

Board of World Mission



Advent Wreath Lighting Liturgies
2024

Lighting of the First Advent Candle
HOPE through Healing and Health

Today, we begin our celebration of Advent. For these next four Sundays, we will eagerly anticipate the gift that is ours in Jesus Christ. To guide us through this Advent season, we will use the candles arranged in this wreath to help us remember that Jesus is the light of the world. The wreath itself forms a circle because life in Christ has no end.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope.

We rejoice that in Jesus Christ, God is with us, Immanuel.

(The first candle is lit.)

Hope is our assurance that God is with us even in the darkest of times.

Hope is our confidence that God's presence is felt around the world through the work of the Church. Gracious God, help each of us to bring hope into the lives of others.

Hope is our belief that the promises of God are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

God is our hope today and forever! Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

In the village of Ahuas, Honduras, the Moravian Medical Clinic brings hope to a region lacking in medical resources. These doctors and nurses set broken bones, do surgeries, stitch up wounds, and deliver babies.

We thank God for the healing touch.

The Dwelling in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, stewards a mobile shower ministry where people experiencing homelessness can be washed and renewed as a reminder of their belovedness. Healing and dignity can come with the gift of water.

We thank God for the healing touch.

Waconia Moravian Church in Minnesota hosts community wellness events for youth, which include wellness checks, mental health resources, and the assurance of a safe space where all youth will be welcomed, accepted, and loved.

We thank God for the healing touch.

In this time, our congregation celebrates the light of Hope in our community and through our shared ministry:

(Speak aloud areas of work and ministry around healing and health.)

And all God's children say:

We thank God for the healing touch.

ST. THEODULPH (151 G)

The hope of our salvation is ours to fill our hearts.

Christ came to dwell among us and share our common plight.

*The whole world's grief and suff'ring and earth's unspoken pain,
your perfect hope embraces till only hope remains.*

We pray today for all God's children,

**That each one might know the hope, peace, joy, and love that
comes from God to the world through the advent of the Christ
Child. Amen.**

This resource was created in 2024 as a collaboration between these Moravian agencies: The Board of World Mission, the Moravian Ministries Foundation, the Southern Province Commission on Congregational Development, and the Interprovincial Communication

Hymn Verse: Adapted from #268 vs. 2 in the 1995 *Moravian Book of Worship*, Text by Paul Gerhardt, Tr. Jean Dogga Pearson © 1992. Used by permission of the Interprovincial Board of Communication.



Lumina Insert

December 1, 2024

ADVENT AND PALM SUNDAY

(Standing)

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, all the earth! The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Rejoice greatly, shout for joy! See, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and brings salvation.

ST. THEODULPH (151 G)

Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!

Hail in the time ap - point - ed his reign on earth be - gun!

He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,

to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.

We praise you, the Lord God of Israel! You came to the help of your people and have set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, a descendant of your servant David.

You promised through your holy prophets long ago that you would save us from our enemies, from the power of all those who hate us.

You have shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and have remembered your holy covenant.

With a solemn oath to our ancestor Abraham, you promised to rescue us from our enemies and allow us to serve you without fear,

So that we might be holy and righteous before you all the days of our life.

By your tender mercy you cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us,

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The voice of the messenger echoes from the desert, calling us to prepare the way of the Lord and to make a straight path on which he may come. Let us confess our sins, so that our crooked ways will be made straight and the rough ways smooth.

(Kneeling or sitting)

(for Advent)

Gracious Lord Jesus, you come to us with the good news of salvation, but too often we fail to notice. You come to us day by day, yet we close the doors of our hearts when it seems convenient to do things our own way. We ignore your presence and your leadership. We have failed to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. Forgive us, merciful Lord. May we live so that the world will know that you have come. Amen.

(for Palm Sunday)

Our sovereign Redeemer, we join the people of Jerusalem offering our own shouts of praise and celebration at your coming. Although we welcome you today with the multitude on Palm Sunday, we confess we have also stood with the condemning crowd on Good Friday. Our thoughts, words, and deeds have cried, "Crucify!" We turn to you for help and forgiveness, gracious Savior; not because we deserve it, but because you are forgiving. Save us from our sinful ways, and restore us to a life of loyalty to you. Amen.

Through John the Baptizer, we hear the Lord's promise: Turn away from your sins, and God will forgive your sins.

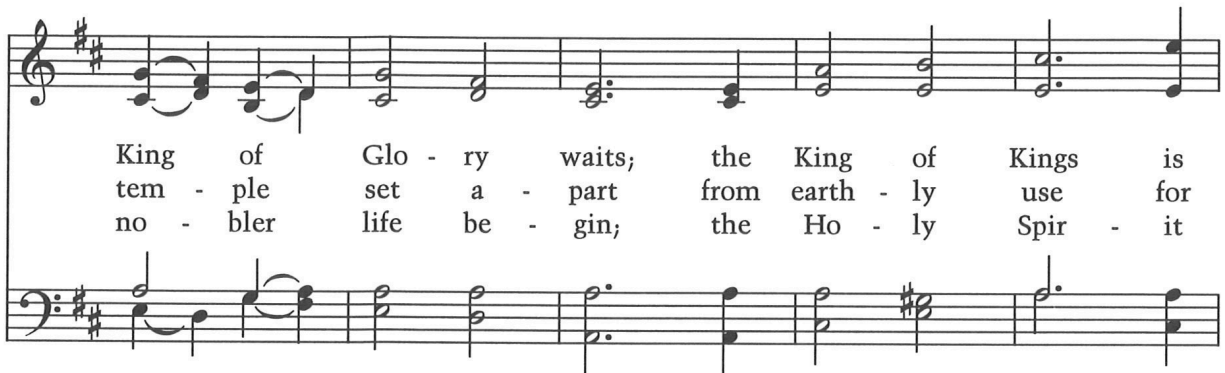
(Sitting)

(The following hymn is used for Advent.)

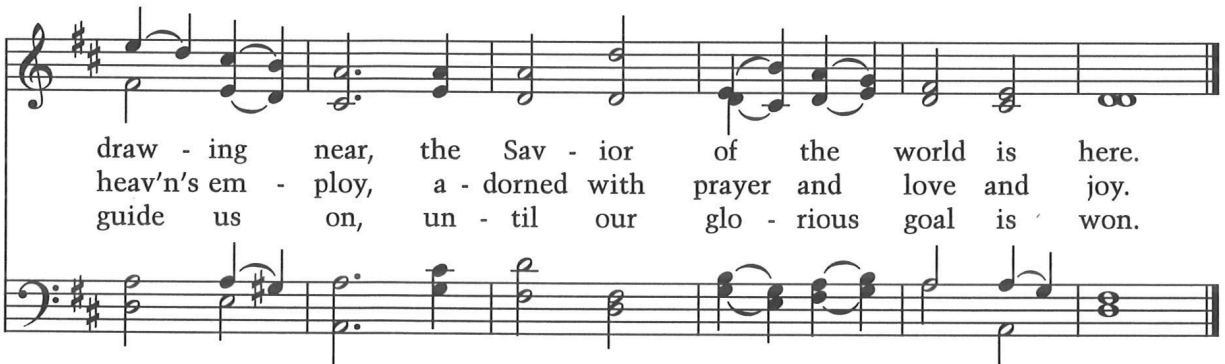
TRURO



VOICE: Lift up your heads, you might - y gates; be - hold, the
CHOIR: Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
ALL: So, come, my Sov - 'reign, en - ter in; let new and



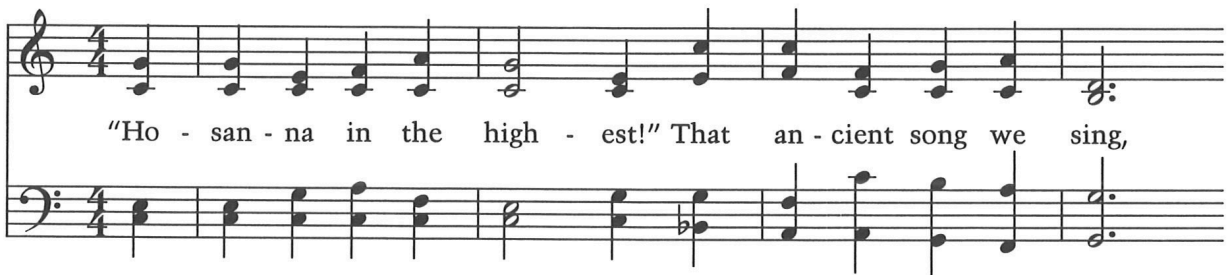
King of Glo - ry waits; the King of Kings is
tem - ple set a - part from earth - ly use for
no - bler life be - gin; the Ho - ly Spir - it



draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
guide us on, un - til our glo - rious goal is won.

(The following hymn is used for Palm Sunday.)

LANCASHIRE (151 M)



"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heav'n our King.

O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

Eternal God, Ruler of all ages, graciously you come to us in order that we might come to you, through the merit of Jesus Christ, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Help us and all your children to respond to the call of your gospel with faith, love, and hope.

God of faith, you created humanity to serve and praise you; and even when we rebelled against you, you promised to send a Savior to redeem us from our sins:

Strengthen our faith in your saving work through Christ. As you chose the people of Israel to hear the promise of redemption through the prophets, may people today believe in your good will for all that you have made.

God of love, you fulfilled your promise of a redeemer in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Grant us the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may share your love with the sick and the afflicted, with the poor and the homeless, with the victims of injustice and discrimination, and with all who are experiencing times of trouble.

God of hope, you comfort us through our Savior's promise to return in glory at the end of time:

As we await the coming of the Prince of Peace, let us not despair. We long for you to inspire all the nations and peoples of the world to turn to cooperation and nurture, rather than to hatred and destruction.

God of faith, love, and hope, to you and to you alone we pray:

For you are our God, the only God, forever and ever. Amen.

(Standing)

(Here the Hosanna, page 239, or another suitable hymn may be sung.)

Lord, you have kept the promise you made to our ancestors, and have come to the help of your servant people.

You remembered to show mercy to Abraham and Sarah and to all their descendants forever!

We praise you, Lord. You are enthroned in glory, yet you came and continue to come for all who will receive you. We praise you, for you are good, and your mercy endures forever.

To you be glory and power, forever and ever. Amen.

REGENT SQUARE (585 D)

ALL

Praise to you, O Lord, we ren - der for your love in Je - sus shown;

may that love, so strong and ten - der, bind us fast to him a - lone;

CHOIR ALL

now and ev - er, now and ev - er, gath - er us a - mong your own.

258 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," the
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, and
 3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you, let

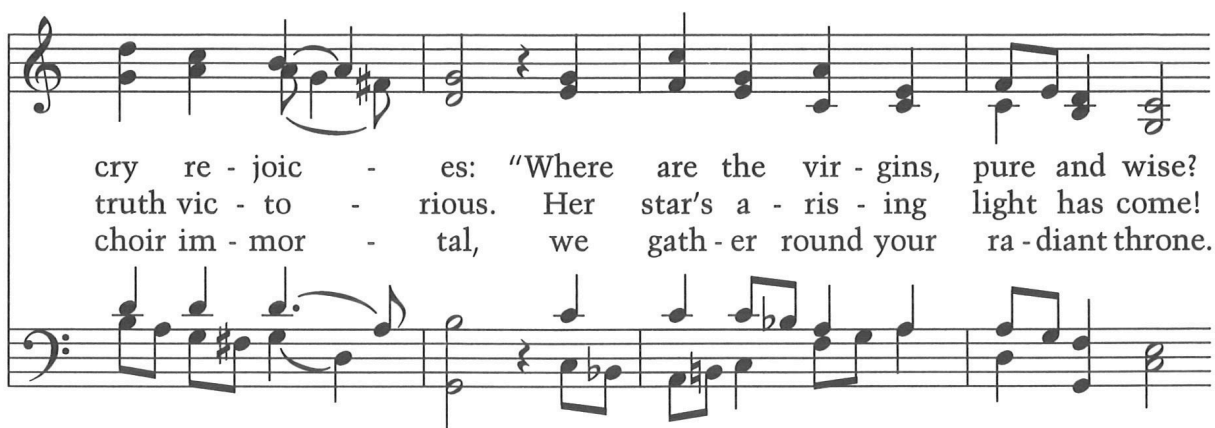
watch - men on the heights are cry - ing; "A -
 in her heart new joy is spring - ing. She
 saints and an - gels sing be - fore you with

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night hears the
 wakes, she ris - es from her gloom. For her Lord comes
 harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone. Of one pearl each

wel - come voic - es and at the thrill - ing
 down all - glo - rious, the strong in grace, in
 shin - ing por - tal, where, join - ing with the

TEXT: Philipp Nicolai (1599). Tr. Catherine Winkworth (1858), alt.
 TUNE: Hans Sachs (1494-1576); alt. Philipp Nicolai (1599)
 Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

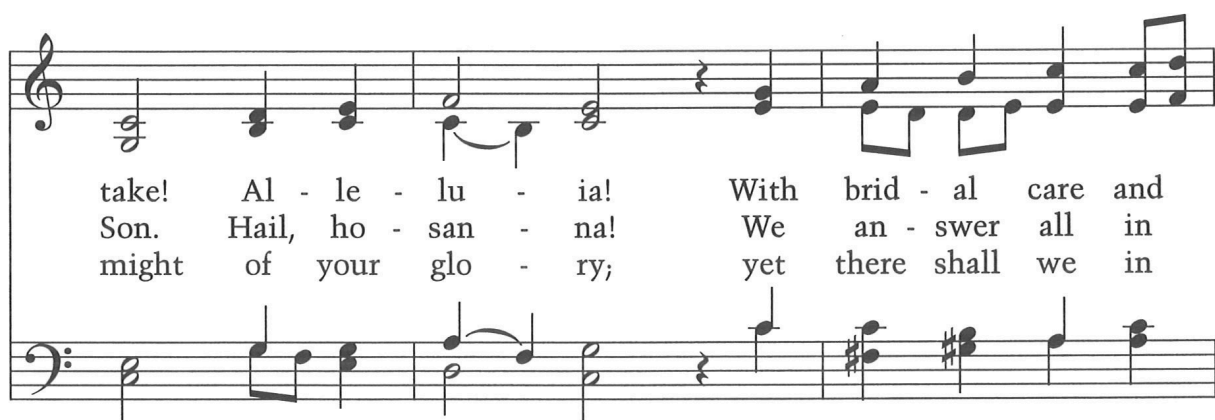
8.9.8.8.9.8.6.6.4.8.8.
 WACHET AUF, RUFT UNS DIE STIMME



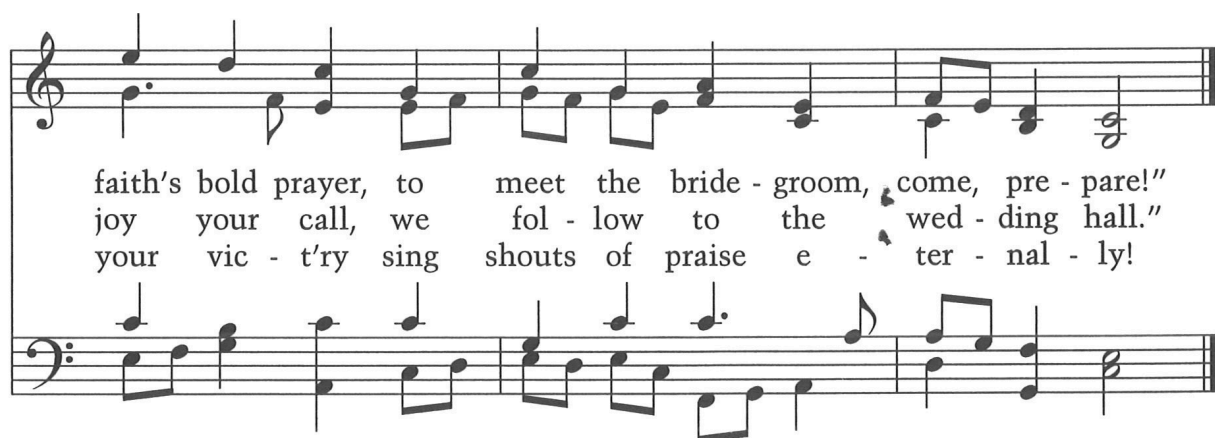
cry re - joic - es: "Where are the vir - gins, pure and wise?
truth vic - to - rious. Her star's a - ris - ing light has come!
choir im - mor - tal, we gath - er round your ra - diant throne.



The bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness
"Now come, O bless - ed one, Lord Je - sus, God's own
No eye has seen that light, no ear the ech - oed



take! Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care and
Son. Hail, ho - san - na! We an - swer all in
might of your glo - ry; yet there shall we in



faith's bold prayer, to meet the bride - groom, come, pre - pare!"
joy your call, we fol - low to the wed - ding hall."
your vic - t'ry sing shouts of praise e - ter - nal - ly!

SERVICE MUSIC

817 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

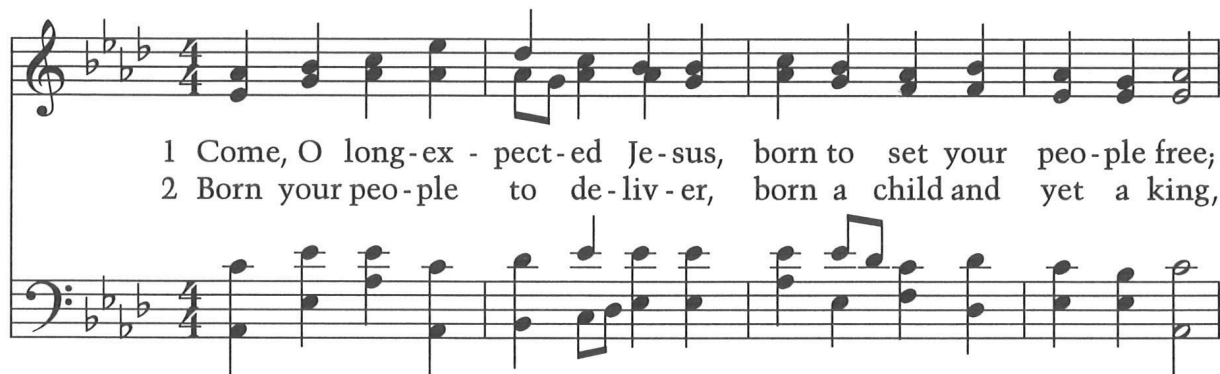
The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost! A - men.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the bass line providing a steady harmonic foundation.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost! A - men.

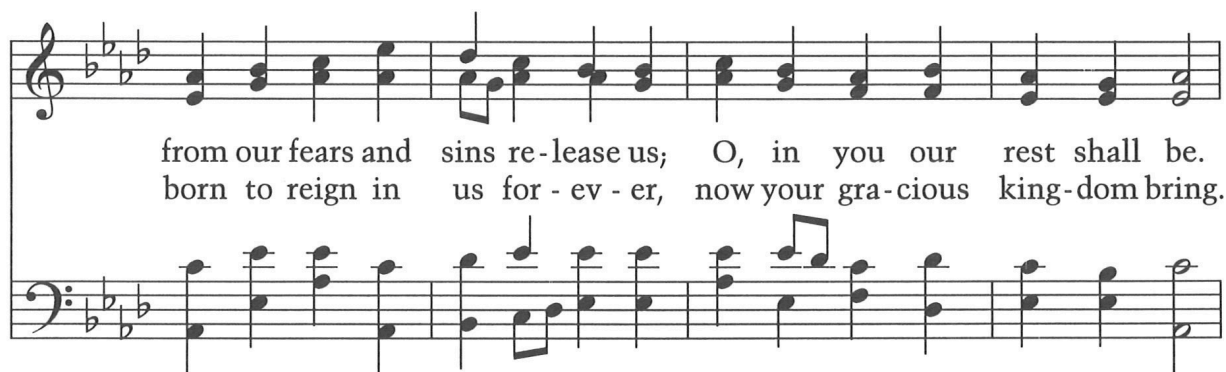
TEXT: Thomas Ken (1695), alt. (1709)
TUNE: Genevan Psalter (1551), original form

L.M.
OLD HUNDREDTH (22 E)

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus



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



from our fears and sins re-lease us; O, in you our rest shall be.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now your gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, hope to all the earth im-part,
By your own e - ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;



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

TEXT: Charles Wesley (1744), alt.

TUNE: Herrnhut (c. 1735); John Thommen (1745); C. Gregor Choralbuch (1784)

Alternate key, hymn 330

8.7.8.7.D. Trochaic

CASSEL (167 A)