first
presbyterian
church

Until the Dawn

Worshiping, serving and living with a fresh vision of God's vibrant energy, grace and love for all.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Cry Out!

ORDER OF WORSHIP
November 29, 2026 // 10:00 am

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE *Arioso* G.F. Handel

RINGING THE BELL & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

GREETING Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen

One: The God of life be with you.
All: And also with you!

GATHERING SONG *#92 While We Are Waiting, Come* Collin Magennis

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Liz Hoffswell

One: In God's house,
All: we are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.
One: In God's house,
All: we may come exactly as we are.
One: In God's house,
All: we dare to hope. We dream new dreams. We cry out. We call upon God.
One: In God's house,
All: all are welcome and all are heard.
One: So come and worship.
All: God is here. God is listening.
One: Let us worship our with-us God.

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH:** *Hope* Paul and Sarah Anderson

***HYMN** #82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

** You are welcome to rise in body or in spirit.*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: **Holy God,**
we have been known—
to bite our tongues,
to work through a broken heart,
to don our favorite rose-colored glasses.
We have been known—
to look for the bright side,
to sweep the pain under the rug,
to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss.
We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves.
Forgive us for filtering our honesty.
Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament.
Forgive us for not turning to you first.
Remind us that you are a God who listens
and you are a God who restores.
With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Family of faith,
whether you pray like the Psalmists—raw and unfiltered—
or you can't remember the last time you were honest with God,
God still loves you. God sees you. And God longs to be in relationship.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

All: **There is nothing we could do or say that will keep God's love at bay.**
We are seen, forgiven, and invited—into deeper honesty and deeper relationship.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Light a Candle for Peac*e (Bulletin/Screen)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Isiah 64:1-9

One: The Word of God for the people of God
All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen

***HYMN** *Restore Us, God* (Bulletin/Screen)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

LIFE AT FIRST
Please take this time to sign the red Friendship Pad found on the pew near you. If you have a prayer request, you are invited to fill out a prayer card (found in the pew-backs) and put it in the offering plate. The ushers will deliver it to the pastors.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Lani Smith

***ADVENT DOXOLOGY** (Bulletin/Screen)

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Some choose to begin this prayer, "Our Creator," "Our Mother," or "Our Parent."

All: 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** #470 *There is a Longing in Our Hearts*

CARRYING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING SONG** #90 *Wait for the Lord*

Worship Leaders: Rev. Dr. Paul Van Kempen, Beth Magennis, Kayla Reed, Rose Gifford, Liz Hoffswell, Collin Magennis, Karen Howells. **Thanks to: Sound and Video** - Tim and Michele Richardson, **Greeter -** Mary Bennett, **Ushers -** Carleen Bauer and her team**, Bus Drivers -** Bill and Janet Haines,
M&M Café Providers - Alan and Sherry Martens and JC and Judy Shaver**, Nursery Providers** - Sandy Peterson, Jen Laux/Ludwig and Erin Magennis.

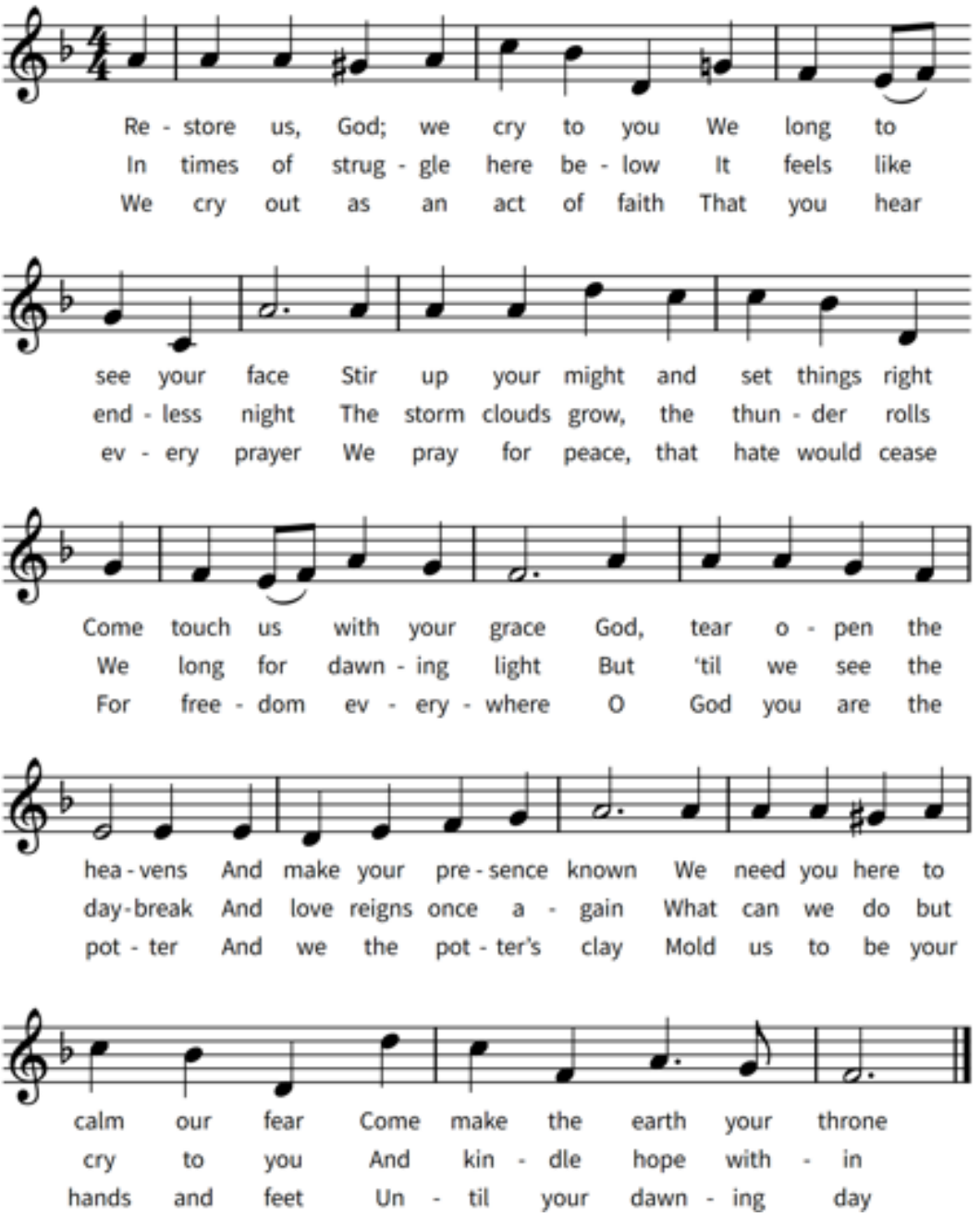
Next Week: Ushers- Paul Van Kolken**, Bus Drivers** –Jon and Nancy Kreple**, Liturgis**t- Jesse Rund-Scott, **M & M Cafe Providers** –Mike and Linda Clark, and Sarah and Tom Glover**, Sound and video** - Tim Richardson and Ben Van Kempen, **Nursery Care Providers** – Amy VanderMeer, Christin and Megan McFayden.

Today's liturgy was written by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Restore Us, God

ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6 D (“O Little Town of Bethlehem”)

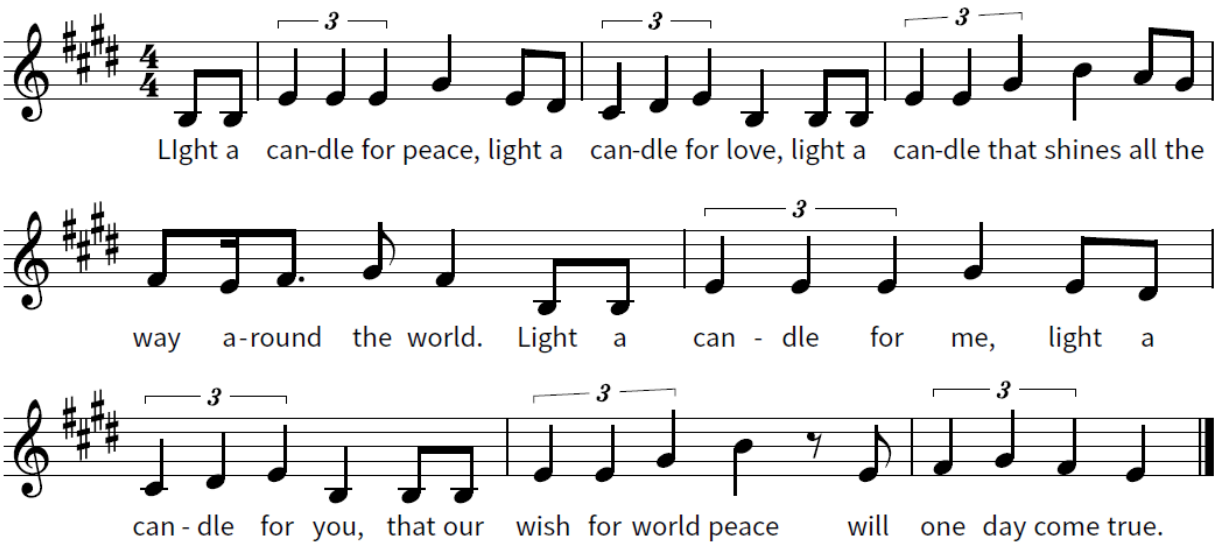
Words: Anna Strickland (2026) Music: Lewis H. Redner (1868)



Light a Candle for Peace

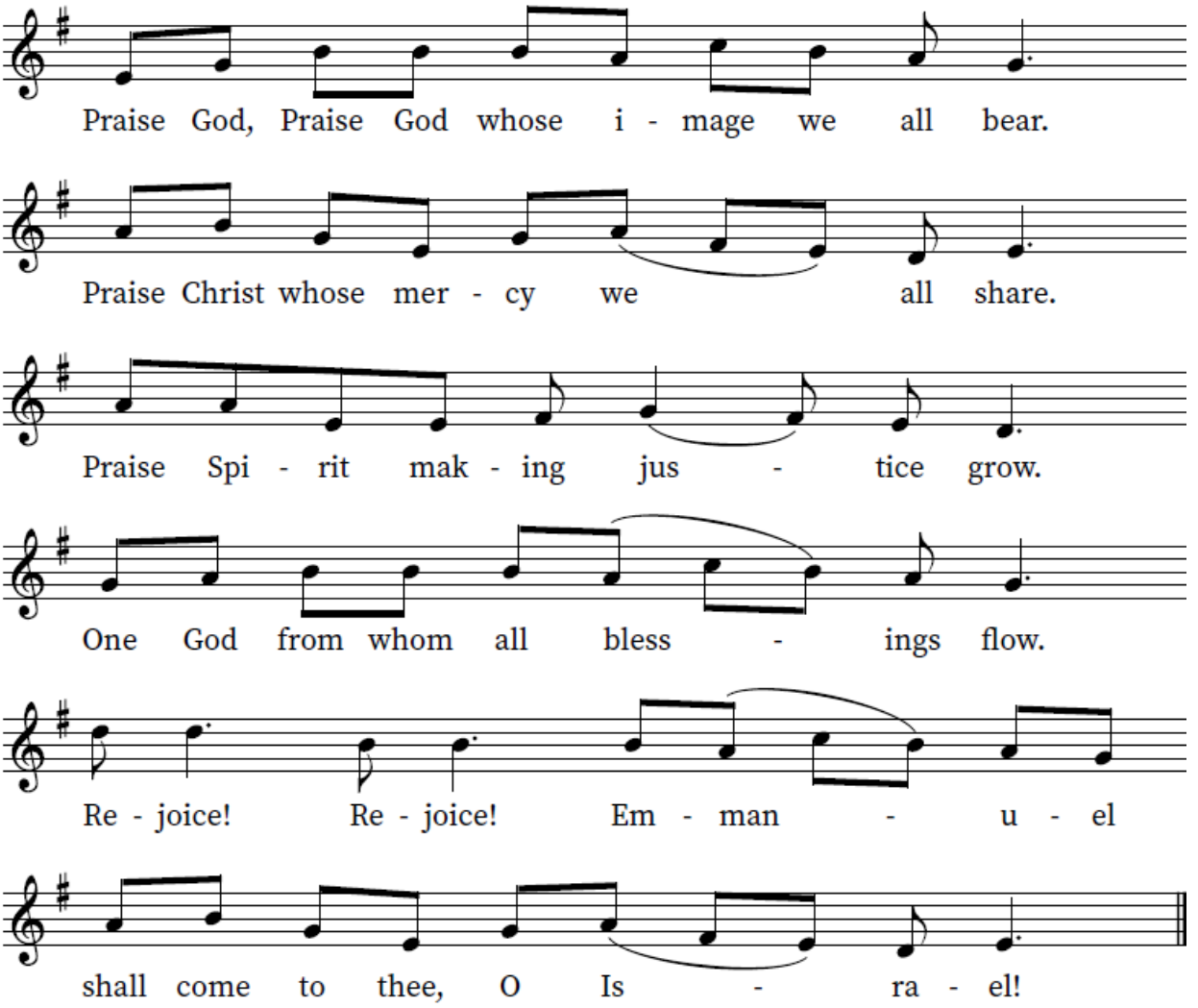
Shelly Murley

German Bosshard

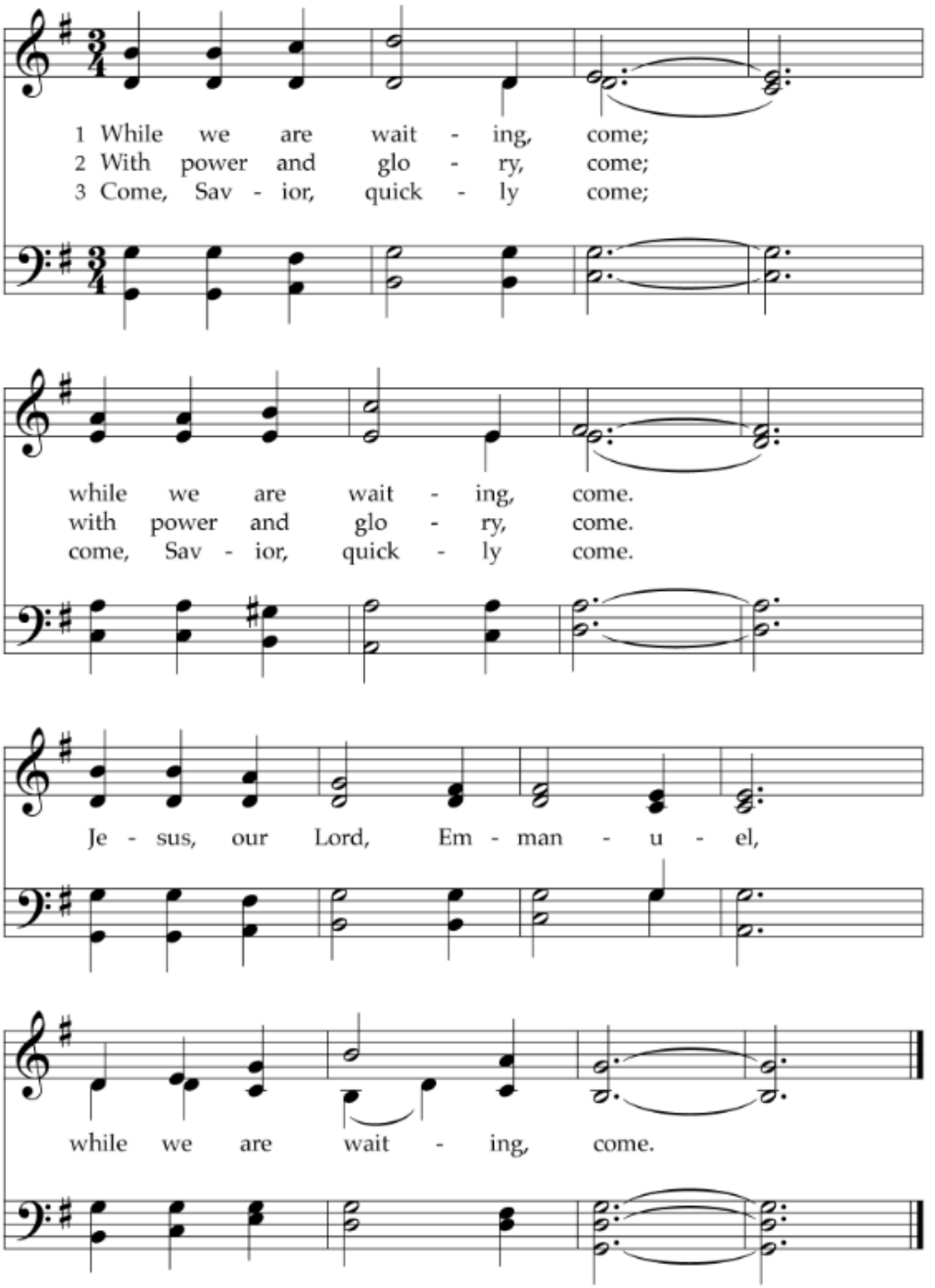


Advent Doxology

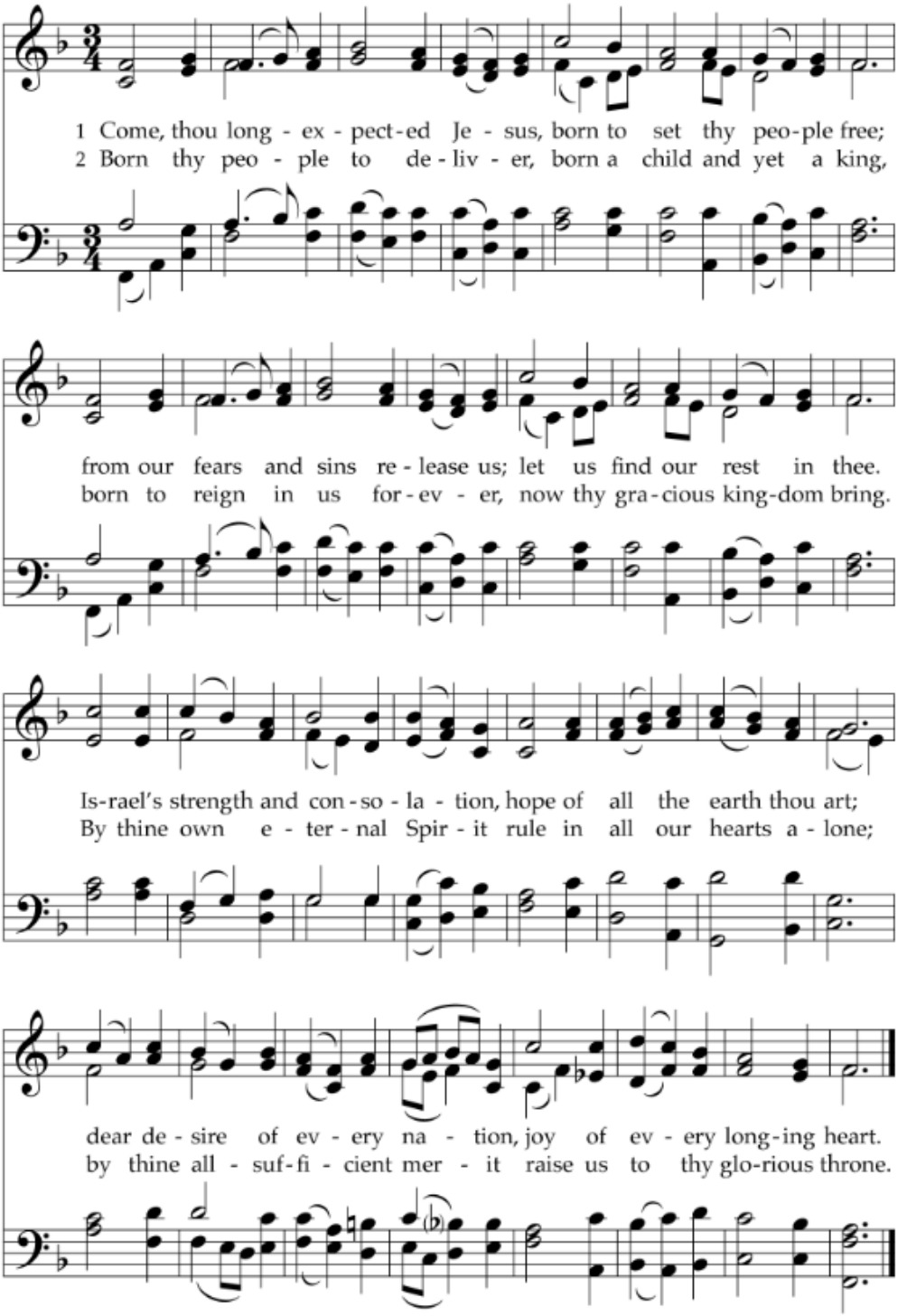
Arr. Leslie Poss



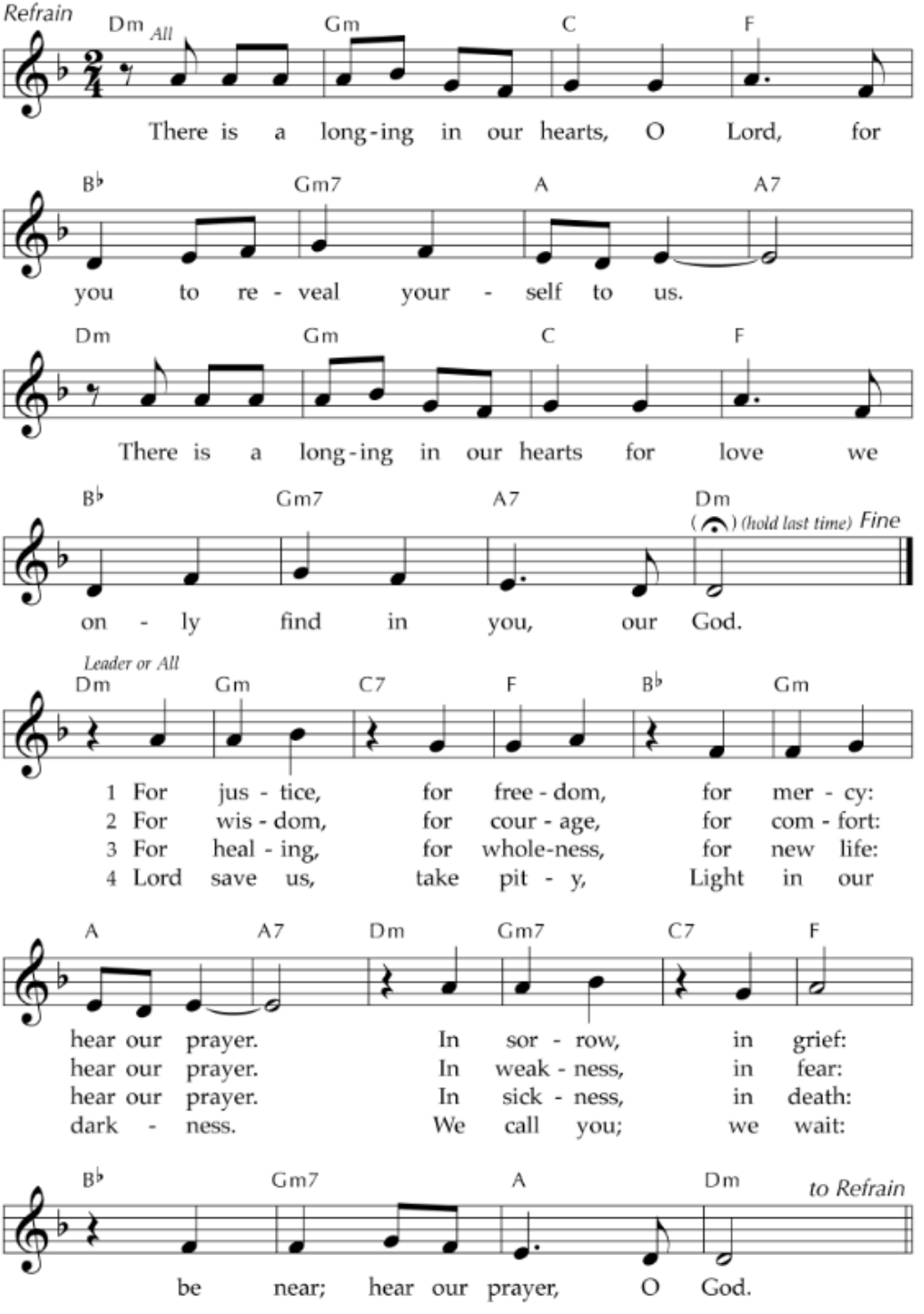
92 While We Are Waiting, Come



Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



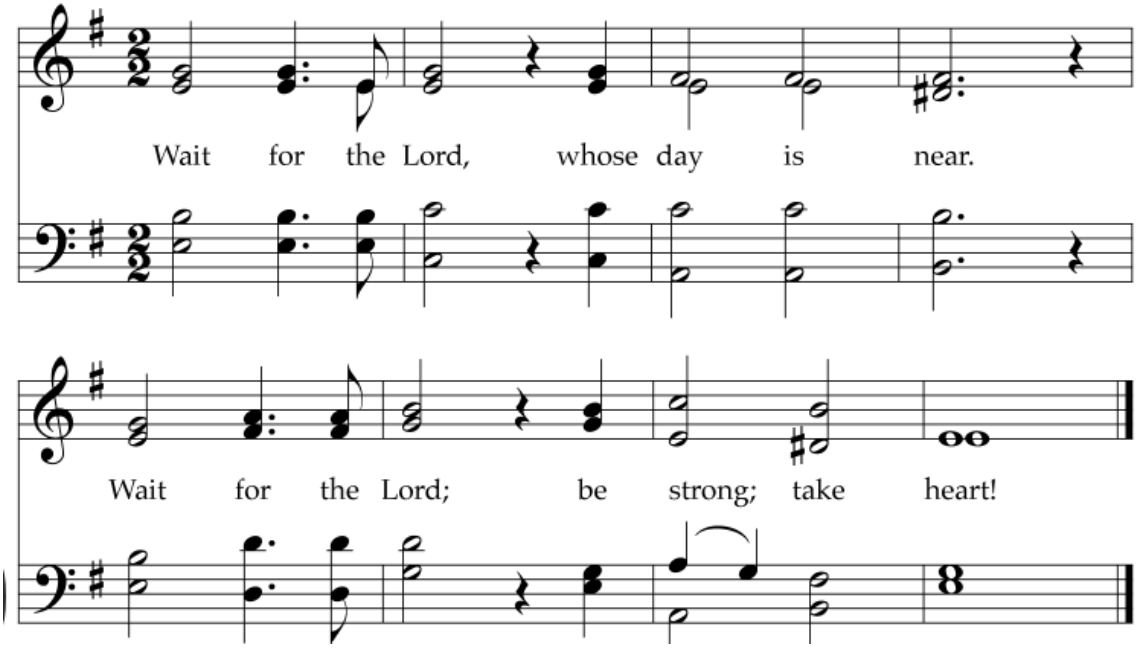
470 There Is a Longing in Our Hearts



90 Wait for the Lord

(Psalm 27)

Refrain



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace in Action Stewardship // Many thanks to everyone who has brought their pledge card to the church. Your pledge helps us plan for our programming and for our giving. The opportunity sign up sheets are still available in the cafe. There truly is a way for everyone to find a place to share their gifts! Thank you for creating a loving, caring community of faith!

Thank You for Sharing Your Voice // Thank you to everyone who completed this year's pastor questionnaires. We received 78 responses for Pastor Paul and 83 for Pastor Cathy, many with thoughtful comments. Your responses showed deep appreciation for both pastors: their meaningful preaching, compassionate care, vibrant music ministry, growing energy among our children and families, and how well they work together as a team. You also shared ideas for growth, including more connection across generations and support for our pastors' heavy workloads. We heard you.

The Personnel Council has reviewed the results and met with each pastor to celebrate their ministry and set goals for the coming year. Cathy and Paul want you to know their doors are always open. Please reach out to them anytime with questions, concerns or observations.

~ With gratitude, Personnel Council

Nursery News // Please join us in thanking Kiki Leman, who has cared for our youngest members as Nursery Supervisor for more than two years. Kiki's last Sunday will be December 13. In January she begins student teaching as she prepares to graduate from Hope College in May with a degree in Elementary Education. Kiki, we are so grateful for you and will miss you!

We're happy to welcome Faith Teodecki as our new Nursery Supervisor. Faith is studying Early Childhood and Elementary Education at Hope College and has served as a Sunday School leader for children ages 2–5 at her hometown church in Shelby Township. She starts December 6 and will train alongside Kiki for two Sundays. Please stop by the nursery to say hello!

Adult Education // No adult education class today. We will resume on December 5th as we take a theological journey through some of our beloved Christmas carols! //

Fifth Sunday Giving // Today, our fifth Sunday giving partner is Family Promise on the Lakeshore. Family Promise works tirelessly, partnering with unhoused families to get them on the path to greater stability.

A Message from the Bookkeeper // As we approach the end of the year, please submit any outstanding expense reimbursements from 2026 prior to Christmas so they can be processed before the end of the year. This is important to paint a complete picture of our spending in 2026 and helps keep the budget accurate as we move into 2027. After filing out the form and acquiring an authorized signature, please place your forms with receipts attached in the Bookkeeper's box as soon as you are able. Thank you, Marlene.

College Student Care Packages // The deacons are preparing exam-week care packages for our college students. If you have a college student in your family who would like one, please email Leah Wallar at chase@hope.edu by Wednesday, Dec. 2. Please include your student's full name, mailing address, and any allergies we should be aware of.

Christmas Eve Choir // This year the FPC choir will be singing a cantata on Christmas Eve called Light of Peace by Karen Marolli. If you don't normally sing with the choir, but are looking to get seasonally involved, we'd love to have you! Rehearsals will be Wednesdays December 9 and 16 6:30-8:30. Talk to Pastor Paul if you are interested!

Nativity Display and Dawn Images // The Worship and the Arts Council would love to display your Nativity scenes again in the M&M Cafe during our season of Advent. If you would like to contribute your Nativity scene, please drop them off in the office. Make sure your box is clearly labeled so we can return them to you after Epiphany.

Do you have paintings, photos, collages, quilts, etc depicting images of morning, sunrise, or stars? We would love to add your artwork to the M&M space during Advent through the beginning of February. Please drop off any items for display in the office. Thank you for your contributions.

Fill the Manger for Nestlings // This December help us fill the manger with diapers for Nestlings Diaper Bank! Nestlings partners with many of the agencies we support, such as Community Action House, Resilience and Children's Advocacy Center.

Presbyterian Women // During the Christmas season PW is collecting new, unwrapped underwear items for women and children that will go to RESILIENCE. Our focus is on programs that help women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Please join us in this community effort!

First Presbyterian Preschool Car Wash Fundraiser // The Preschool is once again partnering with Quality Car Wash to raise funds for scholarships. You can purchase individual car wash passes or monthly subscription passes—perfect practical gifts and excellent stocking stuffers this holiday season! If you'd like to support the Preschool, please see Bev Plagenhoef to make your purchase.

Children's Advocacy Center Holiday Advocates // Thank you, FPC, for sponsoring all of our 25 families! There is still a wonderful way to help bring Christmas cheer to families served by CAC: Shop for Stocking Stuffers! Small toys, candies, chap stick, cozy socks, hair clips, etc.

When caregivers come to pick up their child's gifts, they are offered the opportunity to 'shop' in the CAC stocking store to fill a stocking for their child. Please bring items by December 6. Contact Janet Hostetler 740-704-4822 or by email janethostetler@gmail.com if you have questions.

Prayer for Peace // Everyone is invited to a Prayers for Peace service on Monday, December 7, from 5:30-6:00 p.m. at First Reformed Church, 630 State Street, Holland, Michigan. Together we will pray for those affected by war and conflict, for leaders and peacemakers, and for God's healing and reconciliation in our world.

Volunteers Needed // The deacons are in need of a pool of people to drive church members to doctor appointments, get groceries, and other errands around Holland. Please contact Mark Van Oostenburg at mjmf@sbcglobal.net or 616 392-8773. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Escape Ministries Work Teams // Could you use a little help around the yard this fall? A team from Escape Ministries would love to help you out! Their schedule has openings in the next few weeks, perfect to get your job done. Contact 616-396-4481.

Holland Community Theater // December 12 at 2pm at HCT to see "Just in the Nick of Time", a comedy fun for the whole family. Chris Urbaniak has all of the details.

Save the Date 2027 // Legacy Labyrinth Walk on Sunday, January 3, following the worship service. We will join with others around the country in praying for our Congress as they are sworn in and begin their work. Let us walk and pray for wisdom, peace, courage, compassion, respect, truth and integrity.

Save the Date 2027 // The Womens Retreat will take place Saturday, February 27, from 9am-4pm at FPC. Outr theme will be: Within God's Story, Your Story. More details beginning in January.

Acts 17: 27b - 28: God isn't far away from any of us.
In God we live, move, and exist... We are God's offspring."

Facilitators: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Caldwell, Rev. Dr. Barb Edema, Rev. Meg Rift, Rev. Barb Schreur, and Rev. Cathy Hoop.

Save the Date 2027 // This year FPC is celebrating the fiftieth Anniversary of the Camp and Paddle Weekend! Join us July 9-11 at Mystery Creek Campground in Newaygo. Next Sunday, look for a slide show on the TV in the Outreach area.

Advent & Christmas Eve Services

Blue Christmas // Sunday, December 20 at 5pm at Holland United Church of Christ at Midtown Center. The Christmas season brings joy and sorrow, hope and stress. Please join us for this time of worship as we acknowledge the realities of our lives. Whether you are missing a loved one or just overwhelmed by the Christmas rush, we invite you to be with us for a time of honesty and hope. This year we are partnering with some of our neighboring churches.

Children's Christmas Program // Sunday, December 20 at 10am Worship

Christmas Eve Service Times // Join us in celebrating the birth of the Christ Child!

> Family Christmas Eve Service with Communion at 3pm
> Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion at 5pm

STAFF

Cathy Caldwell-Hoop	> Senior Pastor and Head of Staff	> Cathy@fpcholland.org
Paul Van Kempen	> Associate Pastor *and* Director of Music	> Paul@fpcholland.org
Lori Lepard	> Administrative Assistant	> Office@fpcholland.org
Marlene Field	> Bookkeeper	> Marlene@fpcholland.org
Lori Klinesteker	> Clerk of Session *and* Children's Ministry Leader	> Lori@fpcholland.org
Jane Oosterhouse	> Custodian	> Jane@fpcholland.org
Thom Samuelson	> Maintenance	> Thom@fpcholland.org
Sue Stock	> Communications	> Sue@fpcholland.org

DEACONS:
Class of 2027: Kristin Goddard, Lloyd Helder, Michele Richardson, Leah Wallar
Class of 2028: Cathy Colten, Gail Hering, Fred Mc Conkey
Class of 2029: Carleen Bauer, Marti Disler, Mark Van Oostenburg

ELDERS:
Class of 2026: Luke Rund-Scott (Youth)
Class of 2027: Jen Laux Ludwig, Tom Salley, Tim Staal
Class of 2028: Jon Kreple, Lauren Stouffer, Chris Urbaniak
Class of 2029: Alana Cocanour, Paula Perkins

Children's Programming During Worship:
Children of all ages are encouraged and welcome to be with us during worship.
If you prefer an alternative:

> Nursery: Newborn - 3 years of age. Available for the whole service.
> Celebration Time - 4 years of age through 1st grade. Available after Children's Time.

Education Offerings After Worship:
Education hour is from 11 :15a -12:00p. All are welcome to participate!

> Adult Class - Michigan Room
> Youth - Youth Room
> Worship Center - PreK - 5th grade
> Nursery - Newborn through 3 years

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
659 State St., Holland, Michigan 49423 / Office: (616) 392-9022 / Email: ollice@fpcholland.org

FPC is a More Light congregation, celebrating the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals in life, ministry and witness of 1he PC (USA) and in society. You are welcome here, and you are loved. Learn more at MLP.org