude to the Spiritual Formation Committee for the the Advent Devotional 2024. This week our Advent guides are: Marge Bradford (Sunday), Jean Clipperton (Monday), Sydney Harkrider (Tuesday) You can download the Advent Devotional or get a printed copy from the church office.*

*Liturgy written by Enfleshed.*

# O come, O come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our  
6. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thy  
7. O come, De - sire of na - tions bind all peo - ples in one

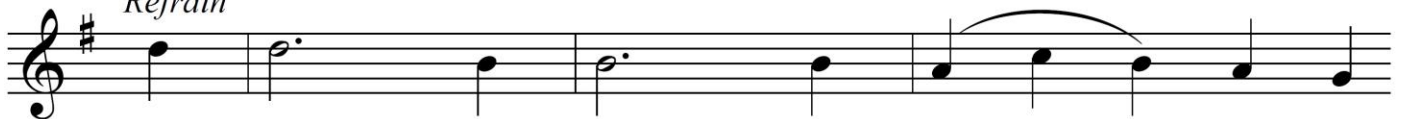


Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
heaven - ly home. The cap - tives from their pris - on  
jus - tice here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
free, and con - quer death's deep mis - er - y.  
night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
life, de - liv - er us from earth - ly strife.

## Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

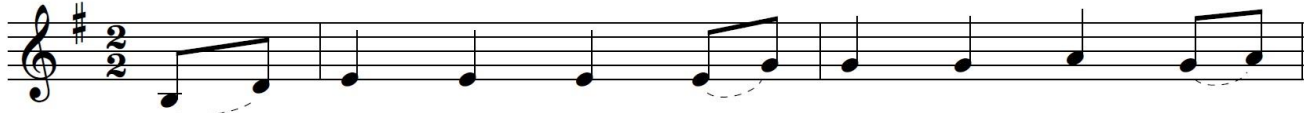
WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. from *The Hymnal* (1940) and by Laurence Hull Stookey (1986)

MUSIC: 15th cent. French, arr. by Thomas Helmore (1854)

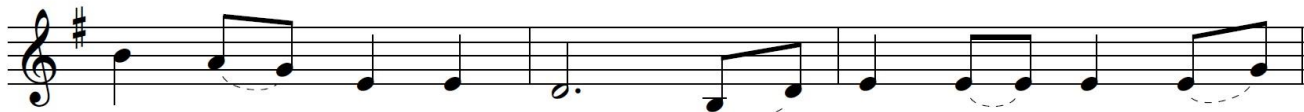
Translations © The Church Pension Fund and The United Methodist Publishing House.

# Canticle of the Turning

## Verses



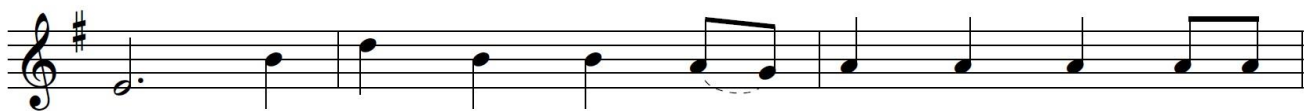
1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



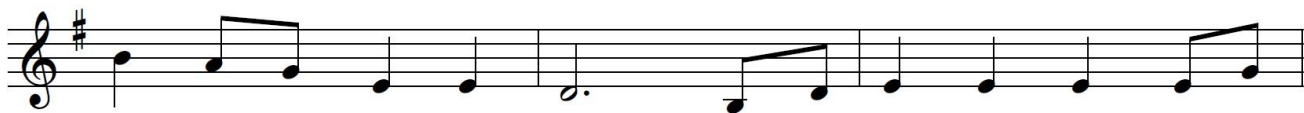
God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the  
work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who  
depths of the past to the end of the age to  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing



wait. You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
be. Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
throne. The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
grasp. 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 - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be

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!

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.  
 Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN; Irish traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952

# Singing Promise on the Way

1. Sing - ing prom - ise on the way, join the saints' sur - round - ing cho - rus.  
2. Sing - ing prom - ise on the way, saints of old set forth, not know - ing  
3. Sing - ing prom - ise on the way, Ma - ry has - tened to a meet - ing  
4. Sing - ing prom - ise on the way, ven - ture bold - ly toward to - mor - row.

Look to Je - sus as you go, see the joy God sets be - fore us.  
where their paths would wend or end, trust - ing God to bless their go - ing.  
with E - liz - a - beth, and there sound - ed out a po - tent greet - ing:  
Go to pray, to love, to serve; jour - ney on through joy and sor - row.

Christ, who makes the way of grace, beck - ons us to run the race.  
Trav' - lers all, they lived by faith, hope's as - sur - ance was their breath.  
"Mer - cy's prom - ise makes us free. Mag - ni - fy my God with me!"  
With good cour - age, hope's bright ray, God still sends the saints to - day.