

East Parish United Methodist Church

Established 1834

East Parish is a Church open to all, which nurtures and enables people to experience God's transforming love and serve others in Jesus' name.



Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

*The Book of Remembrance is opened to the Glory of
God, in loving memory of Clayton Connors.*

PRELUDE

"Come, O Precious Ransom"

Hugo Gehrke

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

* OPENING HYMN

"All Earth is Waiting"

#210

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Ministry Matters)

L: Come and rejoice in God!

P: Sing praise to God who continually blesses our lives!

L: In the midst of troubles and stress, God is near, offering compassion.

P: Our hope is in the Lord.

L: Let all the people praise God.

P: Hallelujah! AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

O God, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader 1: Today we light three candles- the first Candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.

Reader 2: The second Candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives.

Reader 1: The third Candle is called JOY, because of God's absolute presence in our lives.

Reader 2: Come, all is ready. Let the light of these candles, called HOPE, PEACE, and JOY, bring brightness to your spirits.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

SERMON

Repent

Rev. Nancy Wichmann

* HYMN

"People, Look East"

#202

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to share your prayers of thanksgiving or petition. You may also send them to Pastor Wichmann at nan_wich@bellsouth.net; indicate whether or not they should be shared.

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep. The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The messenger has been sent to you, proclaiming that there is One who is Coming who will heal and lead you. Know that this is a great gift from God, who has always and will always love you. AMEN.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L. Please greet your neighbors with the blessing: "The peace of Christ be with you."

P. And also with you.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"Wild and Love"

*** DOXOLOGY**

No. 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*** HYMN**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(vs. 1, 6, 7)

#211

*** BENEDICTION**

*** BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Let There Be Peace on Earth"**

#431

*Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, The peace that was meant to be.*

POSTLUDE

"Tous les bourgeois de Chartres"

Jean Jacques Charpentier

**Indicates that we rise in body or in spirit.*

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ God has taken away the judgments against you, and turned away your enemies. The sovereign of Israel, YHWH, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ YHWH, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; who will rejoice over you with gladness, and will renew you in love; exulting over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says our God. (NRSV, adapted)

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in God always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. God is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (NRSV, adapted)

Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. (NRSV, adapted)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you wish to become a member of our church family, or to be baptized, contact Pastor Wichmann at nan_wich@bellsouth.net.

If you would like to make a contribution of or for altar flowers, please see a member of the Worship Committee: Debbie Choate, Alana Gilbert, Karlene Johnson, Jan Juntunen, or Sandy Roughton.

COMMUNITY COAT DRIVE – Winter can be a difficult time, especially if one lacks the resources with which to purchase needed items. We are collecting coats for a community coat drive over the next few weeks. If you have a gently used coat that could be repurposed, we kindly ask that you consider donating it to this worthy effort.

COMMUNION OFFERING – The Communion offering for December is pet food and tooth brushes/tooth paste. Items will be collected throughout December and delivered the first week of January. Thank you for your ongoing support of Pettengill House.

AFGHAN EVACUEES – St. Paul's Episcopal Church will soon be hosting evacuee families from Afghanistan. They are taking monetary donations to assist these families as they move to the area and further assess their needs. If you are interested in helping, please contact St. Paul's directly at 978-465-5351.

EMERGENCY CLOTHING – East Parish has partnered with the Salisbury Elementary School nurse and will be collecting emergency clothing for children. Items such as children's sized socks and elastic-waist pants (including sweatpants), sizes 5-18 and adult small, are in great demand.

READERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE – Volunteer readers are needed to help with our Christmas Eve "Lessons and Carols" tradition. If you are interested in participating as reader for a short passage, please let Pastor Nancy know.

Prayer List

Church of Christ and ministries of
East Parish United Methodist Church
All who struggle with their faith
Family and friends of Ashley Fowler
(Craig's brother)
Family and friends of Deb McAdams
Family and friends of Vicki Hall
Family and friends of John Kelly
Family and friends of Becky Barstock
Sue Mitchells' family and friends
Salisbury and Newburyport Assisted
Living and Memory Care Residents
Mike and Alana Gilbert
Alana's Sister in Law
Buddy Merrick's Wife
Steve Smith
Julie Allred
Steven Lombardo (Courtney's BIL)
Colleen Sanford
Corey Amlin (BIL of Martha Murray)
Chris, Gary, Percy, Sheryl, Peter
(friends of Jan Pretty)
The Arrison family
Kate (Jan's friend)
Harry (Jodie's husband)

William Seal
Abigail and Jemma
Edith (broken foot)
Robert Short (Candace's son)
Will Tifft
People of Danvers High
Children, especially orphans
Victims of natural disasters, Victims
of sexual abuse and assault
Division in The United Methodist
Church
For those whose voices are so often
ignored
For the slain everywhere and all
victims of violence
Deplorable treatment of refugees and
asylum-seekers on the southern
border of the US.
All who have suffered with, because
of, or died from COVID-19 or
addiction.
For our country, desperately in need
of unity and humanity.
Residents of Maris House

United Methodist Church Staff and Worship Leaders

Pastor.....Pastor Nancy Wichmann (781)697-6344 (C)
Church Administrator.....Joanne Sheehan eastparishumc@verizon.net
Leadership CommitteeSharon Gill (978) 270-1045
Building Monitor.....Craig Fowler
Lay Leader.....Jan Juntunen 978- 518-7881
Organist.....Linda Ingram
Sexton.....Steve Choate (978)462-4578
Coffee Hour Coordinator.....Debbie Choate dcpertl@verizon.net (978)462-4578
Worship Committee.....Debbie Choate dcpertl@verizon.net (978)462-4578

Ministers.....The Congregation

8 Lafayette Rd, Salisbury MA 01952 (978) 465-8940

Website: www.eastparishumc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eastparishumcSalisbury>



Given by

Debbie and Steve Choate

Jeff Duford

Nancy George & Mary Larnard

Sharon Gill

Jan Juntunen

George LaBelle

Ruth Pettingill

Ken and Sandy Roughton

Agnes Short

In Memory of

Harriett and Dave Stevens

Richard Choate

Deb McAdams

Clara Cail

Al Tobey

Carissa Parker

Porter & Louise George

John & Agnes Larnard

Lydia Collins

Frances Walthen

Cross Family Members

Gill Family Members

Pat, Pete, and Mark Juntunen

Bill and Ruth King

William LaBelle

Jane LaBelle

Richard "Soggy" Poirier

William and Lounette Roughton

Cam and Katie Mahank

George Short

Joseph Martin

Toda la Tierra

(All Earth Is Waiting)

Unísono (Unison)

1. To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 2. Di - ce el pro - fe - ta al pue - blo de Is - ra - el:

1. All earth is wait - ing to see the Prom - ised One,
 2. Thus says the proph - et to those of Is - ra - el,

y el sur - co a - bier - to, la o - bra del Se - ñor; es el
 "De ma - dre vir - gen ya vie - ne Em - ma - nuel", se - rá

and the o - pen fur - rows, the sow - ing of the Lord. All the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el," for his

mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 "Dios con no - so - tros", her - ma - no se - rá, con

world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true lib - er - ty; it
 name is "God with us," our broth - er shall be, with

cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. (4. dar - nos li - ber - tad.)
 él la es - pe - ran - za al mun - do vol - ve - rá.

cries out for jus - tice and search - es for the truth. (4. brings us lib - er - ty.)
 him hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.

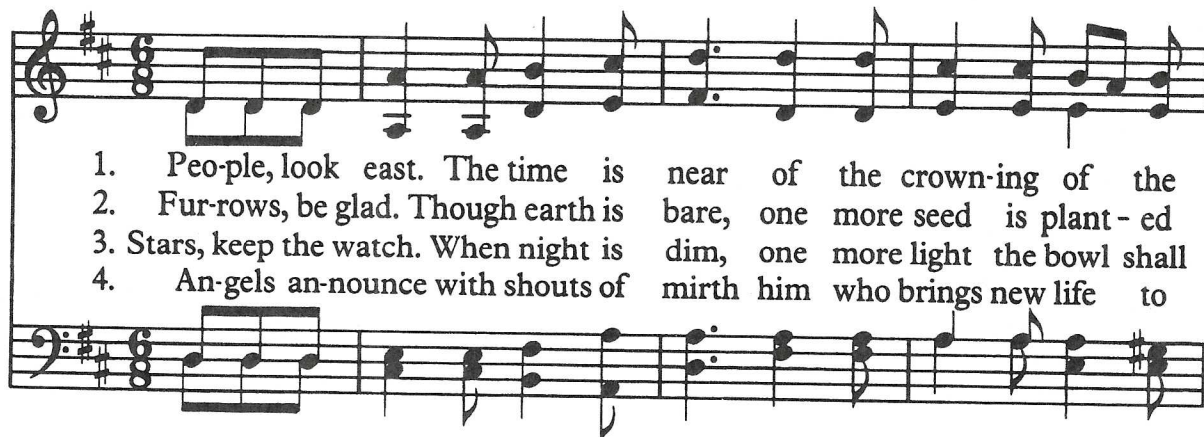
3. Montes y valles habrá que preparar;
 nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
 Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
 y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

4. En una cueva Jesús apareció,
 pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
 Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
 y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

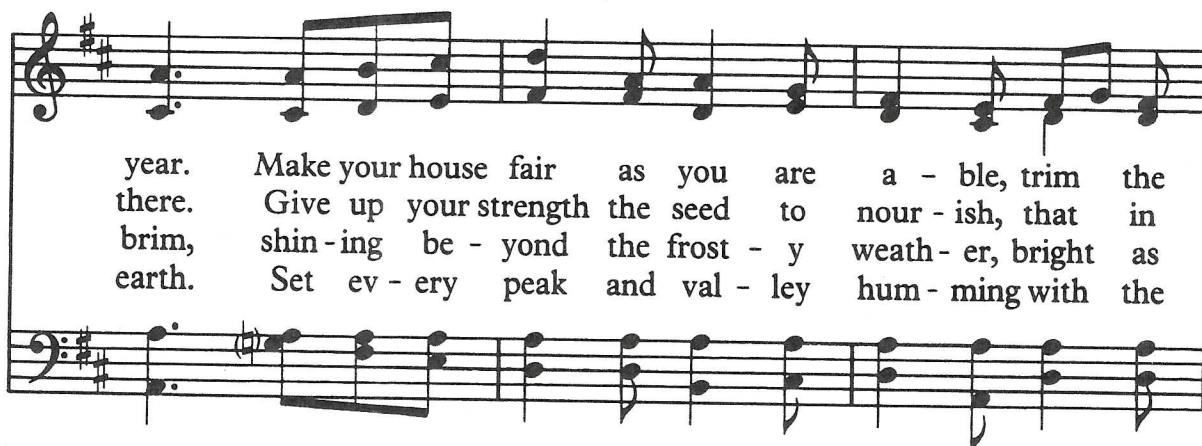
3. Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
 open new highways, new highways for the Lord.
 He is now coming closer, so come all and see,
 and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

4. In lowly stable the Promised One appeared,
 yet, feel his presence throughout the earth today,
 for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;
 again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

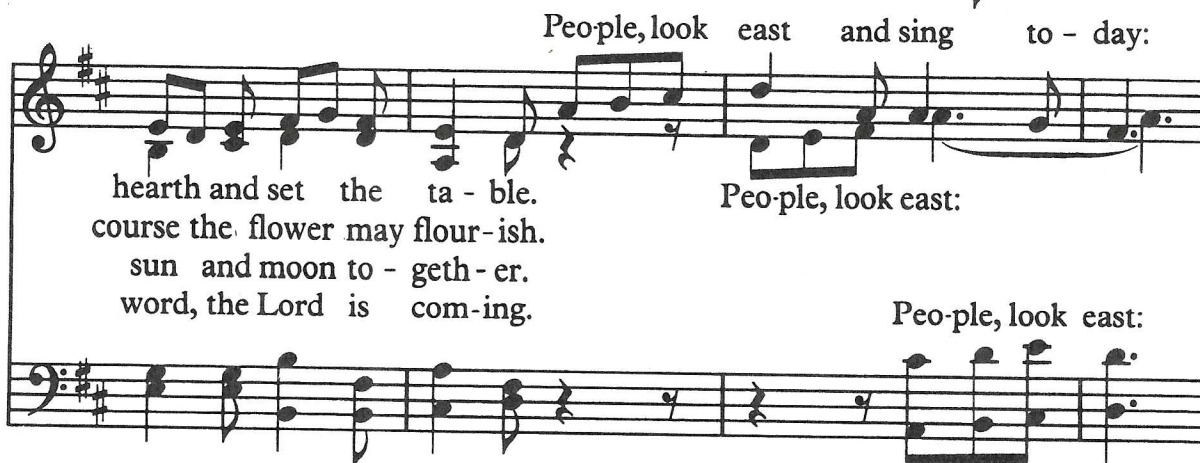
People, Look East



1. Peo-ple, look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
 2. Fur-rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant-ed
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall
 4. An-gels an-nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to



year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the
 there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in
 brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as
 earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the



People, look east and sing to - day:
 hearth and set the ta - ble.
 course the flower may flour-ish.
 sun and moon to - geth - er.
 word, the Lord is com-ing.

People, look east:



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

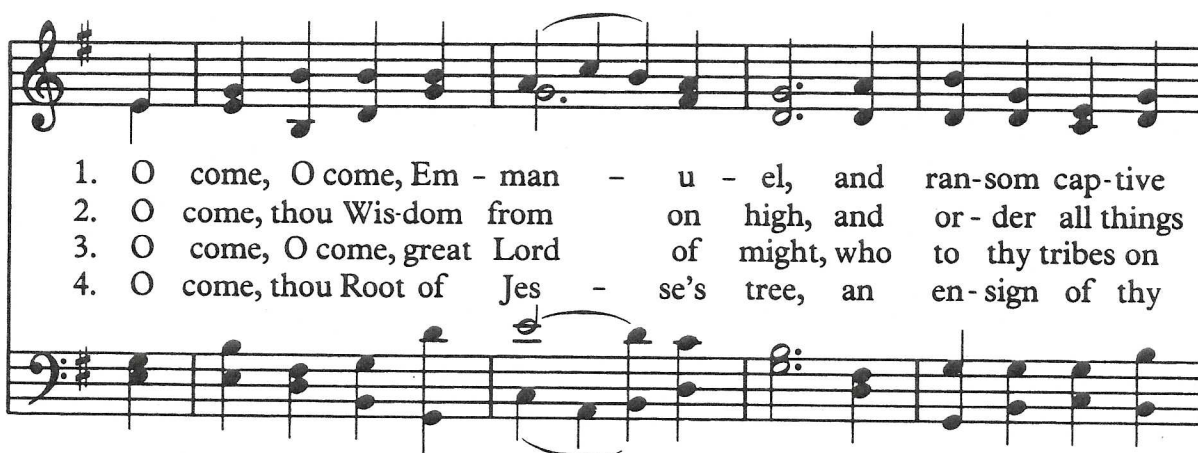
WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

MUSIC: Trad. French carol; harm. by Martin Shaw, 1928

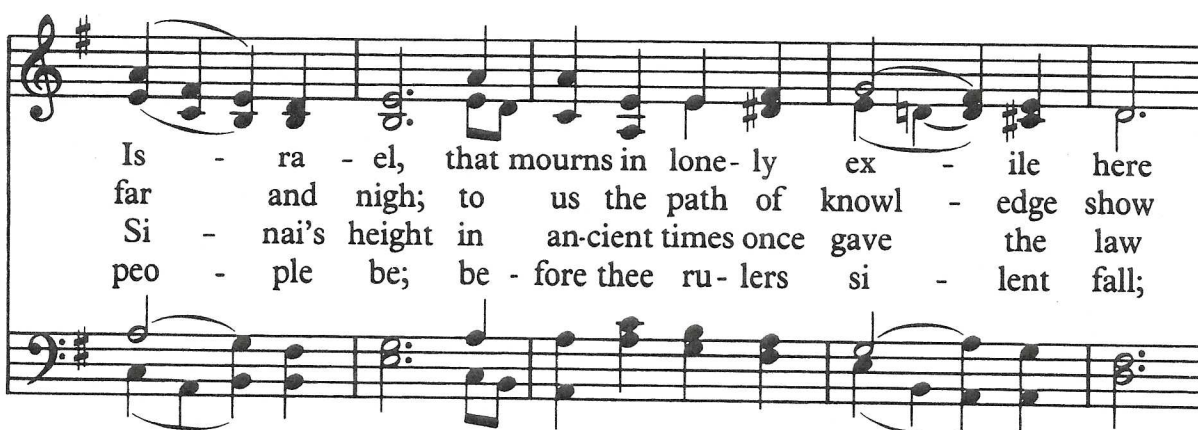
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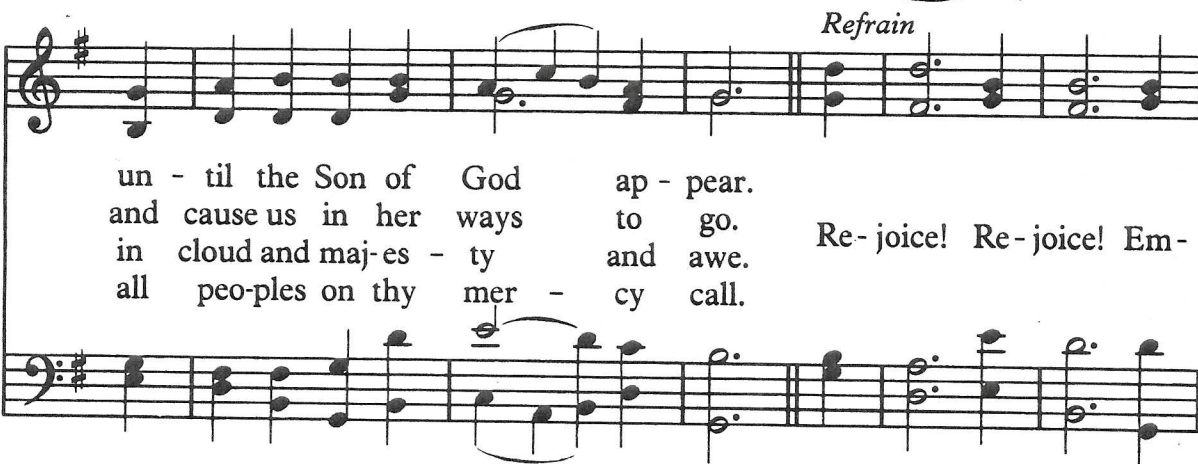
211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
 2. O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, and or - der all things
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
 4. O come, thou Root of Jes - se's tree, an en-sign of thy

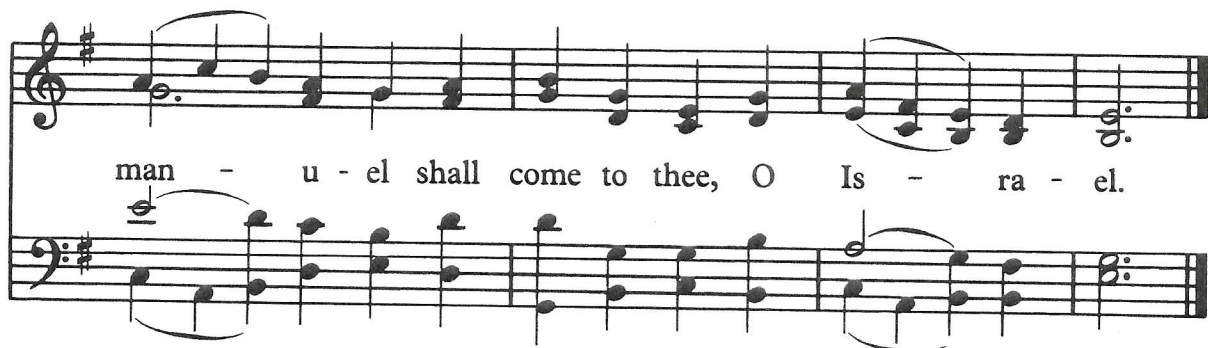


Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show
 Si - nai's height in an-cient times once gave the law
 peo - ple be; be - fore thee ru - lers si - lent fall;



Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-
 in cloud and maj-es - ty and awe.
 all peo-ples on thy mer - cy call.



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

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986
 MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854

VENI EMMANUEL
 LM with Refrain

Sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd © 1980 The Church Pension Fund

5. O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free,
and conquer death's deep misery.
Refrain

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain

7. O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife.
Refrain