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Gathering those who fear they are not enough,  
so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.

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## Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

*The prophet engages in futuring fantasy. The prophet does not ask if the vision can be implemented, for questions of implementation are of no consequence until the vision can be imagined. The imagination must come before the implementation. Our culture is competent to implement almost anything and to imagine almost nothing. The same royal consciousness that make it possible to implement anything and everything is the one that shrinks imagination because imagination is a danger. Thus every totalitarian regime is frightened of the artist. It is the vocation of the prophet to keep alive the ministry of imagination, to keep on conjuring and proposing futures alternative to the single one the king wants to urge as the only thinkable one.*

– Walter Brueggemann

## Prelude

*Prelude in C Major*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

## Choral Introit

## Lighting the Advent Candle

Kasten family

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.  
As the Lord has promised, in days to come . . .

ONE: The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;

*Isaiah 2:4*

**ALL: nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.**

# Welcome

## \* Song #92

### *While We Are Waiting, Come*

1 While we are wait - ing, come;  
2 With power and glo - ry, come;  
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.  
with power and glo - ry, come.  
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

## Opening Prayer

### Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-9

The biblical book of Isaiah seems to contain the words of at least three different prophets. The book takes its name from a Judean prophet named Isaiah who prophesied from 738 until around 700 B.C.E. His words are found in chapters 1-39. Chapters 40-55 come from an unnamed prophet labeled Second Isaiah or Deutero-Isaiah, who worked during the Babylonian exile (597-539 B.C.E.). Some scholars think chapters 56-66 are also from Second Isaiah, but most suggest a disciple or disciples who used his work as a model. Third Isaiah likely works sometime after 520 B.C.E. following the post-exilic return to Jerusalem.

- 1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —*
- 2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil —  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence*
- 3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.*
- 4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.*
- 5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.*
- 6 We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth  
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.*
- 7 There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity*
- 8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.*
- 9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.*

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

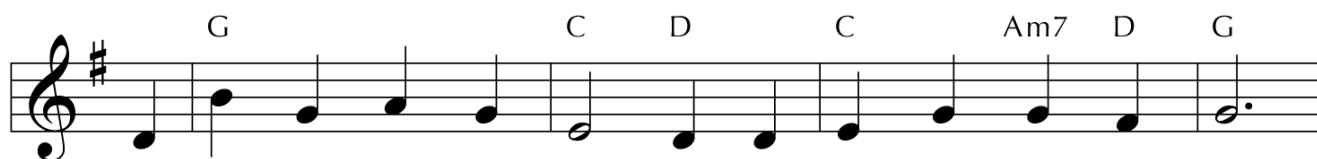
### Reflection

James Sledge

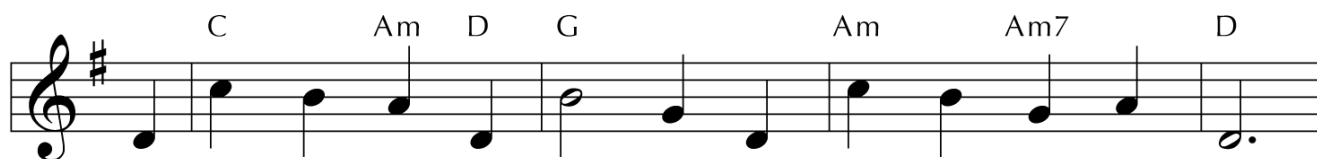
Receiving Gifts and Song #378 (vv. 1, 3 and 4) *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom*



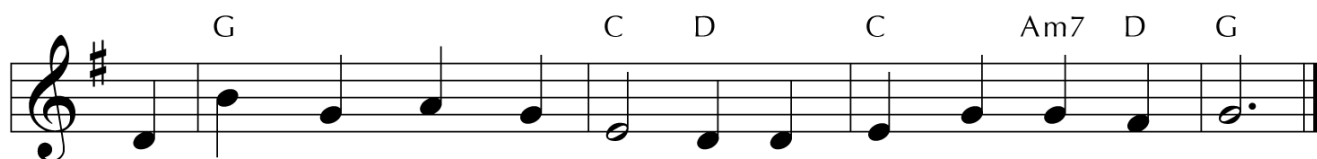
1 We wait the peace - ful king - dom, when wolf and lamb shall lie  
 2 Where is the peace - ful king - dom? When will this new day start?  
 3 When wars of des - o - la - tion and hate come to an end,  
 4 That lit - tle child shall lead us to walk the cho - sen way,



in gen - tle - ness and friend - ship with - out a fear or sigh,  
 We long for peace and com - fort to reign with - in each heart.  
 when na - tion meets with na - tion and calls the oth - er "friend,"  
 to share the peace - ful king - dom, to greet God's new - born day.



when li - on shall be graz - ing, when snake shall nev - er strike;  
 Yet not in our lives on - ly, nor sim - ply in our home:  
 still peace in all its full - ness will on - ly have be - gun:  
 The child born in a sta - ble is sent to break our chains,



a lit - tle child shall lead us both strong and weak a - like.  
 we pray that all cre - a - tion will one day find sha - lom.  
*sha - lom* for all cre - a - tion be - gins with jus - tice done.  
 to bring through word and ta - ble the day when jus - tice reigns.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 11:6–9 in the first stanza, then reflects on that passage in widening frames of reference from self to all creation and identifies its "little child" with one born at Bethlehem. The tune is named for the composer's sister, his first piano teacher.

## Prayers of the People

Julie Kasten

*The Prayers of the People are offered on behalf of and with the congregation, usually by an elder currently serving on Session (governing council). We will sing the following petition prior to the prayer and at its conclusion. During the prayer itself, each petition will be followed by “Lord, in your mercy,” and the response “**Hear our prayer.**”*



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

TEXT and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1982  
Text and Music © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS  
Irregular

*Please keep in your prayers...*

Sally Loyd, John Loyd's mother, diagnosed with Covid-19

Theresa Brown and family on the death of Theresa's aunt, Cheryl Naderman, on  
Nov. 23

Anne Mugler, following surgery on Nov. 25

Marie-Paule Lauterbach, recovering from surgery on Nov. 6

Educators, administrators, and students, as they face the challenges of online  
learning during the pandemic

Those who have lost jobs because of the coronavirus pandemic

Staff and residents of elder care facilities everywhere

First responders, health care providers, caregivers, essential employees, and all who  
put their lives at risk during the coronavirus pandemic

*Continued prayers for...*

Kris Barth, Brenda Buchly, Avery Burns, Chuck and Marty Campbell, Allan Capon,  
Bobbie Conlan, Judy Cornier, Soledad Cuzzi, Sgt. John R. Goldsmith, Steve Graff,  
Mike Hugo, Linda Issacson, Doug Jonas, Nora Long, Nancy Lundien, Rusty  
Lynn, Sandy Martin, Juan Mendoza, Ruth Mileham, Bob Moore, Cort Peret, Laura  
Rainey, Stanley Rusher, Albert Schmid, James Steele, Cathy Stewart, Lawson Swift,  
Doris Webb, Doris Williams, Charles Wirth, Christa Young

## Communion of the People

### Invitation to the Table, Prayer of Thanksgiving, and the Lord's Prayer

**ALL:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as 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.

### Communion Song #530

*One Bread, One Body*

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of  
all, one cup of bless - ing which we bless.  
And we, though man-y, through-out the  
earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

Em D G D G Em A  
D C G C G C G D  
Em D G D G Em A D G (C) *Fine*

TEXT and MUSIC: John B. Foley, SJ, 1978  
Text and Music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ (Published by OCP)

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY  
Irregular

## Post-Communion Prayer

\* Song #89 (vv. 1 and 2)

*For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits*

Refrain Am Dm F G A B<sup>b</sup> C Am7 Dm Fine

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

Dm Am Dm Am Dm

1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,  
 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;  
 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,  
 4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil - grim-age;  
 5 Come, let us bow be - fore the God who made us;  
 6 Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the heav - ens,

Am Dm Am Dm Am

your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the  
 our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your word; come, make us  
 and in your ad - vent, draw us all to you, our hope re -  
 we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to  
 let ev - ery heart be o - pened to the Lord, for we are  
 Cre - a - tor of the moun-tains and the seas, Lord of the

Dm Am G C Am7 Dm Am Dm to Refrain

hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.  
 whole, be com - fort to our hearts.  
 born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.  
 us the path - way of your peace.  
 all the peo - ple of God's hand.  
 stars, and pres - ent to us now.

With a paraphrase of Psalm 62:5 as a refrain, this Advent text adapts four of the "Great O" antiphons (all of which can be seen in no. 88), combining them with a paraphrase of Psalm 95:6-7 and an echo of a medieval hymn. This rich blend yields a wealth of imagery and meaning.

# Our Life Together as the Body of Christ

## The Peace

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

**Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you,  
everywhere, everywhere, you may go.**

*All songs used by permission under OneLicense.net #A-721003*

## Supporting us in Worship

Worship Leaders

Julie, Marshall, Grace, and Lily Kasten

Audio/Video

Noah Clark, Diane Maloney

Music

Lisa Bloy, piano; Andrew Jonas, tenor;  
David Schoonover, baritone

## A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. We welcome all to our live-stream community, and hope that you will join us in song and prayer from the safety of your own homes. If you would like to learn more about our family of faith, please [visit our church website](#).

*Falls Church Presbyterian belongs to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, “working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.”*

The Rev. James Sledge, Pastor

Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement

Noah Clark, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry

The Rev. Megan Klose, Parish Associate

The Rev. Rusty Lynn, Hon. Ret., Parish Associate

David Schoonover, Music Coordinator

Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist



## This Week at FCPC

November 29 – December 6, 2020

### ONLINE WORSHIP AND MEETINGS

**Story Time Online** – Sunday at 8:30 a.m. [Story Time with Mrs. Burns](#)

**Worship Service** – Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Join us for online worship at [www.fallschurchpresby.org/livestream](http://www.fallschurchpresby.org/livestream) or on our [FCPC Facebook page](#).

**Tuesday Morning Prayer** – Tuesday at 8:45 a.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 104 294 101](#)

**Saturday Morning Bible Study & Fellowship Group** – Saturday at 8:00 a.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 972 0316 4309](#) Passcode: morning

**Story Time Online, Sunday at 8:30 a.m.** Librarian Avery Burns will be reading Advent-themed stories this Sunday. Story time videos are prerecorded and will go live Sunday at 8:30 a.m. Tune in Sunday morning or any time after at this link: [Story Time with Mrs. Burns](#)

**Fellowship Hour** will take a break this Sunday for the holiday weekend. Join us Dec. 6 when Theresa Brown will host. [Zoom Meeting ID: 919 9132 3252](#). Virtual hosts are needed! What does hosting involve? Find out [here](#) and sign up [here](#)!

**Giving thanks.** On behalf of Mercy Ministry, thank you to the congregation for your generosity at our latest Drop & Dash event. This was a multi-faceted gathering of donations of food and personal items for Knox Food Pantry, pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House, toys for Northern Virginia Family Service (to which Mr. Tom will be delivering a sleigh full!), and coats for Amelia Grannis' Eagle Scout Project. We were blessed to receive more than 800 food and personal items, several Giant gift cards for Welcome Table, a shopping bag full of pop tabs, and a parlor and narthex filled with coats. And many thanks to the volunteers who staffed the event: Marsha Schuyler; Will Packard; Tom Koger; Carolyn and Ellie Bruce; Julie, Grace and Lily Kasten; Jenny and Allie Growney; Kerry and Amelia Grannis; Gwenda Wilson and Elena Clark-Wilson; and Susan and Joey Beeman.

**Toy drive and coat drive continue.** Toys and coats can be dropped off at the church office by prior arrangement; [email](#) or call first (703-532-6518) to make sure someone is there. Toys will be collected through Sunday, Dec. 6, and coats through Saturday, Dec. 19. In addition to dropping off donations at the office, toys will be collected at the Dec. 5 Silent Witness event, and Mr. Tom will be collecting in person at the church on the final collection day, Sunday, Dec. 6, from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. Coats will also be accepted at both the Dec. 5 and Dec. 19 Silent Witness events. Click on these links for more information: [NVFS Toy Drive Wish List](#) and [NVFS Gifting for Families](#).

**Adult Advent devotionals.** Advent begins Sunday. Advent devotionals titled “Those Who Dream” are available for your use. Contact the [church office](#) if you would like one mailed to you. Family devotionals will be delivered to homes Nov. 29 - Dec. 2.

**Welcome Table, December 2.** We have added two new volunteer spots! Setup (Wednesdays, 10:30-noon) and Grounds Cleanup (Thursdays anytime). Please sign up to help [here](#). If you would like to support Welcome Table with a financial contribution, you can mail a check (made out to FCPC with “Welcome Table” in memo line) to the church office or give through FCPC’s secure [Online Giving](#) link.

**Silent Witness, December 5.** Please join the Falls Church faith community on Dec. 5 from noon to 1:00 p.m. in a Silent Witness Against Racial Injustice and to highlight racial inequities in COVID-19 exposures to prison populations. According to a Pew Research study, Blacks represented 33% of prison populations in 2018, which is triple their 12% share of the U.S. population. During the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 40 of the 50 largest clustered outbreaks of the disease occurred in prison populations, according to a Lancet study in October. These clusters could be minimized if prison populations were reduced to 85% of capacity; however, prisons tend to be closer to 103% capacity. Also in October, prison populations were 5.5 times more likely to be exposed to the disease than the general population. Black Americans also have comorbidities that put them at greater risk of severe complications from the disease. Therefore, the systemic racism that incarcerates Black Americans at a much higher rate than whites are also subjecting them to greater risk of exposure to a disease that will have a greater impact on them if they are infected. Questions about Silent Witness? Contact [Kevin Ayers](#).

**Drive-Through Live Nativity, Dec. 19.** We have had to cancel the Christmas Market due to new state-mandated gathering restrictions, but the Community Building Team is busy planning a “Drive-Through Live Nativity” in its place. Take a journey through Bethlehem and stop at various live scenes along the way. This event will be held Saturday, Dec. 19, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. (Rain date Dec. 20.) The planning team will soon be soliciting volunteers for various scenes and may possibly need costume materials. More details to come! [Contact Molly Good](#) with questions.

**Boy Scout Troop 895 annual holiday fundraiser.** If you missed the Nov. 25 order deadline, the Scouts will also be selling holiday items at Heidelberg Bakery in Arlington on Nov. 28-29; Dec. 5-6, and Dec. 12-13. *Thank you for supporting Troop 895!*

**2021 flower calendar signup.** Despite COVID-19 and months of worshipping virtually, we have continued to enjoy floral arrangements in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall that have honored, celebrated, and remembered our families, friends, and others who have blessed our lives. Thank you to all who have donated flowers! The 2021 calendar is open and ready for you to reserve a date. Click [here](#).

**God sightings.** You are invited to share a photo that captures a time or place where you have experienced God. Photos submitted by noon each Wednesday will be considered for use at the opening of our virtual worship service. Email images to [Diane Maloney](#).

**Crossing Paths** is a daily email designed to be a way to stay connected to each other, our community, and God. Crossing Paths are simple reflections shared by the FCPC community, available by email and on our Facebook page. If you would like to share a prayer, poem, or scripture passage to be included in Crossing Paths, please send to [Diane Maloney](#).

**Pastoral care during social distancing.** If you or your loved one is in need of pastoral care, please do not hesitate to contact [James Sledge](#). And if you are at-risk from COVID-19, please let James or the [deacons](#) know if we can offer you support with specific tasks such as grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions, or other things that might put you at risk.