

“Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard.”



Painting by Bonafazio Veronese 1487-1553

*November 28, 2021  
First Sunday in Advent*

*Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church*

Worship for Sunday, November 28, 2021  
First Sunday in Advent  
Live Streaming Worship 10AM



*“The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.”*  
*Henri Nouwen*

Prelude

For the Time of Advent

Bouvard

Welcome

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

**\*Call to Worship**

Doris Gorman

Please stand for the Call to Worship:

Tenderly calling, God speaks: "Comfort, O comfort my people."

**We wander, confused in this busy season, lost in the mall, stuck in traffic.**

Crying with love, God speaks: "Get up to a high mountain and shout the good news!"

**We climb endless hills, facing the piles of cards unanswered, the gifts yet unwrapped.**

Promising hope, God speaks: "Every mountain shall be made low.

The uneven ground shall be leveled."

**We trudge along, looking for joy in scheduled activities, and long-held traditions.**

Proclaiming love, God speaks: "Do not fear! Here is your God!"

**We walk this journey, led by the shepherd of love.**

And when we tire, we are carried in the heart of God.

**We wait with patience and anticipation, for God is with us even now!**

Come let us worship Emmanuel - God with us!

**\*Opening Prayer**

Doris Gorman

Let us pray: Shepherding God, guide us through this season of anticipation and hope.

Comfort our troubled minds, and strengthen our tired bodies.

Restore the hope this season offers, that we might lift our voices with strength and joy!

Straighten the crooked paths that we might walk in your ways.

Level the rocky ground that we might prepare for your arrival in our world.

In Christ's name, we pray. **Amen**

*\*Please stand if you are able, Congregation reads aloud the **bold** print.*

**Lighting of the Advent Candles (The Trapasso Family)**

We light this first candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming.

(One Candle is Lit)

**We are preparing ourselves for the days**

**when the nations 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. (Isa. 2:4)**

**\*Hymn GTG #88**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs 1-4)*

Veni Emmanuel

# 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge  
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high,  
 and close the path to misery.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
 our spirits by thine advent here;  
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 all peoples in one heart and mind;  
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

*One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:*

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

## Prayer of Confession and Reconciliation

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

God's messenger proclaims that the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come. Let us come before the Lord with our prayers of reconciliation. Let us pray;  
God of tenderness and love, breathe your grace into our lives.  
Forgive our wandering ways, and guide us along your paths of peace.  
When we lose our way, and forget the reason and purpose of this season carry us back to you.  
Lead us up to that high mountain of faith and hope, that we might truly proclaim: "Here is our God!" In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

### *A Time of Silence*

*[Please take this time in silence to offer your own prayers of confession—confessing your need for God and naming those barriers that keep you from knowing life as God's beloved child.]*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

"Comfort, O comfort my people," says our God. You have served your term. Your penalty is paid. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

\*RESPONSE in Praise: #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs 7)*

Veni Emmanuel

*O come, Desire of Nations Bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heavens peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## \*Passing of the Peace

Share with one another signs of peace and love. Show the Light of Christ to one another, that we may be reminded of the peace that passes all understanding. The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share God's peace with each other. *(Please share the Peace with each other)*

## Children's Time

*(Please join in singing v. 3 of Away in a Manger as the children leave.)*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there*

## Prayer for Illumination

Doris Gorman

Let us pray: Let us pray: Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. Amen

## Scriptures

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

New Revised Standard Version

Doris Gorman

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

**Luke 1: 68-79**

New Revised Standard Version

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon 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 Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

"Called to Christmas – Zechariah and Elizabeth"

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

**\*Hymn GTG # 82**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Hyfrydol

# 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.

Offertory Invitation

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

Anthem

Song of Zechariah

John Weaver

Congregational Response : *You have come to your people and set them free.*

\*Doxology # 84

*Creator of the Stars of Night (vs 4)*

Conditor Alme Siderum

*To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit three in one,  
Praise, honor, might and glory be from age to age eternally..*

\*Prayer of Dedication

God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ' s coming in glory. Amen.

Announcements and Prayer Requests

*(Please write your requests and announcements on the paper provided in the Atrium.  
They are brought forward during the offering.)*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn GTG #93

*Lift up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Truro

# Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

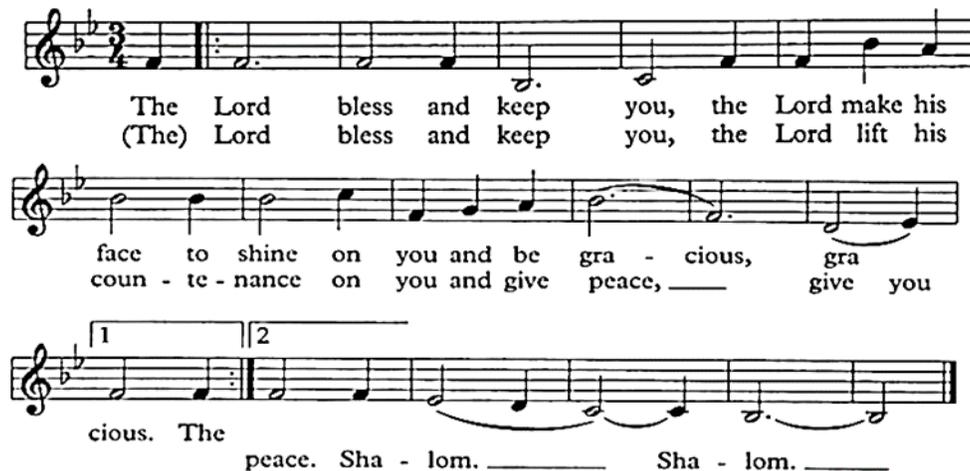
1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer’s heart, and concludes with the individual’s welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

## Blessing and Benediction



The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his  
(The) Lord bless and keep you, the Lord lift his  
face to shine on you and be gra - cious, gra  
coun - te - nance on you and give peace, \_\_\_\_\_ give you  
cious. The  
peace. Sha - lom. \_\_\_\_\_ Sha - lom. \_\_\_\_\_

Postlude

Bring a torch

Jeannette Isabella



## Announcements

### Looking Ahead to Advent

**November 29 – First Sunday of Advent.** The Trapasso family will light the first candles. Rev Lyman will start a sermon series entitled, “Called to Christmas”. This week, we explore the call of Elizabeth and Zachariah.

**November 30 - Giving Tuesday.** Please see inserts in Cross Currents. Giving Catalogs from the PC(USA) and other information are on the table in the Atrium.

### December 1

**2pm - Nottingham Worship service.** All are invited to join us.

**7pm - Advent Evening Gatherings.** Last year’s contemplative Advent gatherings were well received. Please join us again on zoom as we prayerfully celebrate Advent.

#### Zoom Meeting information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8614729766?pwd=MUVOWmlmVIZYSHYyb2dnU0s2K1JRQT09>

Meeting ID: 861 472 9766

Passcode: Godsgrace

**December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent.** Communion. Dedication of new hymnals.

## Prayer Requests

We pray for Eileen Allen's brother Leonard who is facing increasing disability from MSA.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for the Sognafest family on the passing of their beloved Aunt Dorothy.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for the Trapasso family. Karen lost her mother last week.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for Bette Kahler. She is having ongoing medical treatments.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for Terry and Lynda Wheat. Terry is home and on hospice.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for Maureen Macero's sister, Laura, who continues with serious health issues.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We pray for Maggie Reid's brother Scott who is home recovering from bypass surgery.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

*Flowers for this morning's service were donated by Craig, Susan and Kevin Cobb  
Thank you.*

REV. ELIZABETH LYMAN – TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

BETTE KAHLER – DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

DORIS GORMAN – LITURGIST

THANKS TO NANCY STEWART, GARY QUIRK AND TOM TAYLOR  
FOR LIVE STREAMING THIS MORNING'S SERVICE

