



Hope begins in the dark — Anne Lamott



PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023

Prelude

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Dan Forest

Advent Candle Lighting

Andy & Cheri Houha

We light a candle for hope, sending prayers high into the inky
heavens and dreams deep into the human soul. As Advent dawns,
God of all hope, shine your light on the story of the saints who
journeyed before us. May the seeds they planted in the world – peace,
joy, love – take hold in our hearts and stretch towards the light.

We light a candle for hope. May it light the way.

Greetings

Rev. Henrietta Brown

Introit

Star of Heaven

Hannibal/Nix

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Colin Knapp

O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!
Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.

Be alert! Keep awake!

The time is drawing near: the beginning of the good news of
Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

***Opening Hymn**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stzs 1,2,6,7)

p. 3

***Opening Prayer**

Samantha Behensky

Confession

Rev. Colin Knapp

**God-with-us,
we confess that we have become distracted,
even weary, in our discipleship.
We keep busy schedules; we rush about.
Captivated by technology,
seduced by the lure of consumer goods,
we do not remain alert to Your divine presence
in our lives, in the church, in our world.
Make us better doorkeepers of our lives,
watching for You attentively.
In our darkness, be the true light.
In our longing, rekindle the hope of Your Advent.**

*A time of silence is kept as we name the areas of our lives where we need hope and long for God's healing
and redemption. All are invited to come forward and leave their prayer cards on the Communion table.*

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | |

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. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

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

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends believe the good news:
Christ comes to make all things new,
in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Response

Waiting For You

Waiting for You

Lenora Rand

Hannah Rand

The musical score is written on two staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two lines of the song, and the second staff contains the third line, starting with a measure rest marked with an '8'.

We are wait - ting for you. We are wait - ting for you.

8
We are wait - ing for that glo-ri-a in ex-cel - sis De - o.

A Reading

A Plagued Journey

Maya Angelou

Children's Message

Maureen Deahl

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

One: This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Where Does Hope Come From?

Rev. Colin Knapp

Anthem

The Yearning

Courtney

Prayer for the Offering

Samantha Behensky

*Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God above you heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise

Therefore we praise You, joining our voices with the angels
and with all the company of heaven, who forever proclaim the glory
of Your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus
Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy
and living sacrifice, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

Lord's Prayer *All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the manner of their choosing, included below is one version:*

Our Father (Mother, Creator), 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Hymn *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* p. 6

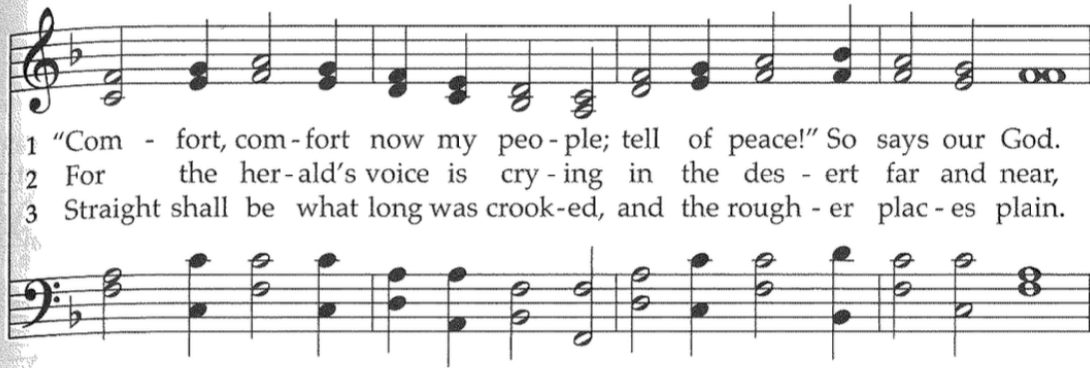
Announcements

***Closing Hymn** *Soon and Very Soon* p. 7

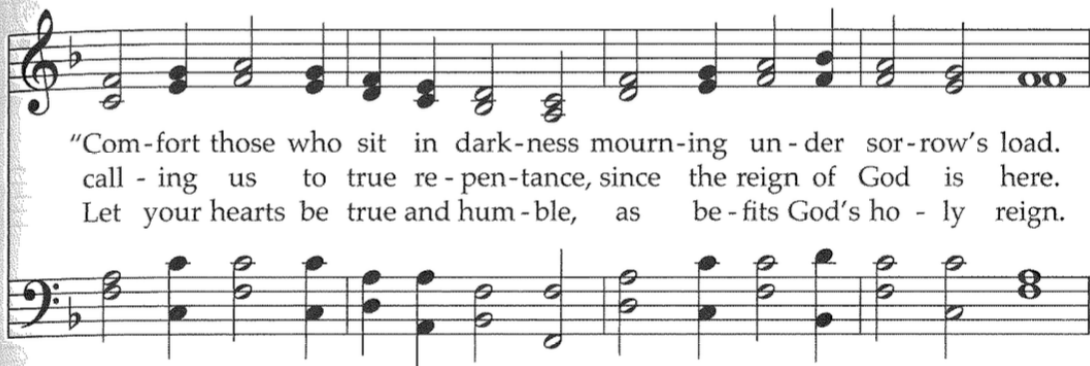
***Benediction** Rev. Colin Knapp

Postlude *Wake, Awake, a Voice Astounds Us* J.S.Bach

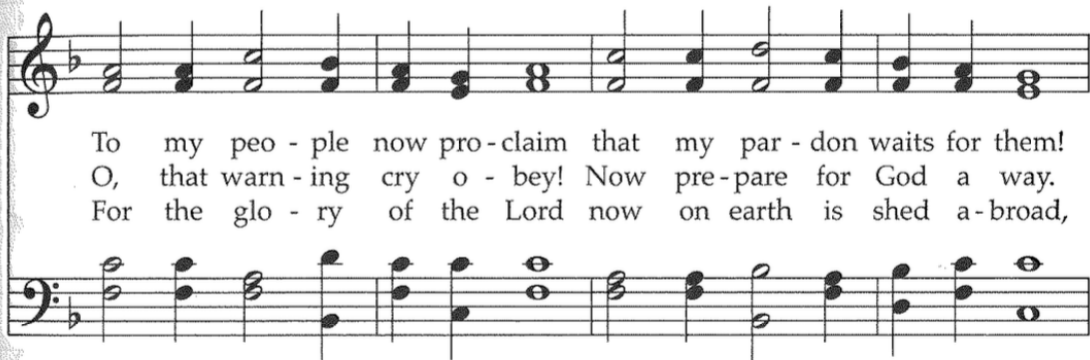
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



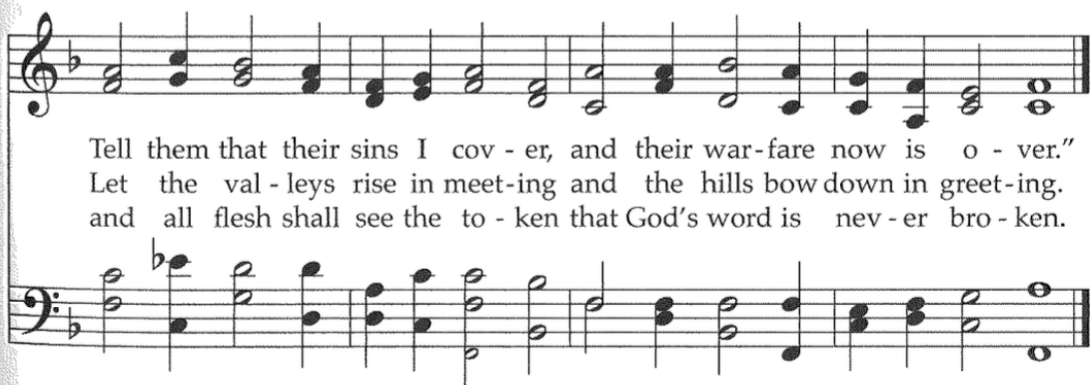
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo-ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry-ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"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,



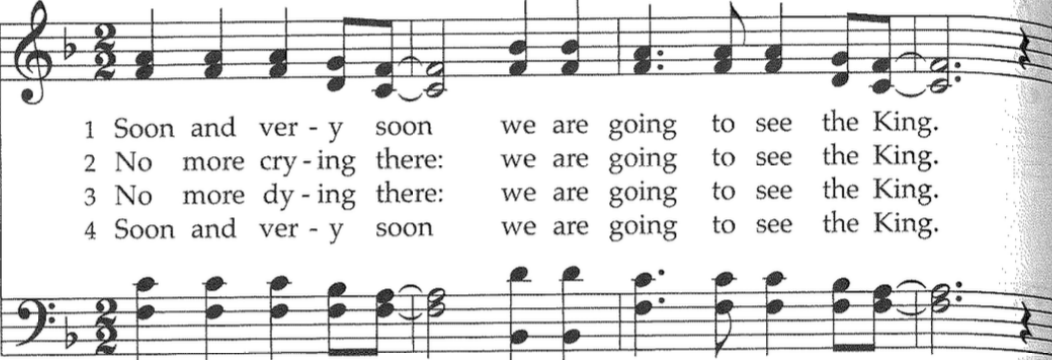
Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folk song.

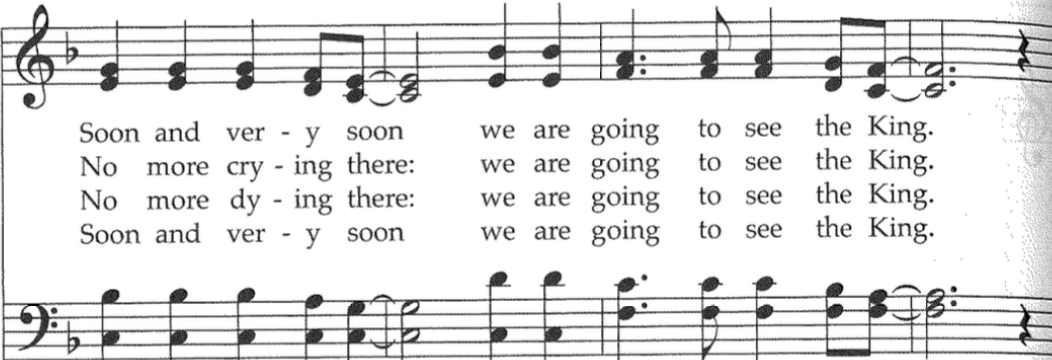
TEXT: Johannes Olearius, 1671; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

GENEVAN 42
 8.7.8.7.7.8.8

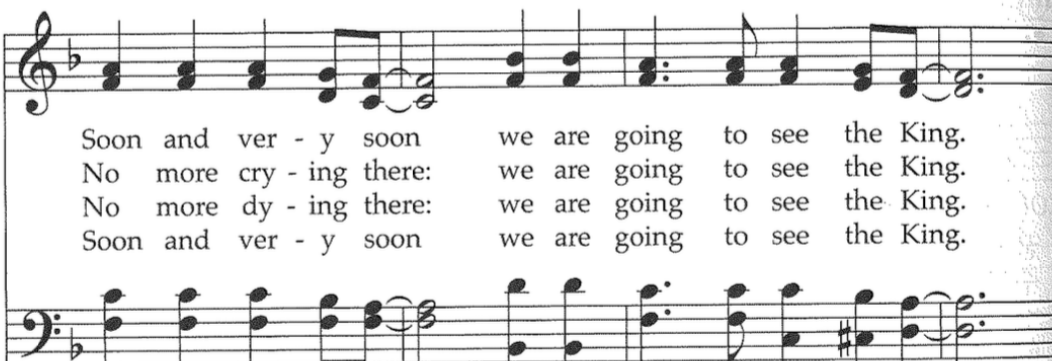
384 Soon and Very Soon



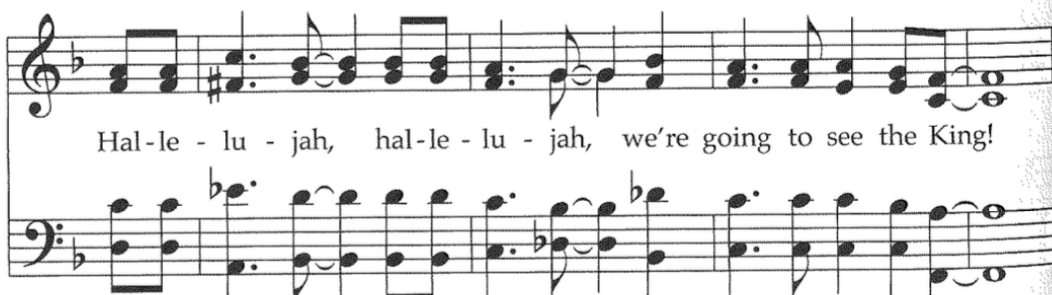
1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.

TEXT and MUSIC: Andraé Crouch, 1976

Text and Music © 1976 Crouch Music and Bud John Songs (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)

SOON AND VERY SOON
 12.12.12 with refrain

Nursery Care during worship is available for children ages 5 and under. Please see an usher for location. Today's Nursery Attendants are Katherine Obed & Otto Huber.

Today's Liturgist is Samantha Behensky. Connect Leaders are Cheryl Capps and Bethany Schnipke. Ushers are Bruce Cox and Henry Guerrerio. Our Online Worship Coordinators are Delena Wilkerson, Chuck Behensky, and David Taylor-Glass. Our Sextons are Claudia Divis and Leslie Lauderdale. **We give our thanks** for their important contributions to our worship gathering. Our guest pianist today is Rob Clearfield. Today's prelude and postlude will be improvisations.

A deacon will be available for **healing prayer** every Sunday, after worship, in the front pew.

Announcements

Donut Volunteer Appreciation Potluck

Today, Sunday, December 3, 2023, 11:45 AM

The Donut Committee will be hosting a donut volunteer appreciation lunch after Church in Fellowship Hall. We had an amazing year, and we want to make sure that we continue our donut success. Drinks, chips and donuts will be provided. We would like to recognize our volunteers and solicit feedback on how we could make donut volunteering better next year.

Today is the Deadline to Order Your Christmas Poinsettias!

You are invited to help celebrate the Christmas season by donating poinsettias for the Sanctuary. Cost is \$20 per plant. The order form is back of the sanctuary or you may order online, being sure to specify Flowers. If you order online with an ACH or credit card transaction there's a convenience fee. The link can be found in lower part of the Giving page of Pilgrim's web site. www.pilgrimoakpark.org.

Sunday, December 10, 2023, 9:30 AM

Next week we welcome guest speaker Dr. Arie Zamora, who will share some of his extensive knowledge about the history and complexities of the Israel/Hamas war. Dr. Zamora has been a college and secondary educator in both Israel and the United States, as well as worked on cross-cultural, educational exchanges between Israel, Syria and Palestine.

Sunday, December 17, 10:30 AM

Multi Generational Christmas Pageant

Nothing is more joyous than the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Come and experience the joy with us in worship as we share our Multi-generational Christmas Pageant. We will hear the story through Scripture, instrumental and vocal music, and congregation participation. And of course, we will see the story through shepherds, angels, a band of kings, animals of all sorts, Mary and Joseph, and the baby Jesus.

MIGRANT ASSISTANCE

Community of Congregations has established a Migrant Response Portal through which community members can volunteer their time, expertise and donate money and supplies to support our new neighbors. To volunteer time and talent; or donate, click here: <https://www.communityofcongregations.org/migrant-crisis/>

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