



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
November 27, 2022 - 11:00 a.m.**

Words of Welcome

Rev. Amanda Horan

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

Jude Griffin

One: Watch and wait for Christ's coming!
Light candles of hope, peace, joy and love,
remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Many: We light this candle in hope.

One: Hear now God's promise of hope from Romans:
"Besides this, you know what time it is,
how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.
For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
the night is far gone, the day is near.
Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

Sung Response (Greensleeves)

Lyrics by Elana Keppel Levy
The Holy Fires of Advent, v. 1

The fire of hope awakes our hearts when in despair we're sleeping. It
speaks of light while through the night the shadows swiftly creep in.
Come, see the sparks of life that burn against the pow'r of strife; come,
stand with in its glow the holy fire of Advent.

One: God of hope, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, so that we may
be alert to the dawning of Christ's advent among us.

Many: God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

Advent Testimony—Hope

*Hymn (#82)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

*Call to Confession

Rev. R.C. Griffin

*Prayer of Confession

God of night and day, there is no shadow that can conceal our sin from you and no
secret that you will not bring to light. We confess that we have not always lived like
people who have been awakened to your salvation. We accept lies as truth, exploit
neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive
us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when
Christ comes to judge the world. (Silence)

*Responsive Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the good news!

Many: Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our
hearts through the Holy Spirit given in baptism.

One: Believe the good news and give thanks.

All: By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

***Congregational Response (#113)**

*Angels We Have Heard on High, Refrain
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson

Matthew 24:36-44

(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Many: Thanks be to God.)

Sharing Faith with God's Children

Anthem

Second Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 2:1-5

(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Many: Thanks be to God.)

Sermon

Imagination and Hope

Rev. Amanda Horan

WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

***Affirmation of Faith**

*Adapted from *The Confession of 1967**

We believe that it is the will of God that his purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from his creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in human kind and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. Amen.

***Hymn (#94)**

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*Congregational Response (The First Noel)

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Son and Holy Ghost.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

*Responsive Prayer of Dedication

One: We give you thanks and praise, O God,

Many: that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love.

One: By your grace, may all that we do show the glory of your name
and serve the good of your people;

All: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Hymn (#107)

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

*Charge & Benediction

*Postlude

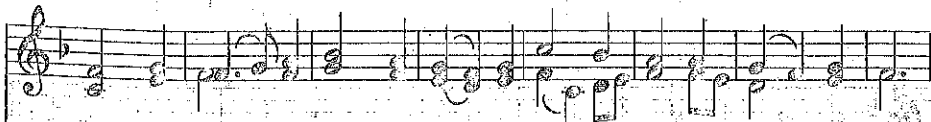
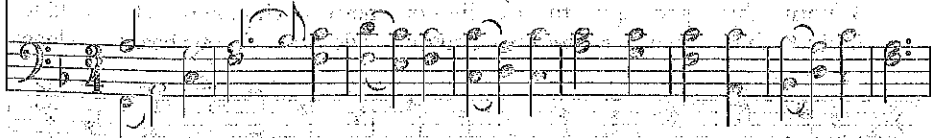
***Please rise, in body or spirit.**



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.

94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

grow - ing thin. Earth, from - slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
 drift a - way. Dia - mond, bril - liance through the dark - ness
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance

to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
 shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

This Advent text artfully interweaves what is hidden and what is revealed, primarily in the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. But Christ himself taught us about another hidden truth, his presence in the "least of these" (Matthew 25:40, 45), whom we are also called to welcome.

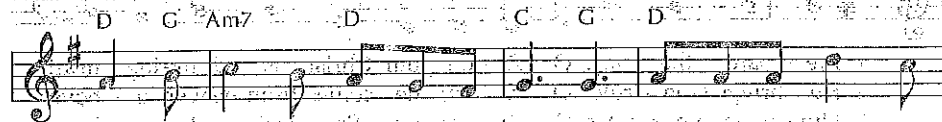
107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



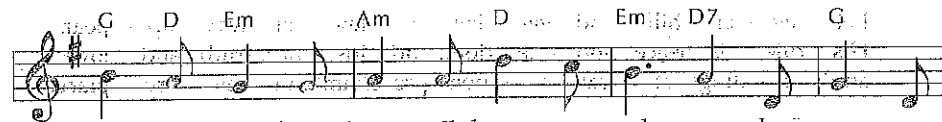
1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels.
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



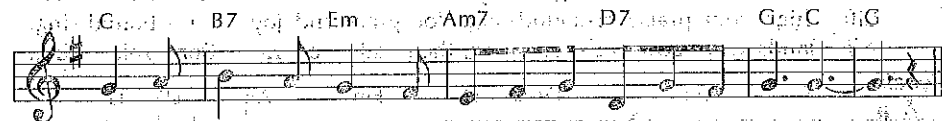
her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
 et comes a sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
 world is de - spir - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
 win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
 near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
 free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
 light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor; to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
 bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
 forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak - be
 love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heav - en - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
 raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.