

THOSE
WHO *keep awake*
DREAM
1ST Sunday in Advent

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

— Psalm 126

GATHERING

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Lighting the Hope Candle

Prelude

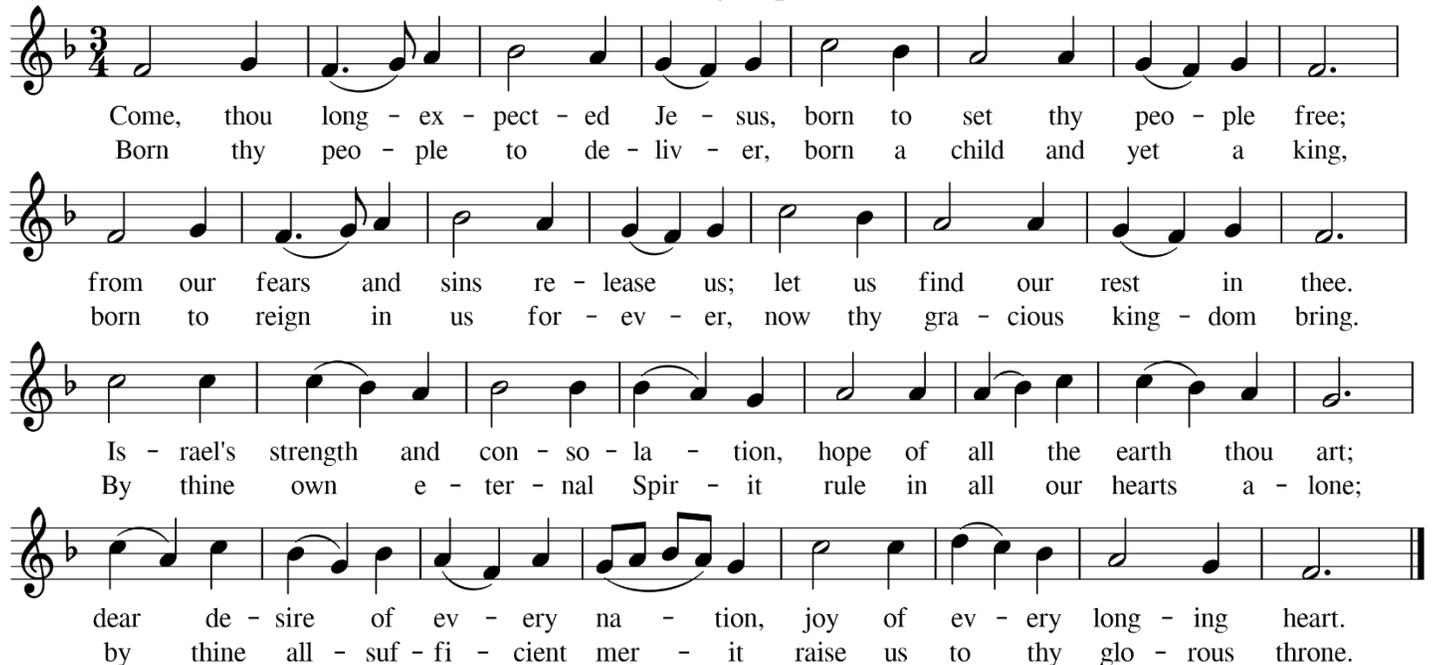
Calista Koch, harp

Scripture Reading – Psalm 80

Restore Us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Morning Prayer

*Hymn #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus


Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
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 - rous throne.

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

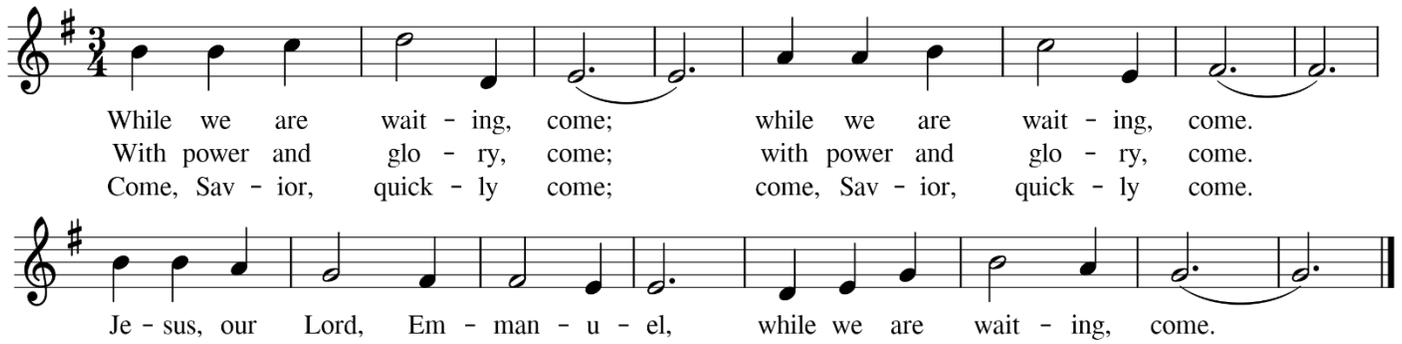
O promised Christ:

We are a world always at war.**Our peace depends on your coming.****We are a sinful people.****Our pardon depends on your coming.****We are full of good intentions****but weak at keeping promises;****our only hope of doing God's will****is that you should come and help us do it.****Lord Jesus, Word made flesh,****our world waits for your peace,****for your pardon,****and for your grace.****Even so: come, Lord Jesus.****Hear our prayers ...**

[silent prayers]

*Response #92

While We Are Waiting, Come



While we are wait - ing, come; while we are wait - ing, come.
 With power and glo - ry, come; with power and glo - ry, come.
 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come; come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, while we are wait - ing, come.

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Signs of Peace

LISTENING

Announcements

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

Interlude

Calista Koch, harp

Scripture Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Sermon

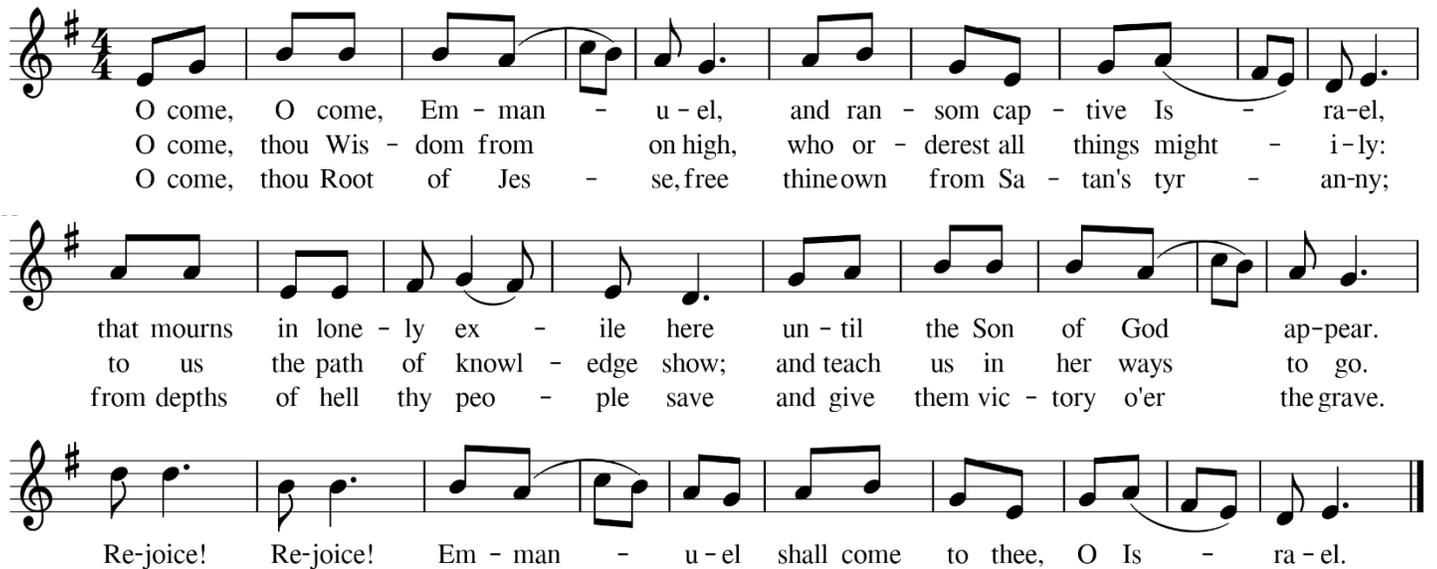
THOSE WHO DREAM... Keep Awake

DEPARTING

*Hymn #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

verses 1, 2, 4



O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra-el,
 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest all things might - i-ly:
 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's tyr - an-ny;

that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap-pear.
 to us the path of knowl - edge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
 from depths of hell thy peo - ple save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.

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

Remembering the Sacrament of Communion

Hymn #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

verses 6-7

O come, thou Day - spring come and cheer our spi - rits by thine ad - vent here;
 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ple in one heart - and mind;
 dis - perse the glo - omy clouds of night, and death's dark sha - dows put to flight.
 bid en - vy, strife and dis - cord cease; fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.
 Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

*Charge and Benediction

*Response

Northumbria Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

Postlude

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**INFORMATION****Welcome to our guests!**

Whether you are sharing in the worship of God with us for the first time, visiting with family or friends, or returning for a visit to your home church, we welcome you today in the name of Jesus. Please share some contact information with us so we can follow up with you and make a place for you in our weekly fellowship. You may email our church office at admin@northminstermacon.org.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers today are given by Boyd and Mary Wain Ellison to the glory of God and in celebration of 52 years of marriage.

Lectionary Readings

Nov. 29, 1st Sunday of Advent – Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Dec. 6, 2nd Sunday of Advent – Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

PRAYER CONCERNS

Current Member Concerns: Ann R. Smith; Karen Jones; Jewel James; Ann Hall; Jane Ebey; John Hurst; John Geerlings; Grace Goodwin; Mary Ann Ellis; Kathy Wheeler; Andy Weaver; Shelby Duffy; Betty Barlow

Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Nelda Crow; Kirk Knox

Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; T. Wright Goodwin, IV; James C. Watwood; Joshua Sulkers

Lessons & Carols, Next Sunday – December 6

Sunday, December 6, we will celebrate our annual Lessons and Carols worship service at 10:30am. Although the extra care needing to be taken during this season of Covid has caused some changes to this year's program, we will still celebrate the advent season through song and scripture. Be sure to join us early for an extended prelude by the string quartet.

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our calling at Northminster is to make disciples, to grow in faith together, and to serve others in Christ.

CONGREGATION: Ministers of the Good News

SESSION of Ruling Elders: Sam Alderman, III; Boyd Ellison; Judy Hill; Ricky Smith; Ann Weaver; Emily Brown;

Beau Kitchens; Lynn Denny; Charlotte Nolan; Sandra Ridgeway KAREN JONES, Clerk of Session

RALPH HAWKINS, Pastor and Teaching Elder PAUL EVANS, Parish Associate SANDRA SMITH, Music Director

BENJAMIN GAIL, Sexton JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

Office hours this week: Mon-Fri 9:00-1:00

**2020 Alternative
Christmas Fair**

Name: _____

Thornwell: \$ _____

No. of cards needed: _____

Habitat: \$ _____

No. of cards needed: _____

Loaves & Fishes: \$ _____

No. of cards needed: _____



2020

Alternative Christmas Fair

Now through December 15th

Our annual Alternative Christmas Fair gives you an opportunity to give your friends and family a gift that gives twice. When you donate through the Alternative Christmas Fair to any of the below ministries, whether giving online, by mail, or with the provided envelope, you will also be given Christmas cards that you may gift to loved ones, letting them know you have given to these ministries in their honor. You may either specify how many cards you need with your donation, or we will contact you after receiving your donation.

Thornwell

Habitat for Humanity

Loaves & Fishes



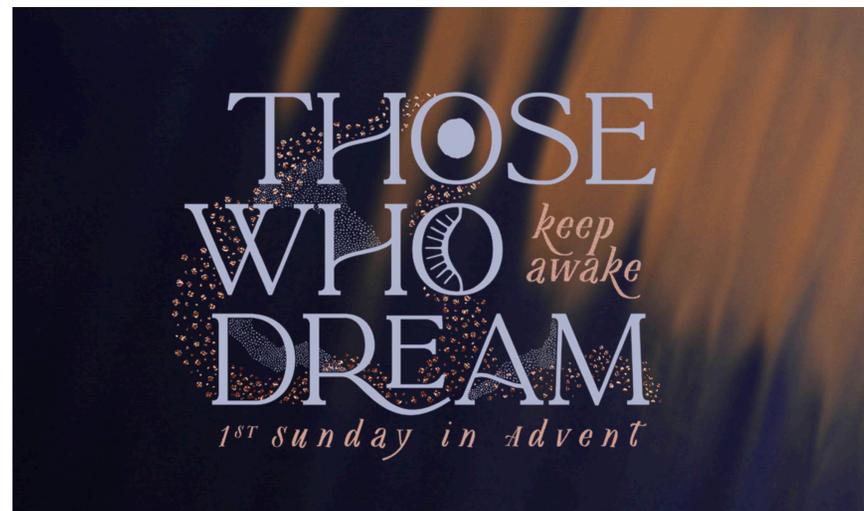
<p>Advent. Season when Dual Citizenship Holds us in Awkward tension.</p> <p>The world, intent on Spending Christmas, Eats and drinks its way to Oblivion after dinner. The Kingdom sounds Insistent warnings: Repent, be ready, Keep awake, He comes.</p> <p>Like some great fugue The themes entwine: The Christmas carols, Demanding our attention In shops and pubs, Bore their insistent way Through noise and traffic;</p>	<p>Underneath, almost unheard, The steady solemn theme of Advent.</p> <p>With growing complexity, Clashing, blending, Rivals for attentions, Themes mingle and separate, Pulling us with increasing Urgency, Until in final resolution, The end attained, Harmony rests in awful Stillness, and The child is born.</p> <p>He comes, Both Child and Judge.</p> <p>And will he find us Watching?</p>
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“Watchet Auf” by Ann Lewin
from *Unfinished Sentences*, 1986

Brothers and sisters, it is now the season of the Lord’s coming, and we must use the time to prepare ourselves by some spiritual devotion. We must strive to enter the house of our hearts, open the windows, and notice what is seemly and what is unseemly in that house. We must brush away the cobwebs, sweep the floors, clean out the dust and the dirt, strew the clean floors with freshly gathered rushes, fragrant herbs, and sweet-smelling flowers.

Hugh of Saint Victor (1096-1141)
Saxon canon regular and a leading theologian and writer on mystical theology

Monday Morning



When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Psalm 120

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.”

Jesus, from Mark 13

This Advent season begins amid pandemic and protest. We were not prepared for the dramatic shifts in our ways of living as COVID-19 began its trek across the globe. Many physical bodies have been ravaged and lives taken by this fierce virus. Families, churches, schools, and employees have been scattered from their gathering spaces into physical isolation.

To begin Advent amid pandemic and protest is a befitting point of departure for 21st century people of God. We are being reminded that to be the people of God requires an ethical posture of attentiveness, to “keep awake” (v. 37). The text charges us to “keep awake” because we do not know the day or the hour when the fullness of “God with us” will be realized.

As we light the Advent candle of hope, we keep awake by dreaming, by envisioning how we will live out God’s promise to be with us. We expect God to be with us and meet us on the other side of this pandemic and protest. For the other side of pandemic and protest is not a return to “normal”; it is living the hope of God’s continuing revelation of justice.

Marcia Y. Riggs
J. Erskine Love Professor of Christian Ethics
Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA

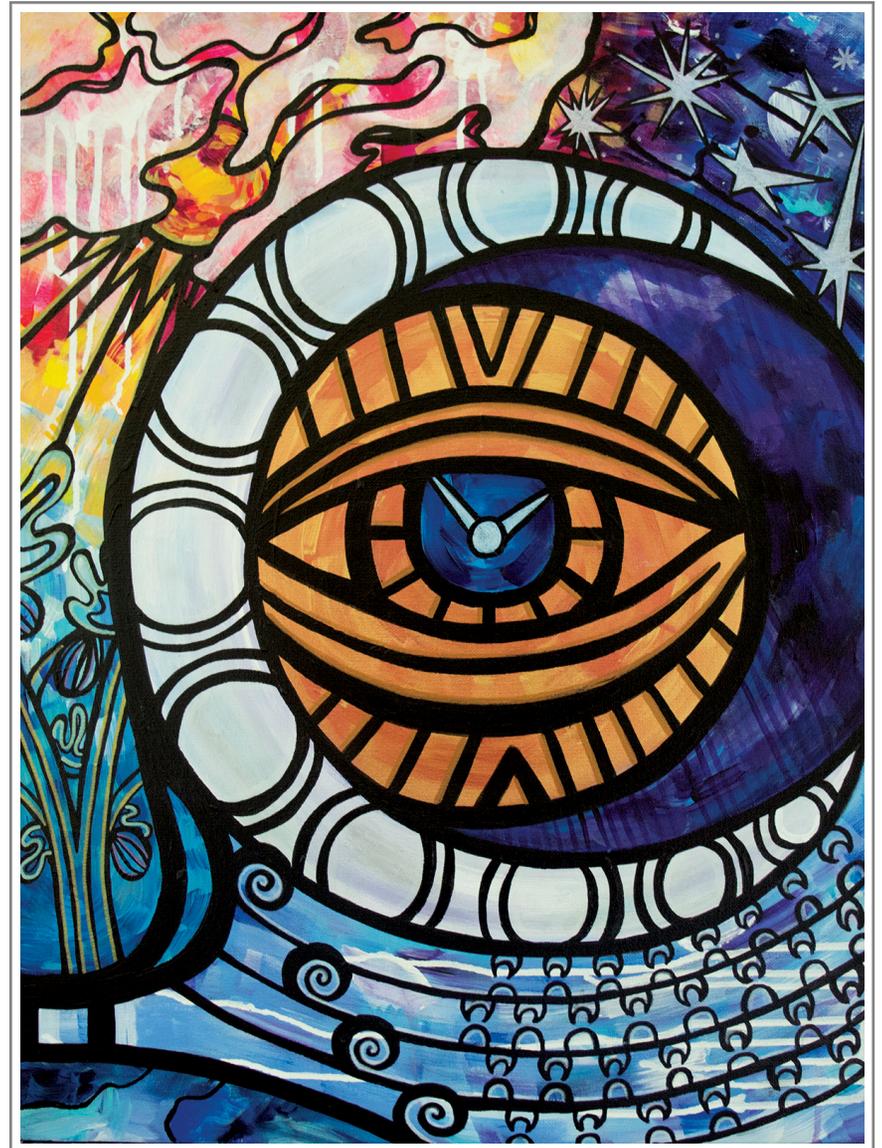
It is a strange way to begin this time of Advent. Beginning Advent with weeping and lament? That is unusual! And powerful. This is where we need to begin. The coming of Advent jolts the church out of Ordinary Time with the invasive news that it’s time to think about fresh possibilities for deliverance and human wholeness.

Patricia E. De Jong in *Feasting on the Word: Year B*

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

“Dreams” by Langston Hughes
The Collected Works of Langston Hughes



“Keep Awake”
by Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Mark 13:24-37
Acrylic and ink on canvas