

First Congregational Church of Ithaca
First Sunday of Advent (November 29, 2020)

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Prelude *Wachet auf! ruft uns die Stimme* J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (Adapted from Isaiah 4:3-5)

In the desert of life, prepare a pathway for God.

In the wilderness, make a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up and every mountain made low.

And the glory of God shall be revealed among us!

***Hymn** O Come, O Come Emmanuel (insert, #88)

Lighting the Advent Candle

We shall light the Advent candle, praying that our preparation for Christmas may help us to look outward in love, and to look forward in hope. Let us pray that waiting for Christmas may show us how to be patient when things take time, how to live for Christ day by day, and how to wait for promises not yet fulfilled.

Risen Christ, Light of the world,

shine in our lives and shine among us now.

We light this candle because we refuse to let go of Isaiah's hope that swords can be beaten into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks, and that nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Risen Christ, Light of the world,

shine in our lives and shine among us now.

Unison Prayer

Gracious God, keeper of the secrets of creation, visit us through the cry of the needy, the unforeseen stranger, and the unexpected guest, that we may be ready for the coming of Christ in the midst of life, at the end of life, and throughout time. Amen.

***Advent Candle Song, v. 1**

One bright candle, light our way. Fill our hearts with hope, we pray,

Hope and comfort from above, hope in God's abiding love.

Candles burning, candles bright, fill the world with endless light;

Fill our lives that we may, too, burn more brightly, burn more true.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Sung Response** *Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost*
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Scripture Lessons Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 [James Taylor]

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Mark 13: 24-37

Interlude *Allegro from Toccata in G* J. S. Bach

Sermon "The Season of Radical Possibility"

***Hymn** People, Look East (insert, #105)

Morning Prayers and Lord's Prayer

Litany Prayer

Leader: We pray to God

People: Hear us, O God

Sung Response *Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me (twice).*
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Sharing our Gifts *Adagio from Toccata in G* J. S. Bach

***Doxology** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.*
Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (insert, #39)

***Benediction**

Postlude *Fugue from Toccata in G* J. S. Bach

*** Congregation stands (*live-streamers, feel free to lift your hearts!*)**

Participating Today

Susan Fast, Director of Caring Ministries, sustfast@yahoo.com
Dr. William Cowdery, Director of Music
Rachel Eichman, Tech Support
Joyce Billing, Reader

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. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

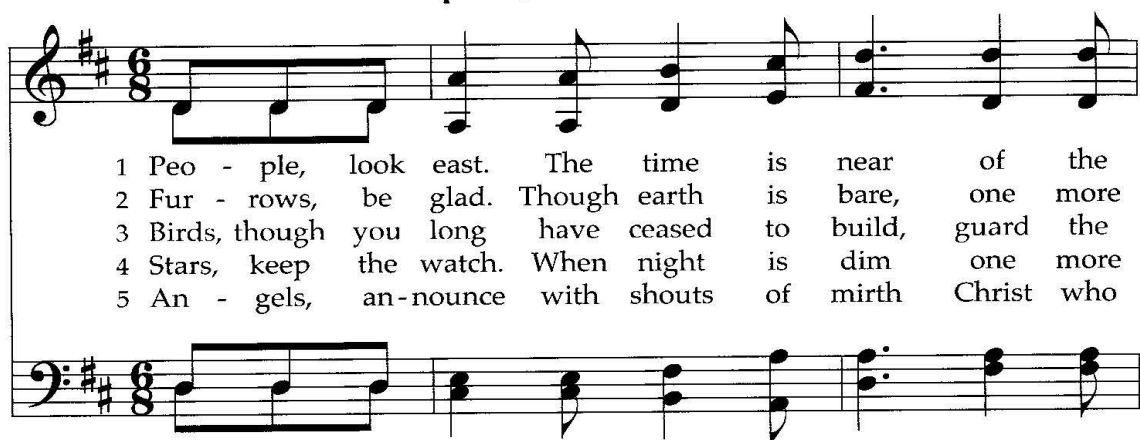
Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

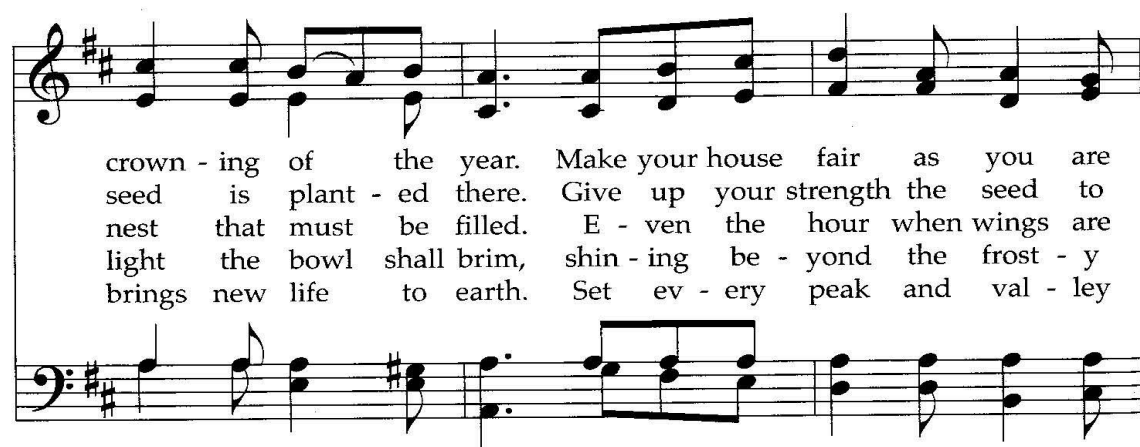
These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

105

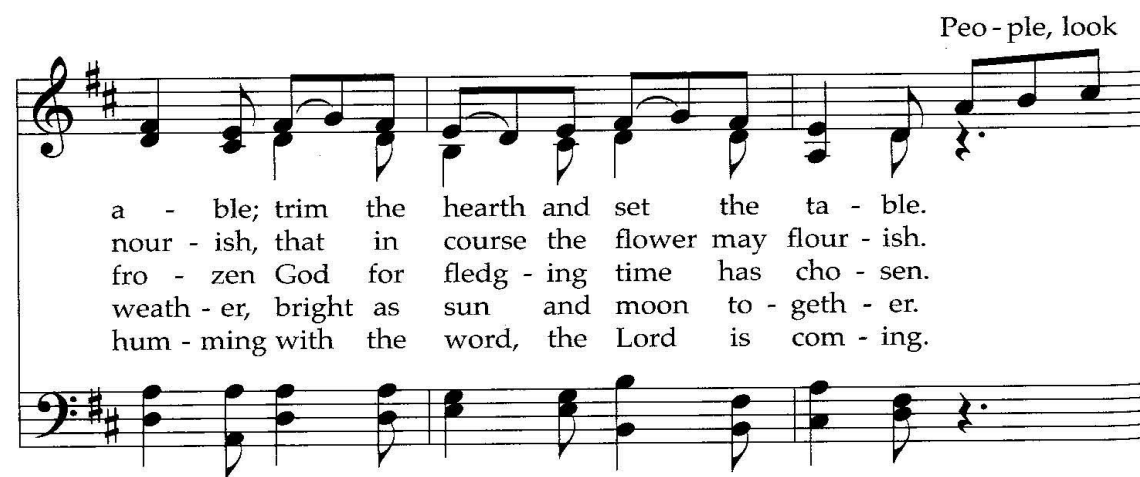
People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley



Peo - ple, look
a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

TEXT: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928, alt.

MUSIC: French folk melody; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928

Text © 1960 David Higham Associates, Ltd.

Music Harm. © 1928 Oxford University Press

BESANÇON
8.7.9.8.8.7

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

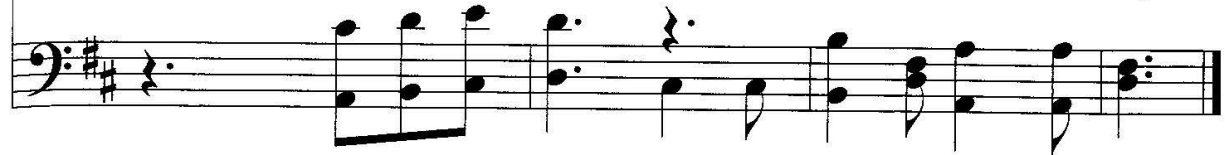
east and sing to - day:



Peo - ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
Love, the Bird, is on the way.
Love, the Star, is on the way.
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)



CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주



Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
 날 마 다 자 비 를 베푸 시 며



All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
 일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니



Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

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