

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion towards all who call this place home.

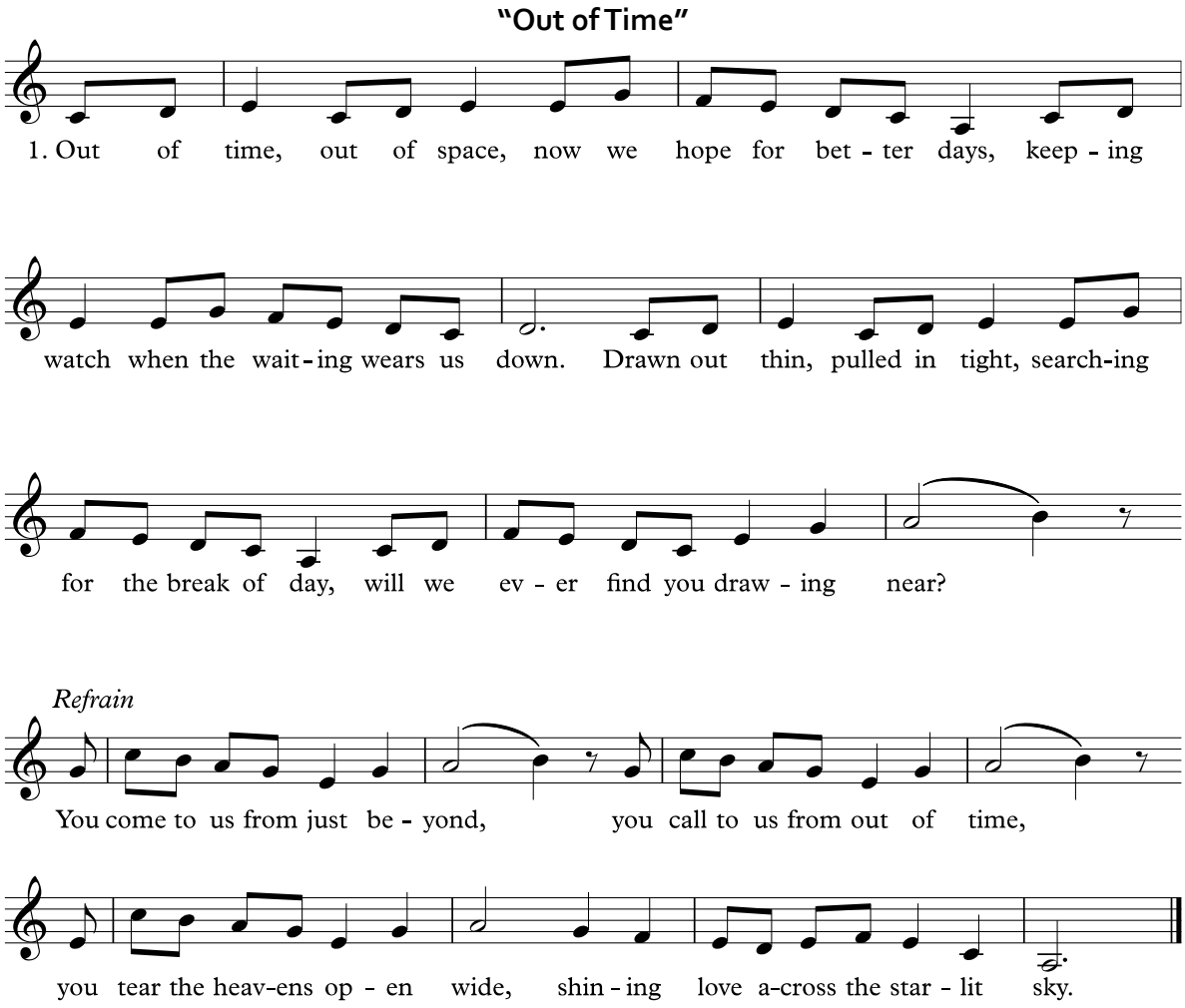
COMMUNITY LIFE

Christmas Hope support – contributions can be made through December 6 via your offering or etransfer.

Everybody's Christmas Pageant – December 13th at 10 am

INTRODUCTION

Our Advent theme this year is *Out of Time*. This theme holds multiple meanings. On the one hand, Advent thrusts upon us the reality that *time is limited*. We run *out of time* to prepare, to reconcile, to make a change. Yet even as **we** are running out of time, **God** is *outside of time* entirely. God, who created time and exists beyond it, is busy within, around, and beyond our human experience of time.
God's infinite being and infinite patience cut through our fears and our uncertainties as God enters human time to dwell with us: *Emmanuel*, God-with-us.



We take a moment to open ourselves to God's presence.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today.
It is time to worship!
We listen for God
It is time to hear!
We receive God's grace.
It is time to be loved!
We leave in peace.
It is time to serve others!

As we wait for Jesus' arrival,
Emmanuel, God-with-us,
is already here in this time and place.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

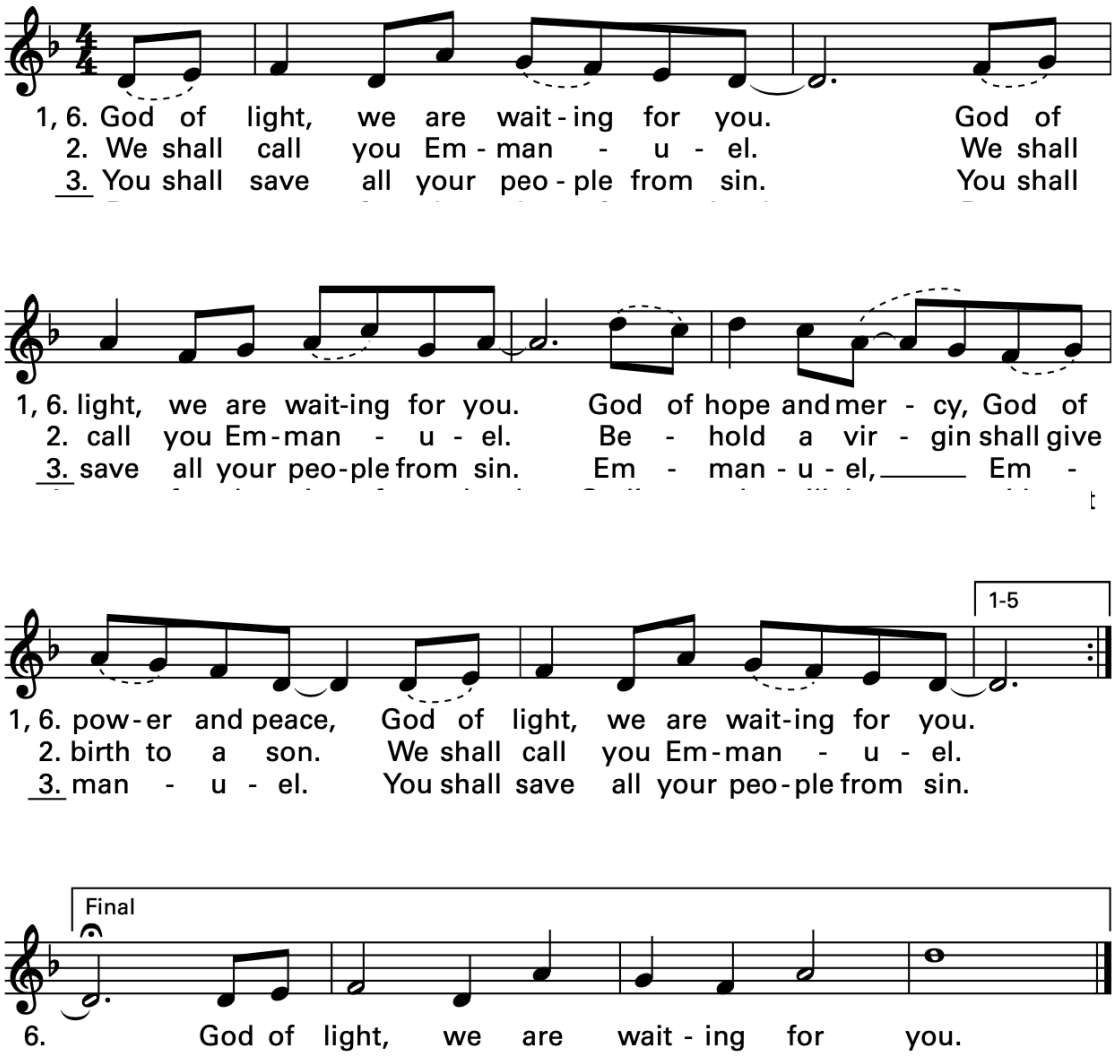
People of God,
when we think that we have nowhere left to turn,
we can always turn to God.
Whether we feel frozen
or are rushing with no time to rest,
whether it feels like life is happening to us too quickly
or like our lives will never change,
God is with us.
For God, there is always time for forgiveness.
We trust God, and we confess our sins together.

A brief silence for reflection

Holy One,
We have not stayed awake.
We have missed you when you appeared
in our neighbors,
in strangers half a world away,
in the suffering planet.
We have wasted the time and the skills that you gave us
and assumed we were powerless to mend
the breaches in our world.
Sometimes, we even gave up
on your mercy, justice, and love.
God, is it too late for us?
Speak tenderly to our anxious hearts.
Tear open the heavens
and heal what we have done. Amen.

People of God,
God's judgment is certain
and God's forgiveness is lightning fast.
Hear this good news:
in the name of Jesus Christ, all your sins are forgiven.
Forgiveness gives us the courage we need.
Wherever we wait for God's time to come,
we will witness wonders. Amen.

GATHERING SONG "Emmanuel Carol" v 1, 2, 3, 6



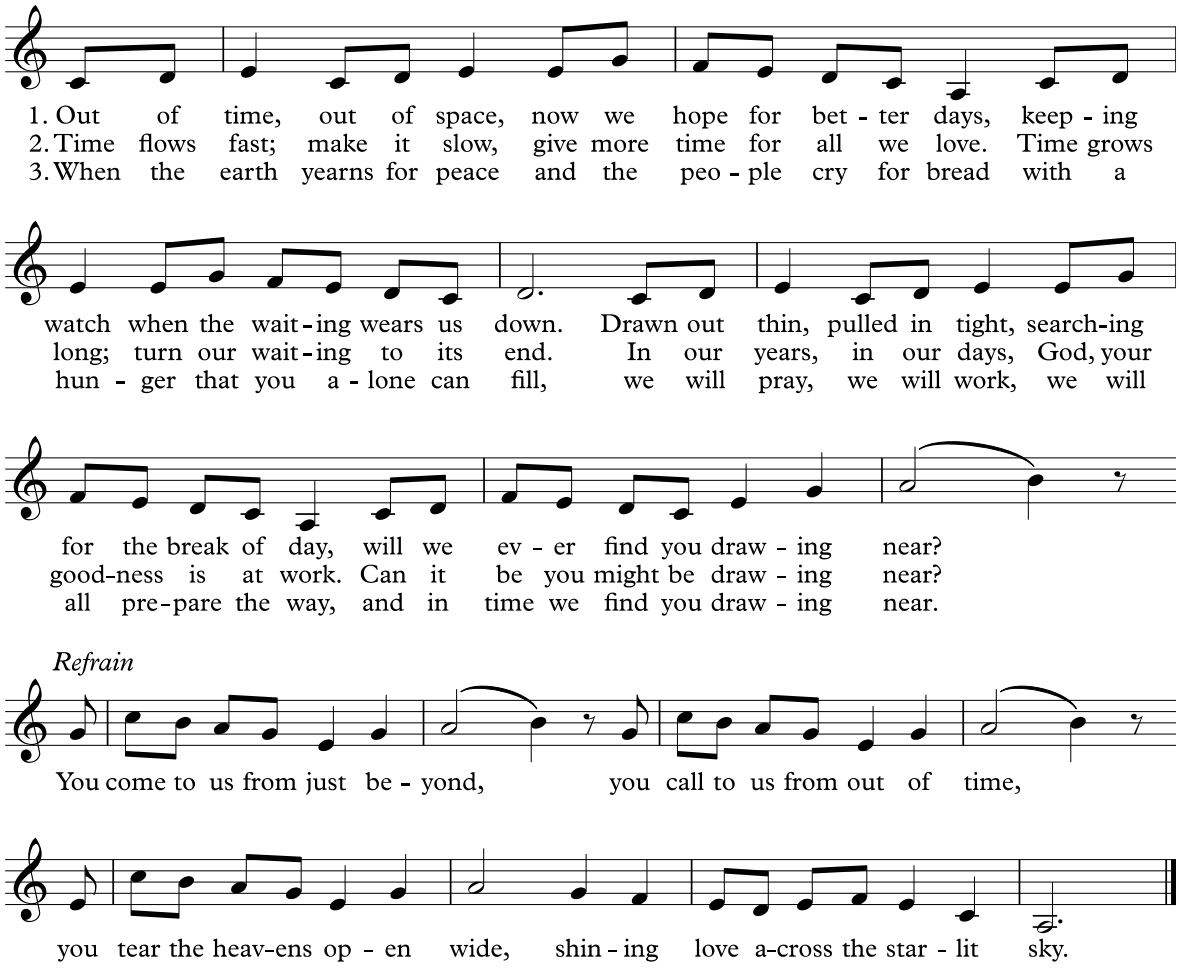
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One In Isaiah 64, we hear these words:
"O that you would tear open the heavens and come down. . . ."

One Let us pray.
We wait for you, O God.
We wait for you to come and save us.
Two We wait for you to end what hurts us.

One As we light another candle on this wreath,
arrive in our hearts, our homes, our world —
even as we still wait.
Two You promise that all evil will cease one day.
Give us a glimpse of that today. **Amen.**

"Out of Time"



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

Today we hear words of lament from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

A reading from Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
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!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

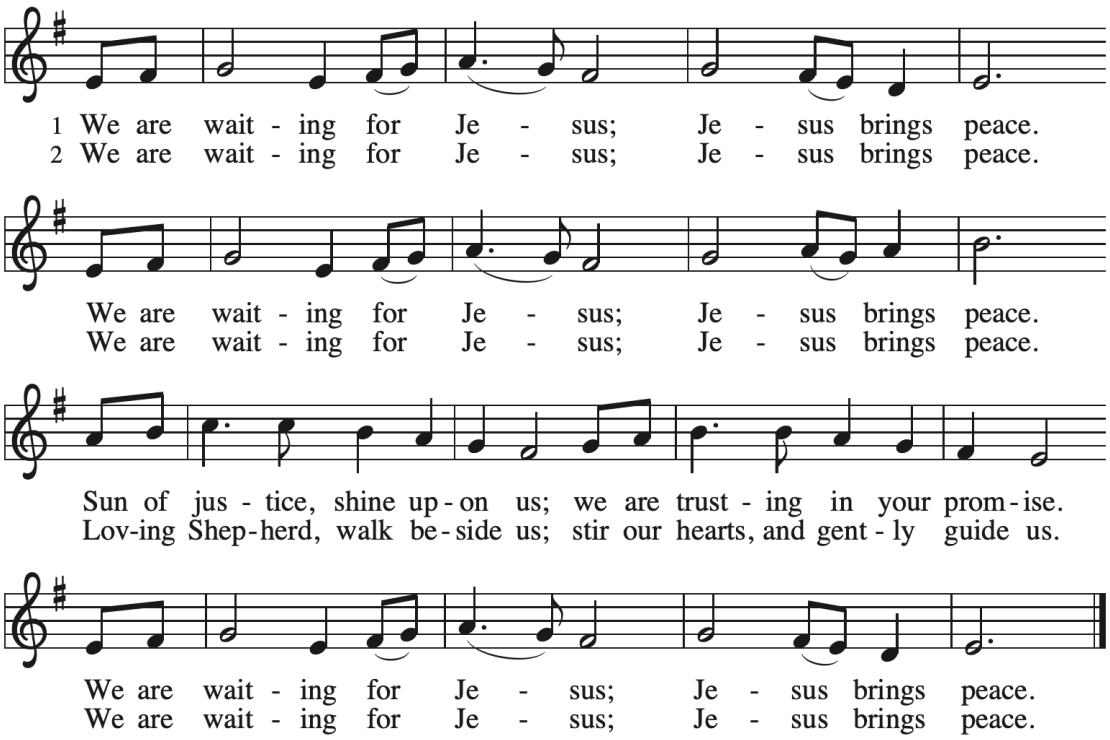
A reading from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE "We Are Waiting for Jesus" ACS 905



Today's gospel and sermon have been prepared and shared Pastor Karen Stepko from the Saskatchewan Synod.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

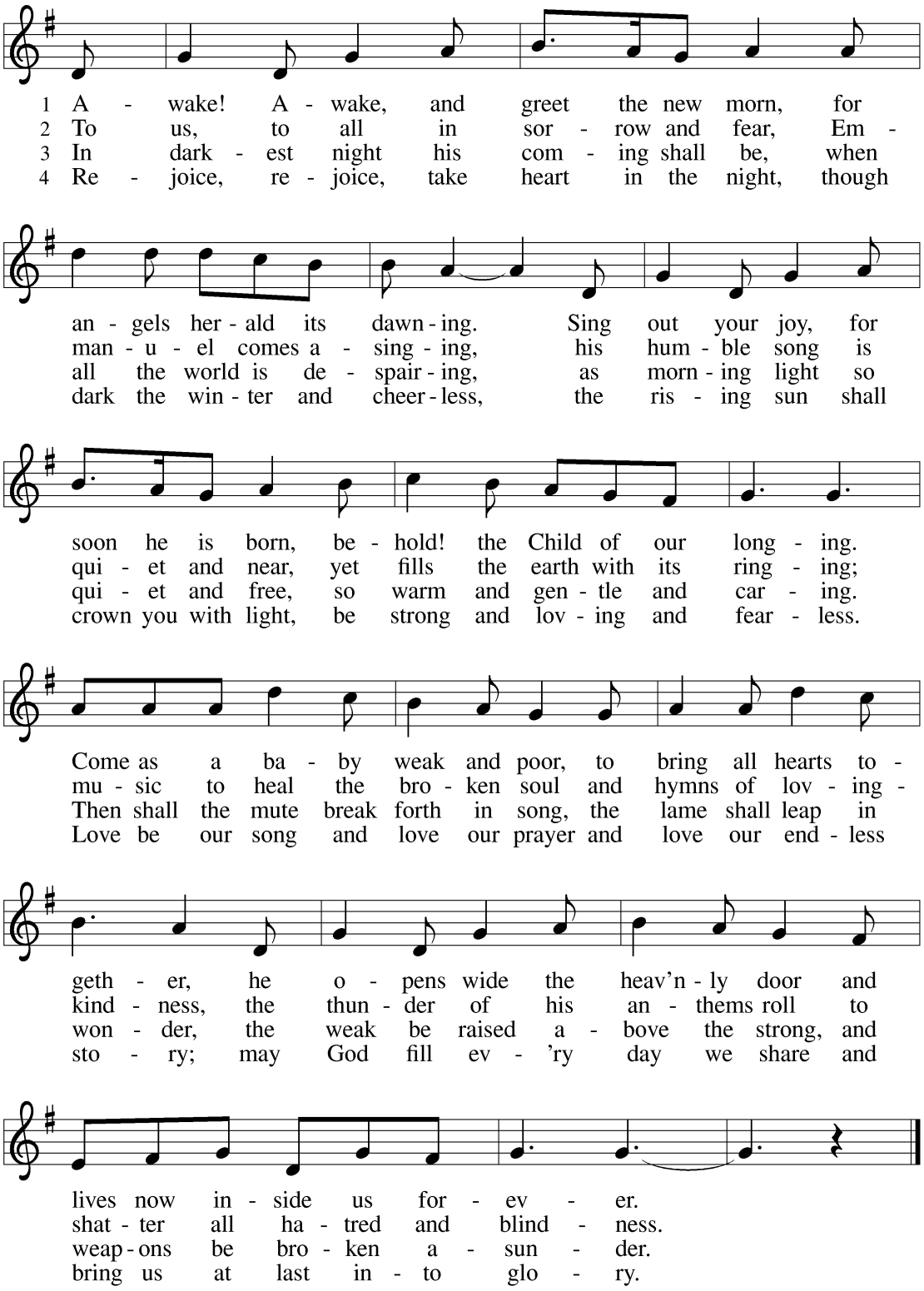
"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON VIDEO

Silence for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn" ELW 242



APOSTLES' CREED

We confess our faith in the words of 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you for the time we have, or the gifts we offer, for the chance to help others, for the people whose lives will be better because of these gifts, and for the ways you are changing the world. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

People of God, we are each other's siblings, and we are family with all creation. As we wait and yearn for God, we pray together for our community, for the church around the world, and for every need.

God, you are the Potter and we are the clay. Continue to work in your church and in your people that they might faithful to gospel. Give us open hearts and open minds to welcome all who come seeking You and your love. God beyond time, hear our prayers. **Open the heavens and come down.**

God, you call us to rebuild ancient ruins, but we need your help to finish the work. Our need for healing is urgent. We pray for your justice and peace, especially in those areas of the world where war and the aftereffects of war continue to be felt. We pray especially for the people of Ukraine and Palestine. God, you call us to rebuild ancient ruins, but we need your help to finish the work. God beyond time, hear our prayers. **Open the heavens and come down.**

God, you create accessible paths through rough terrain, and you love the bodies and minds of your people. We give thanks for diverse abilities and we pray for people in need of healing, especially Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Janet D, Austin, Patrick, Lois, Linda H, Carol, Murray, Jody, Mo, Sidonia and John, Jim N., Clayton P, Marlene and Darcy, Sheila, Ray, Nancy, Alan T, Felix and Sharon, Cherylee, and those we name silently now . . . [silence].
God beyond time, hear our prayers. **Open the heavens and come down.**

God, your ever-present love and grace fill us with peace. We pray that you will bless those who pray for others, that their time with you will encourage their hearts. Watch over Jim and Lu Gunther and Brian and Rose Gyorffy. Our prayers are also with Pastor Joel, Vanesa and Hans as they wait to join us. God beyond time, hear our prayers. **Open the heavens and come down.**

God, you know when we are hurting and you promise to be with us and to comfort us. We ask you to especially be with the Margaret Sailer and her family and all who grieve the passing of Clayton. We pray too for the family of Shirley Johnson, especially for her sisters Pat and Pam. We trust that just as you have welcomed Clayton and Shirley in to your kingdom, so, when the time is right, you will welcome us. God beyond time, hear our prayers. **Open the heavens and come down.**

God, you are always with us. We gather these prayers together, and we entrust them to your endless love in the name of Jesus.

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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.

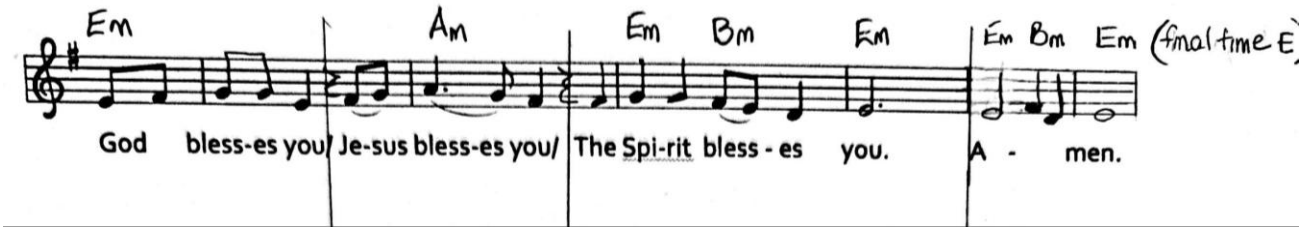
BLESSING

One God our Creator, who made the starlit sky, blesses you.
Two (sung) God blesses you.
All (echo) God blesses you.

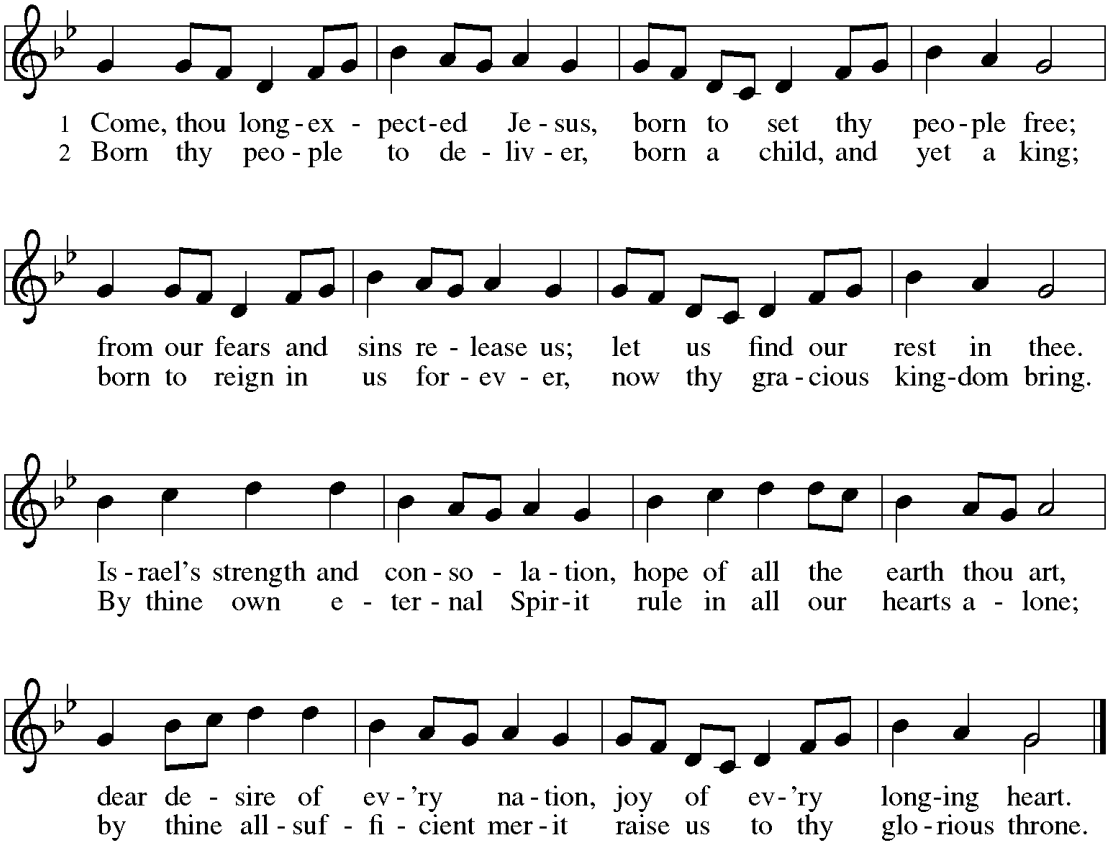
One Jesus our Redeemer, who arrives at just the right time, blesses you.
Two Jesus blesses you.
All Jesus blesses you.

One The Holy Spirit our Enlivener, who sparks hope for the hopeless, blesses you.
Two The Spirit blesses you.
All The Spirit blesses you.

One We are blessed in the name of God, the Three in One.
Two Amen.
All Amen.



SENDING SONG "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" ELW 254



SENDING

As you leave this place, remember:
whether you are waiting for a new beginning
or just waiting for something to end,
God is sustaining you.
Keep alert; trust God; seek peace.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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