

# Hope



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**December 03, 2017**

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Welcome! Enter with Prayer, Worship in Awe, Leave to Serve.

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

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## WELCOME TO THE STORY

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*Stir up your power, and come! Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. A cry for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.*

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## A Story that Invites Us

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### Singing Bowl

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

**PRELUDE . . .** *Leilani Camara & Michael Keating*

**WELCOME**

Please Stand

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.*

**All: Amen.**

*P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

*P: God of all time,*

**All: we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

*P: Comfort, O comfort my people, says our God. In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!*

**All: Amen.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING . . .** “Where the Promise Shines” - *Candle I*

Choir: Where the world is waiting for an unknown day,  
Where a voice, forgotten, cries “Prepare the way!”  
Show us in a manger our redemption’s sign;  
Bring us to a morning where the promise shines.  
Lead us on, lead us on  
To a morning where the promise shines.  
Lead us on, lead us on  
To a morning where the promise shines.

## LITANY . . . *The Promise of Hope*

L: Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

**All: We wait in hope for the Lord.**

L: We long for every hurt to be healed.

**All: We wait in hope for the Lord.**

L: We long for every tear to be dried.

**All: We wait in hope for the Lord.**

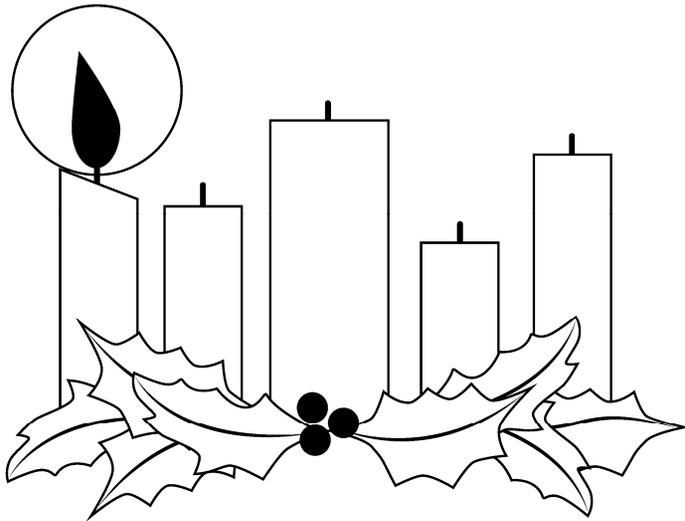
L: We long for every injustice to be made right.

**All: We wait in hope for the Lord.**

L: We celebrate God's promise and long for those yet to unfold.

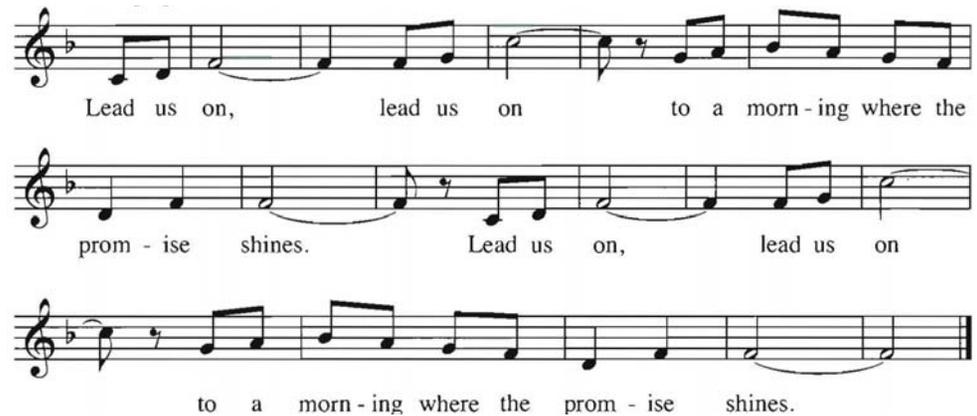
**All: We wait in hope for the Lord.**

Candle is lit



*P: This morning we light the **first candle** which reminds us that even in the midst of darkness, the light of hope shines. Jesus Christ is the promised One of God, the light of the world. May this light of hope illuminate our hearts throughout this Advent season.*

**All:**



Choir: To a morning where the promise shines.

## CLOSING PRAYER

*P: Gracious God, fill our hearts this day with the thrill of hope that is found in each of your promises.*

**All: Like the people of old, we who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. Ignite our faith and light our path. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Isaiah prophesies, "They will hammer their swords into ploughs." Christ is coming!

**All: We await the coming of the One who brings peace.**

L: Isaiah prophesies, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Christ is coming!

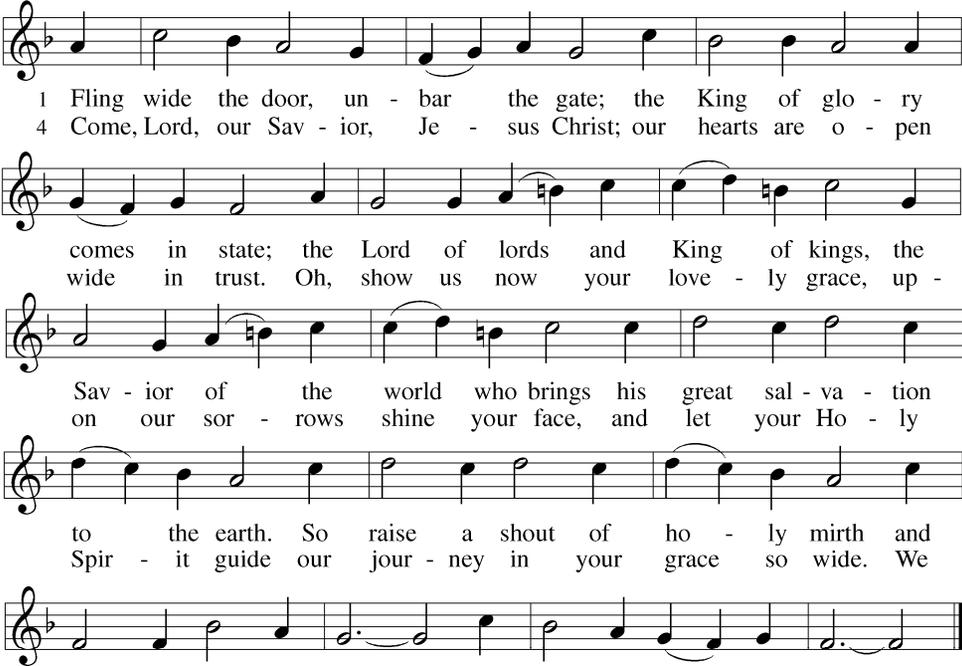
**All: We await the coming of the One who brings light to those who know darkness.**

L: Isaiah prophesies, "A new king will arise from the descendants of David." Christ is coming!

**All: We await the coming of the One who brings justice and integrity. Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Rejoice, rejoice!**

## OPENING HYMN . . . “Fling Wide the Door” vs. 1, 4

Text: Georg Weissel - Tune: J. A. Freylinghausen - Cranberry Book #259



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen  
comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -  
Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly  
to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We  
praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

## GREETING

*P:* Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near! God is with you.

**All:** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*L:* Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins,

**All:** and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

## CHOIR ANTHEM . . . “Lighting the Flame of Hope”

### The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

## READING . . . Isaiah 64:1-9

*This lament comes 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.*

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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION . . . tune: “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

All: **Lord, to whom else shall we go  
Words of deathless life to know?  
Not by bread alone we live,  
But by ev’ry word You give.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

P: *The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.*

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL . . . Mark 13:24-37**

*In today’s reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.*

[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 his 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.”

P: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

All: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Be Seated

**CHILDREN’S TIME . . . Pastor Tim**

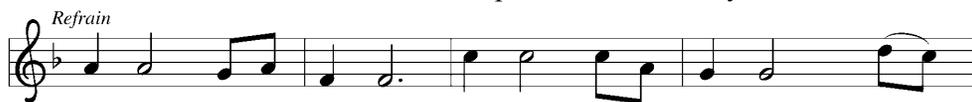


Please Stand

## HYMN OF THE DAY . . . “My Lord, What a Morning” vs.

1, 3

Text & Tune: African American spiritual – Cranberry Book # 438



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum - pet sound, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,  
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

Be Seated

## MESSAGE . . . Pastor Tim

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### A Story that Feeds Us

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## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: We have been told the days are surely coming. We have been given signs.

**All: The Promised One is coming, and we wait in expectation.**

L: We have a message to give the world, a message of promises about to be fulfilled. Our offering will enable this church community to proclaim this message as clearly as we can.

**All: It also enables us individually to show our gratitude, even as we wait. Amen.**

## THANKFUL OFFERING

## SPECIAL MUSIC . . . Carmen Blair and Leilani Camara

Please Stand

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . “In the Bleak Midwinter”

**All: What can I give him, poor as I am?**

**If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;**

**If I were a wise man I would do my part;**

**Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us.

**All: Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people. Give light to your people, Lord. As the darkness grows and we await the return of daylight, give new life to your church. Shape our communities to be faithful vessels of the gospel for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Restore your creation, Lord. You give the earth opportunities for both sleep and awakening. Thank you for the gift of restful seasons so new life may grow according to your appointed time. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Stir up compassion in us for all who wait for you. Be near to those whose lives are shaken, those who are experiencing loss, those who long for healing and wholeness, those who live with HIV and AIDS, and those who are in any kind of need. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: We pray for child care workers, teachers, Sunday school leaders, and all who nurture and educate children. We give you thanks for their diligence and devotion. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: God of all, hear the prayers of our heart said either silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayers.**

L: We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

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### A CAROL SETTING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

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**THE PREFACE . . . tune: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

L: Oh, may the good Lord be with you.

**All: And may the Lord be with you too.**

L: Lift your hearts to God in praise.

**All: To the Lord our hearts we raise.**

L: Let us offer praises true.

**All: It is fitting so to do:**

**Gratefully we sing to the Lord, our King!**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*P: Lord God, we anticipate again the birth of your Son. As we stand on the threshold of the fulfillment of your greatest promise, we are in awe of the manner in which you have accomplished your purposes. You chose to lift up those whom the world regarded as poor, weak and*

*powerless. You frustrated the efforts of those who considered themselves to be great and powerful. Guide us this Advent Season to deeper levels of commitment to your kingdom. Open our eyes to see new ways to love you and to serve you in this holy Advent Season. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing:*

**THE SANCTUS . . . tune: “From Heaven Above”**

**All: As light breaks forth, we sing Your praise  
To you, Redeemer of our days,  
For we have found in Jesus’ birth  
Good news of peace and human worth.**

**As you, great God, in glory reign,  
We cannot long in sin remain,  
For by your righteousness and grace  
The path to Bethlehem we trace.**

### CONSECRATION

*P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER . . . tune: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”**

**All: Our Father, Lord on heaven’s high throne,  
Most holy be your name.  
Your kingdom come; your will be done  
On earth in heaven the same.**

**Give us this day the food we need;  
Forgiven may we be;  
Into temptation do not lead;  
From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom; unto you  
In grateful love we bow;  
And yours the power; Lord, let us view  
Your mighty presence now.  
The glory yours; your praise be sung  
By angel hosts and men,  
In every land, by every tongue  
Forevermore. Amen.**

### FRACTION RITE

*P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.*

**All: Let us enter into the joy of this feast.**

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you forward  
after the Lamb of God is sung

**LAMB OF GOD . . . tune: " 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime "**

**All: O Lamb of God who takes away  
our sins, have mercy.**

**O Lamb of God who takes away  
our sins, have mercy.**

**O Lamb of God who takes away  
the sins of all the earth, we pray:**

**Jesus, grant us your peace, grant us your peace.  
Glory be to God on high.**

Holy Communion is open to all.

Grape juice is white, wine is red.

If you desire communion brought to you,  
please let an usher know.

### COMMUNION HYMN . . . "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Text: Liturgy of St. James - Tune: French folk tune - Cranberry Book #490



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,  
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way;  
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,  
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.  
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav' n - ly food.  
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

### COMMUNION HYMN . . . "The King Shall Come"

Text: John Brownlie - Tune: A. Davissón - Cranberry Book #260



1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and light tri - um - phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Singing Bowl

Please Stand

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*P: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share.*

**All: Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**POST COMMUNION THANKS . . .** *tune: “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”*

**All: Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise,  
What He has done proclaim!  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
And proudly bear His name  
Who leads His thankful people forth  
His promises to claim.  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy,  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!**

Be Seated



Please Stand

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**A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve**

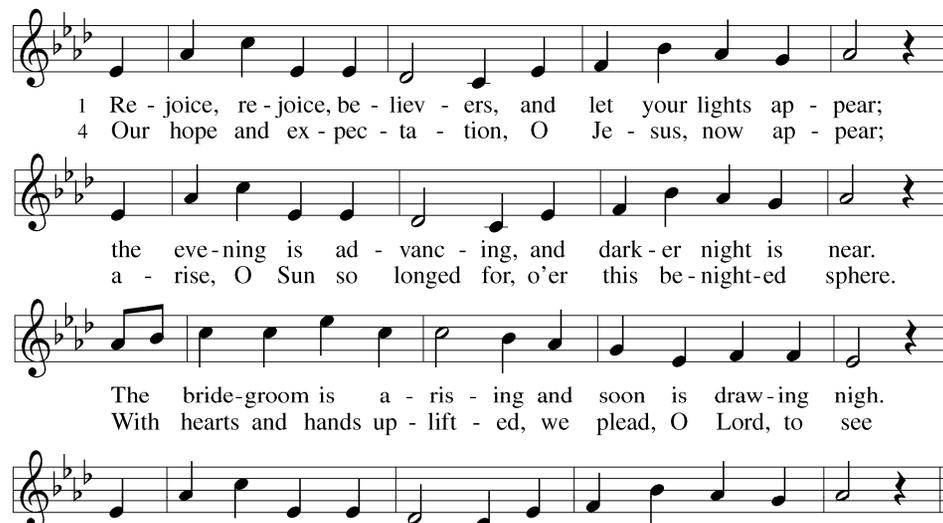
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**BENEDICTION . . .** *tune: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

**L: Now may the good Lord bless and keep,  
His love in you increase;  
Lift up His face with shining grace,  
And grant eternal peace.**

**All: To Father, Son and Spirit,  
Eternal One-in-Three,  
Be thanks and praise through all our days  
And to eternity!**

**SENDING HYMN . . .** *“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” vs. 1, 4*  
Text: Laurentius Laurenti – Tune: Swedish folk tune – Cranberry Book #244



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;  
the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.  
The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see  
Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

## DISMISSAL

**L: Go in peace. Prepare the way.  
All: Thanks be to God.**

“Where the Promise Shines” Candle Lighting Ceremony  
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