

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



Tree of Jesse from *Capuchin's Bible*, c. 1180,
Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.

– Martin Luther King Jr.

We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE

The People that Walked in Darkness

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Kevin Ayers, bass guitar

RINGING OF THE BELL AND INTROIT

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Sue Armstrong, Anne Kusterbeck

CALL TO WORSHIP

*** HYMN 82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

DRAW NEAR TO GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

ONE: God of today and God of tomorrow,
you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

ALL: But we say, "Our lives are too messy."

ONE: You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams.
There's room for you here."

ALL: But we say, "It's too risky to hope."

ONE: You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here."

ALL: But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."

ONE: God of today and God of tomorrow,
we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

**ALL: Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.
Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.**

ONE: **Help us remember, today and tomorrow,**

ALL: There's room for every story.

Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

SUNG RESPONSE



Come, thou long ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

STUTT GART
8.7.8.7

** Please stand in body or spirit*

RECEIVE GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE, AND PEACE

* SING GLORY TO GOD

Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

* PASSING THE PEACE

ONE: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
ALL: And also with you.

Children ages 4 and up are invited to continue their worship at Godly Play in room 59.

We Listen for God's Word

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Clear shin-ing light, Mar-y's Child, your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mar - y's Child, dawn on our dark-ened day.

TEXT: Geoffrey Ainger, 1964, alt.
MUSIC: Geoffrey Ainger, 1964; harm. Richard D. Wetzel, 1972
Text and Music © 1964 Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

MARY'S CHILD
7.6.7.6

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

OT, page 631

ONE: The Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Stephen Cleobury

Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:1-17

NT, page 1

ONE: The Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

AN INTERESTING FAMILY

James Sledge

We Respond to God's Word

*** HYMN 109**

Blest Be the God of Israel

*** RESPONSE OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CLOUD OF WITNESSES STORY

Shelly Skomra

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Tom-Erik Bowen

ONE: Lord in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

The Prayers of the People are offered on behalf of and with the congregation, usually by an elder currently serving on Session (governing council) or other members of the congregation.

Prayer Concerns

Miss Latifa, in failing health

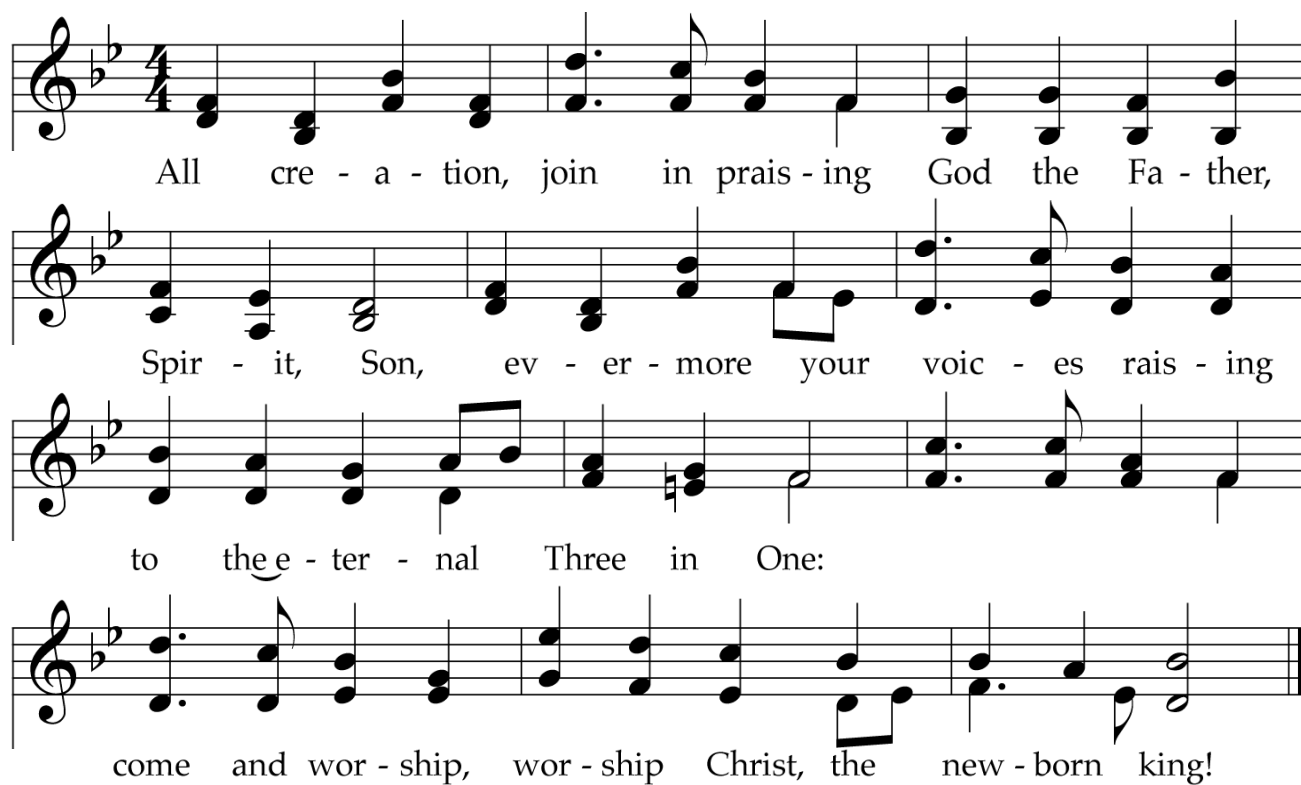
Continued Prayers

Kris Barth, Sarah Barth, Allan Capon, Neill Ferill, Mike Hugo, Nora Long, Rusty Lynn, Ruth Mileham, Bob Moore, Sharane Patek, Cort Peret, Dick Rowberg, Ken Waugh, Christa Young

Prayer requests can be sent to Pastors James and Megan at prayers@fallschurchurchpresby.org.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

* DOXOLOGY



All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,
Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing
to the e - ter - nal Three in One:
come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

TEXT: Stanzas 1-3, James Montgomery, 1816, 1825; stanza 4, *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857
MUSIC: Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

REGENT SQUARE
8.7.8.7.8.7

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

* HYMN 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

* OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Etude No. 3 for the Double Bass

Franz Simandl (1840-1912)

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Supporting us in Worship

Worship Leaders

Tom-Erik Bowen

Usher

Will Packard, Marsha Schuyler

Audio/Video

Alex Hess

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Cameron and Theresa Brown in honor of the joyous Advent season and their extended families.

A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. Please sign the red welcome pad which can be found at the end of the pew, then pass the pad along to your neighbor. If you would like to learn more about our family of faith, please visit www.fallschurchpresby.org.

Masks in Worship

Masks are strongly recommended but no longer required in worship. Please consider those who are immune compromised or unable to be vaccinated and continue to mask up.

Children in Worship

Children are always welcome in our services. Child care is available for **children up to age 4 in Room 201**. Parents may drop off and pick up children throughout this time. For children **4 years of age and older**, Godly Play is offered in Room 59 following the Passing of the Peace.

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
The Rev. Megan Klose, Associate Pastor
Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement
Dr. Don Armstrong, Director of Music
Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

Falls Church Presbyterian Church
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First Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 2:1-5

- ¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- ² In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
- ³ Many peoples shall come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- ⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
- ⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 1:1-17

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, ⁴and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.

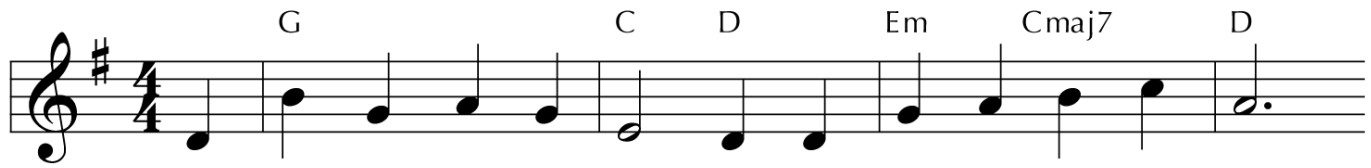
Is-rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

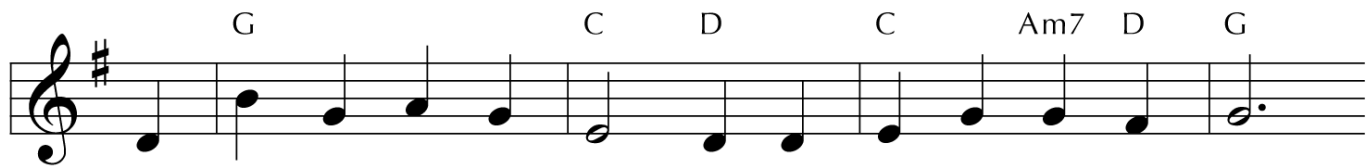
With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

Blest Be the God of Israel

Song of Zechariah



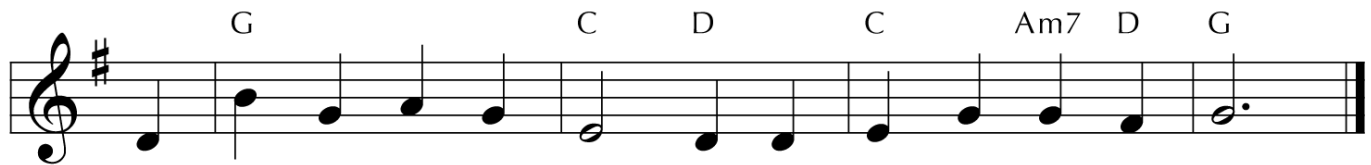
1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
 2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
 3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

This 20th-century British paraphrase of the Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79) broadens the implications of what John the Baptist's father says in order to affirm that God's work is ongoing. The tune is named for the composer's oldest sister, who was his first piano teacher.

TEXT: Michael Perry, 1973, alt.

MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

Text © 1973 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company

MERLE'S TUNE

7.6.7.6.D

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
 el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
 world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
 win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
 near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
 free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
 light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
 bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
 forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
 love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
 raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.