



November 28, 2021
First Sunday in Advent
9:30 a.m.

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



Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

It is for us to see the Kingdom of God as always coming, always pressing in on the present, always big with possibility, and always inviting immediate action.

– Walter Rauschenbusch

Prelude

Morning Has Broken

Arr. Don Wyrzten (contemporary)

Lighting the Advent Candle

Shelly and Rachel Skomra

ONE: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in days to come . . .

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.

TEXT: Claire Cloninger, 1986
MUSIC: Don Cason, 1986
Text and Music © 1986 Word Music, LLC

WAITING (Cason)
SM

** Please stand*

Opening Prayer

Scripture

Luke 21:25-36

Every year the first Sunday in Advent features a gospel reading that looks forward, not to Christmas, but to coming of God's new creation. These are the final teachings of Jesus in the Temple prior his arrest the following night.

"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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven 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 catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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."

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**



Greek icon of the Second Coming, ca. 1700

Reflection

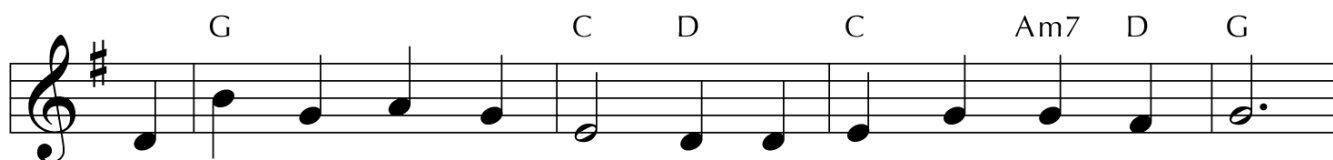
James Sledge

Offering Gifts and Song #378 (vv. 1 and 2)

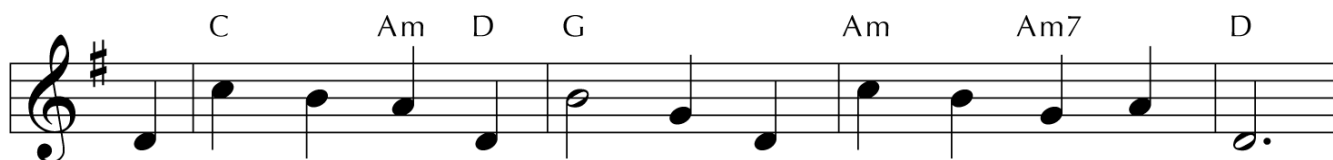
We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom



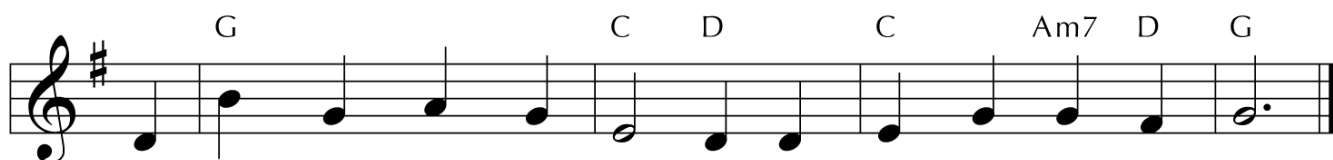
1 We wait the peace - ful king - dom, when wolf and lamb shall lie
 2 Where is the peace - ful king - dom? When will this new day start?
 3 When wars of des - o - la - tion and hate come to an end,
 4 That lit - tle child shall lead us to walk the cho - sen way,



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.

Minute for Ministry

Chancel Choir

Anne Kusterbeck

Prayers of the People

Chuck Hobbie

The Prayers of the People are offered on behalf of and with the congregation, usually by an elder currently serving on Session (governing council). At the end of each petition, we will sing:



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

Prayer concerns

Elizabeth Jobes, friend of Gail Warner, who has fallen ill

Continued prayers

Kris Barth, Callie Brown, Allan Capon, Geisinger family, Steve Graff, Emma Corina Granado, Mike Hugo, Nora Long, Ruth Mileham, Bob Moore, Sharane Patek, Cort Peret, Sabra Staley, Lawson Swift, Christa Young

Prayer requests can be sent to Pastor James at prayers@fallschurchpresby.org.

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, 2, and 3)

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

Refrain Am Dm F G A B^b 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.**

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Supporting us in Worship

Worship Leader

Chuck Hobbie

Ushers

Chuck Hobbie, Young Hobbie

Music

David Schoonover

Audio/Video

Andrew Jonas, Diane Maloney

Fellowship Hall Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of God from
Carly Kelly and Christian Beckner in memory of their
grandparents.

A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning, whether you are with us online or in person. If you would like to learn more about our community of faith, please [visit the 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

The Rev. Megan Klose, Parish Associate

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

David Schoonover, Acting Director of Music

Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

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Online Worship and Meetings

Story Time Online – Sunday at 8:45 a.m. [Story Time with Mrs. Burns](#)

Worship Service – Sunday at 9:30 a.m. www.fallschurchpresby.org/livestream,
[Sermon.net Media Center](#), [Facebook Live](#), or [YouTube](#).

Online Bible Study – Monday at 2 and 7:30 p.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 81356493860](#)

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. Contact
[Tom Koger](#) for meeting information.

Story Time with Mrs. Burns. Join Mrs. Burns for some stories about hope as we begin the new liturgical year with the season of Advent. [Story Time with Mrs. Burns](#)

Advent Devotionals Now Available. This year we again have two advent devotional books available. Each come from Illustrated Ministry and are centered around the central theme: God with us! Both devotionals are in a weekly format, not daily. We hope that this will make it easier to engage in a new practice through the season of Advent. You can pick one (or both!) up this Sunday in worship.

For Individuals: The stories of Advent are stories for hard times. Jesus was born amid upheaval and historical change and among people who seemed powerless. But when the world feels hopeless, Advent reminds us God is with us. This Advent resource invites you to explore the ways in which Emmanuel, God-with-us, brings us hope, peace, joy, and love, especially during hard times.

For Families: This Advent resource invites your family to explore the ways in which Emmanuel, God-with-us, brings hope, peace, joy, and love to your home and community, especially during hard times. Use this Advent guide to center your thoughts on the ever-present hope that sees us through change and challenge. Each week you will explore how the good news of God-with-us changes our perspective and gives us courage for each day. We rejoice in Jesus' birth because God is with us!

Stewardship update. To date we have received 80 estimates of giving totaling \$589,560. This is a wonderful start. Thank you for your generosity. And if you've not yet turned in your estimate, please mail in your card or take a moment and complete the [online form](#).

In-person Christmas Eve services return. FCPC will offer two Christmas Eve services in the sanctuary, one at 4:30 p.m. and one at 8:00 p.m. The 4:30 service is family oriented and will be a shorter, simpler version of our 8:00 service. It will feature brief scripture readings that tell the Christmas story accompanied by familiar carols.

The 8:00 service will be our traditional Lessons and Carols service with candlelight. We ask that all those who are eligible to be vaccinated, and masks are required. Readers are needed for the 8:00 service. Contact the office if you would like to help.

Registration for worship no longer required. But we do ask that all worshipers be masked and all those who are eligible to be vaccinated. If you choose not to be vaccinated, please join us for worship online.

Welcome Table, Dec. 1. Join the fun that happens behind the scenes at Welcome Table. Click [here](#) to volunteer at our next meal. Financial gifts to support Welcome Table are always appreciated and can be mailed to the church or sent using the QR code below.

Reserve your copy of the FCPC Cookbook. Many thanks to all who submitted recipes! Our cookbook is full of over 200 great recipes. Cookbooks have been delayed slightly due to pandemic-related issues, and they should arrive by early to mid-January. You can reserve your copies [here](#). There is a \$10 minimum donation per cookbook with all proceeds supporting FCPC's hunger ministry fund.

NVFS 2021 Contactless Toy Gifting. You can now contribute to Mercy Ministry's collection of new, unwrapped toys to be provided through NVFS (Northern Virginia Family Service) to area children *from the comfort of your own computer or phone!* NVFS has established a [secure link](#) through which you can order toys from Amazon.com to be sent directly to NVFS's Oakton office for delivery to NVFS's Gifting for Families headquarters in time for holiday delivery to children who otherwise might go without. (Anyone purchasing from this wish list who would like a donation receipt can email jwarren@nvfs.org directly with their full name, email address or home address, and estimated value of the donation.) Donations can also be dropped off at in-person worship or at the church office or at the Nov. 21 Drop & Dash. All contributions must be received by Sunday, Dec. 5. For more information: [NVFS Toy Drive Wish List](#) and [NVFS Gifting for Families](#).

Online Bible Study: The Letter of Paul to the Romans. Join Pastor Sledge on Zoom Mondays at 2 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. for this 10-week study. Bring your Bible and your curiosity as we explore God's grace and the shape of Christian living. Download the lessons [here](#). [Zoom Meeting ID: 81356493860](#)

Scan the QR code at right to connect to the mobile version of FCPC's Online Giving web page.

