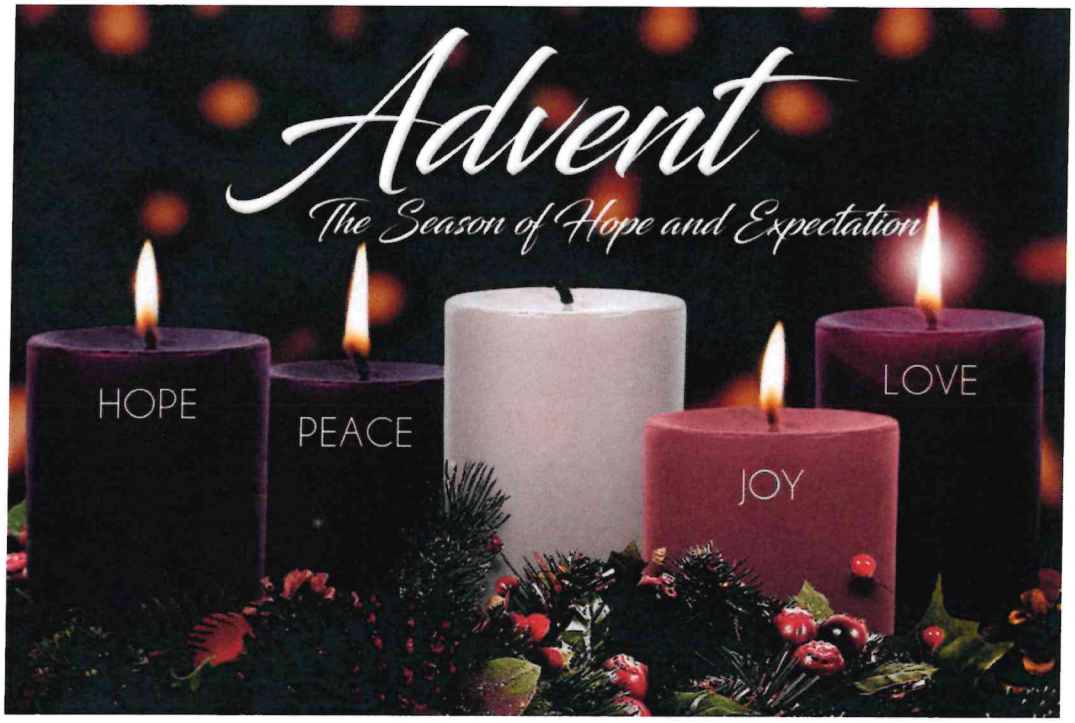
Trinity United Church of Christ
60 East High Street, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325
717-334-7266 **www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org**



November 29, 2026
1st **Sunday of Advent**
Service of Holy Communion

Advent is from an old Latin phrase – ad venio, loosely translated "until the coming." It is a time for reflection during which we prepare for Christ's coming. Christmas is itself the adaptation of an ancient ritual known as Saturnalia – a wild and humorous occasion that celebrated the return of the light. It took place on the eve of the winter solstice – an evening that marked the sun's slow walk back from the lengthening nights. The light was returning. When early Christian communities, who knew very little about how or when the birth of Jesus actually took place, wanted to find a fitting time to commemorate his birth, they appropriated this pagan ritual and decided the return of the light was the perfect metaphor for celebrating the coming of Jesus: Saturnalia became Christmas.

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year. It is known today as the season of waiting. What are you waiting for this Advent Season?

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***Please stand as you are able; BOLD print - congregational response**

***All words provided on the screen**

TIME OF SHARING/GREETING

PRELUDE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

As winter ushers in, the wind is crisper and the earth begins to freeze.
Through the snowflakes and icy waters,
may our hearts warm with the hope of our coming Messiah.

In the cold of night our Savior rested in a meek stable bed.
His young mother worshiped the beloved baby with a kiss
and hope for a better tomorrow.

May we join the angel chorus with alleluias in our hearts.
This we can offer. This is our part.

*HYMN #121 **"All Earth is Waiting"**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
The Candle of Hope

PRAYER

God without beginning and without end, your promise comes to us, bringing hope.
May we in turn come to your mountain, bending our swords and spears,
seeking instruction and walking in your light;
in the of Jesus the Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH SONG
#116 **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (V1)**
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Silent Prayer of Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Go out and explore the new and fresh opportunities to
experience the peaceful energy of Christ's hope.
In Christ's light you are set free! Amen.

ANTHEM "Long Awaited One" **Senior Choir**

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— [2]as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! [3]When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. [4]From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. [5]You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed.
[6]We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. [7]There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. [8]Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
[9]Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Mark 13:24-37

But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light, [25]and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
[26]Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. [27]Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
[28]"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29]So also, when you see these things taking

place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30]Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. [31]Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. [32]"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33]Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. [34]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. [35]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, [36]or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37]And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

SERMON

Reflection on the Carol: "In The Bleak Midwinter"

HYMN #128 **"In The Bleak Midwinter"** *(Remain Seated)*

*CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS

As we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, may we consider what we have to offer to the Gift of Life itself. May we give generously and from the heart.

*OFFERTORY RESONSE #370 (V1)

Tune (AWAY IN A MANGER, MULLER)

What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
What song can we offer in honor and praise?

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We offer these gifts to you, O God. Use them and us to care for those who are hurting and suffering in our world. We offer them for use in worship, teaching and service within this community and worldwide. Amen.

SHARING AROUND THE TABLE OF REMEMBRANCE

(Trinity celebrates an open table. All are welcome around the Table of Remembrance. We use Gluten Free bread and grape juice.)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The prophets foretold it: the desert burst into bloom.
Angelic messengers delivered news:
a priest lost his speech; a young woman found her voice.
In this season of Advent, the scriptures revive old stories
and bring new understandings.
In the face of critics and skeptics,
our faith cries out, resilient,
like a baby from a manger bed.

From that Bethlehem beginning,
Jesus, baptized in the Jordan, spent his life serving others
that all might know the compassionate attention of a loving God.
Today, Jesus serves us yet again,
as we gather at this Table he prepares for us.

COMMUNION PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Dear Jesus of Advent,
You remain a sacred mystery to us.
You have brought Good News for all the people,
and we will not be afraid, for you are here.
We are hungry for your love
which surpasses all our understanding.
We are thirsty for your spirit that never runs dry.
In this meal nourish our souls,
feed our minds, quench our deepest longings and
forgive our transgressions,
that we may glorify you every day of our lives.
We pray the prayer you taught us to pray.
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITIUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE MEAL

(Please come forward as the Usher directs you. We will form a semi-circle around the Communion Table. You will be served individually. After we commune, the Pastor offers a prayer. Please place your cups in the bowl provided, then return to your seat.)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy Creator, Bread of Life, Everlasting Salvation,
A light shines in the night and the night will not overcome it.
In this meal we have been replenished and strengthened,
the light of your love rekindled within.
We will be bold to carry this light into the world.
Thank you for reviving your ambient glow within us.
Thank you, God.
Thank you, Christ.
Thank you, Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN #110 **"Now Bless the God of Israel"**

*FINAL BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

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Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon, – from *Prayers to Share* by David Sparks. Wood Lake Books. 2002. *Touch Holiness*. Ruth Duck and Tirabassi, Editors. The Pilgrim Press. Cleveland. 2012. *Our Faith Cries Out, Resilient: Service of Holy Communion for Advent*, was written by the Rev. Penny L. Lowes, an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ and has served three UCC churches in Michigan. She is a freelance writer and author of M&M and the Rolling Stone and Other Scripture Dramas. **Local Church Ministries UCC.**

PRELUDE: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.* Text/Tune by Thomas Helmore, based on 13th-century Plainsong. Arr: Lloyd Larson. ©2003 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

ANTHEM: *Long Awaited One.* Words/Music: Nicole Elsey. Arr: Douglas Nolan. ©2016 Hal Leonard Corp.

HYMNS: *All Earth is Waiting.* Text: Alberto Taule. Translate: Gertrude C. Suppe. Tune: Alberto Taude. Harmonization: Skinner Chavez-Melo. and Music ©1998 Mary Frances Fleischaker. O.P Harmonization ©Oxford University Press. From THE ENGLISH HYMNAL, 1906.

Now Bless the God of Israel. Text: Ruth Duck. Tune Traditional English melody. Harmonization: Ralph Vaughan Williams. Words ©1992 by GIA Publications, Inc. Harmonization ©Oxford University press. THE ENGLISH HYMNAL, 1906.

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ALTAR FLOWERS: In loving memory of Becky's mother Joyce Rothermel by Becky Hughes.

I wish to thank everyone at Trinity for your prayers and support during my fall and long recovery. Especially Joan Peck and the small group of friends who helped get my home ready for my return. Thanks to Janet Sheely for weekly grocery store trips and John Lucas for taking care of my weekly trash pickup. I cannot express my gratitude for all the work and resources that have made my home more secure and safe. **With much love, Bonnie Smith**

We want to thank all of you including the "desk duty" helpers, Property Committee (for cleaning including the bathrooms) and Speros for getting the Christmas decorations down from the attic. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated as we recover from our accident. Your many kind gestures to help out in any way possible did not go unnoticed. **Thank you again, Deb and Bruce**

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER POINSETTIA'S $10.75 each. Forms in Gathering Area. Please make your checks out to Trinity United Church of Christ and note in the memo line "poinsettias"

BLESSING ROOM – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30th – 11:00am-1:00pm. PLEASE keep the personal care donations coming. Tooth brushes and tooth paste are back on the list. This is a much needed ministry in our community. **Remember is you use it, they use it.** Volunteers to help set up, staff, and tear down are always welcome. Please contact Jane Malone or Carl Barrick if you are interested in helping us.

TODAY is the final day to donate: NOVEMBER is a "FIFTH SUNDAY SPECIAL COLLECTION" month. ***South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) was the fourth highest charity chosen by the Congregation.*** **Envelopes are in the pews and Gathering Area.**

DINNER CHURCH – Wednesday, December 2nd at 5:30pm – A gathering where all the most important things happen at the table. Please bring a dish or dessert to share with the larger group. No reservations needed. Just show up with food.

***** MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th following worship.** Your attendance and participation are most important. Material will be emailed to everyone on the church email list, copies will be available in the Gathering Area beginning 11/29/26. Please pick up the packet of information for review prior to the meeting.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER – Sunday, December 20th. Menu Roast Beef Dinner. Please sign up in the Gathering Area so enough food is made for everyone.

USHERS NEEDED FOR DECEMBER and JANUARY – please sign up in Gathering Area.

CHANGE FOR CHRIST – "HELP KEEP THE LIGHTS ON": Have extra change in your pockets? Tired of carrying it around? Drop it in the vase with candle located in the Gathering Area.

NEWS FLASH! In an effort to inform congregation members and/or the wider community of what is happening in our church, the Communication Committee is seeking information to pass on. If your committee is doing something you would like to share, please let the Communications Committee know. **November's "info gatherer is Joan Peck 717-253-1348 or denjopeck@comcast.net**

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ATTENDANCE 11/22/2026: 9:30am ***58***; On-line ***95***; Total ***153***

FINANCE REPORT 11/22:

11/22 Envelope Offering Needed WEEKLY: ***$3,707.00*** **Offering Rec'd: $**
Envelope Offering Needed YTD: ***$174,464.00*** **Offering Rec'd YTD: $**

11/22 Property Fund Needed WEEKLY: ***$385.00*** **Offering Rec'd: $**
Property Offering Needed YTD: ***$18,480.00*** **Offering Rec'd YTD: $**

**** *Trinity is nearing a large budget deficit. Please consider increasing your weekly giving to help Trinity meet this year's budget.*

THIS WEEK

Today, 11/29: 1st Sunday of Advent - Communion
Monday, 11/30 PASTOR OFF 11:00am – 1:00pm Blessing Room – *Fellowship Hall*
Wednesday, 12/2: 5:30pm Dinner Church – *Fellowship Hall* 7:00pm Choir Practice - *Sanctuary*
Friday, 12/4: 9:30am Flute Flock – *Fellowship Hall*
Saturday, 12/5: 5:00pm Gettysburg Choral Society – *Lutheran Seminary*
Next Sunday, 12/6: 12:30pm – 4:30pm MDANA – *Fellowship Hall*
3:00pm Gettysburg Choral Society – *Lutheran Seminary*
Gettysburg Ministerium Community Christmas Caroling

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young	Pastor
Penelope Frantz	Liturgist
Sara Shank	Organist/Choir Director
Mark Luckenbaugh	Percussionist
Jane Malone	Liturgist
Sandy Busche, Suhua Dong	Greeters
Penelope Frantz, Rachel Glover	Ushers
Jen Mickelson	Acolyte
Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young,	Tech Team

George Steckert, Garrison Redding, Suhua Dong, Nina Redding, Cindy Kidd, Terry Krietz, Bette Bunce, Chris Swinn

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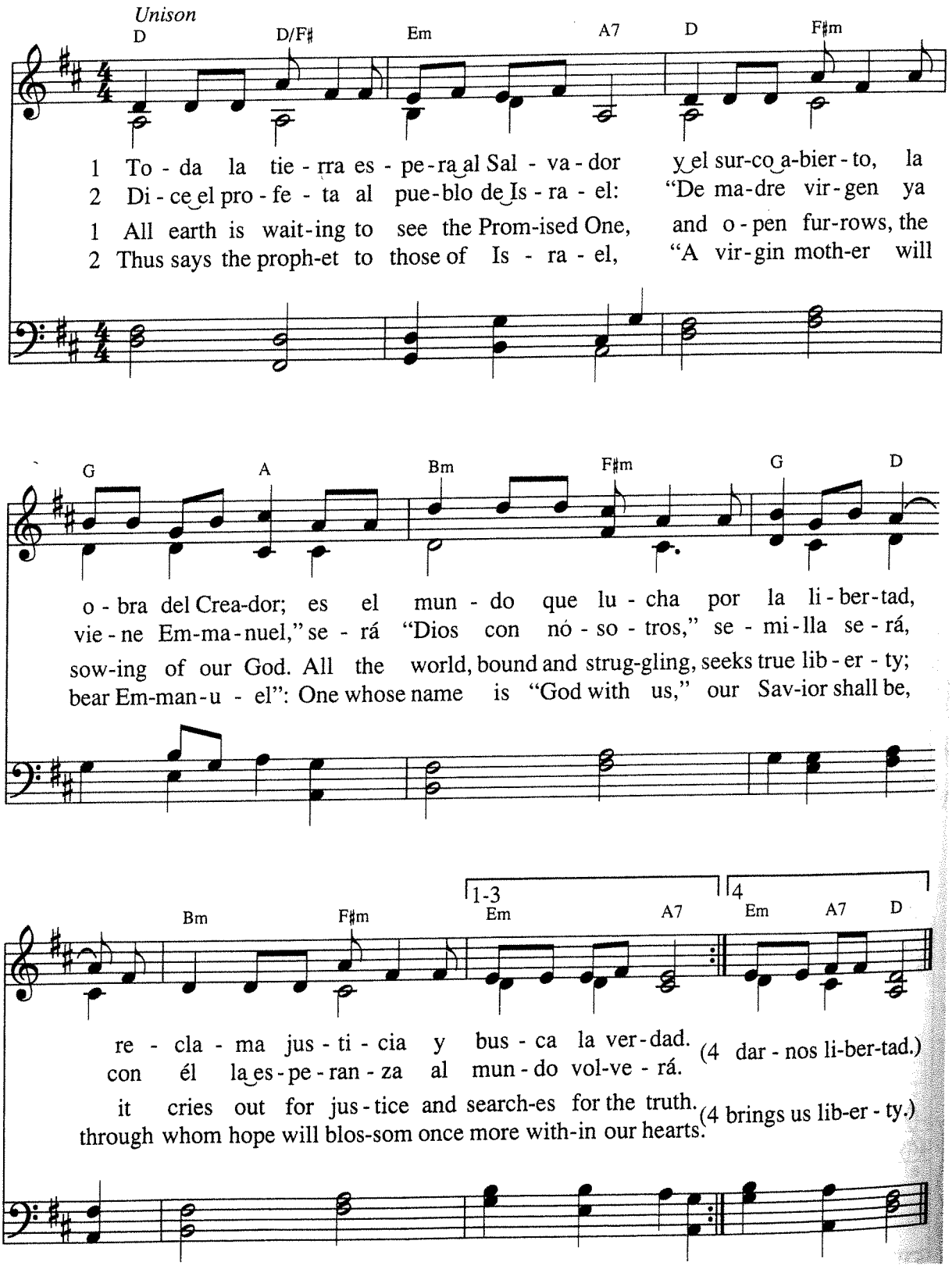
Toda la Tierra
(All Earth Is Waiting)

Isa. 40:3–5; Luke 3:4–6; Matt. 1:23

Alberto Taulé, 1972; alt.
Transl. Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987; alt.



3 Mon-tes y va-lles
ha-brá que pre-pa-rar;
nue-vos ca-mi-nos
te-ne-mos que tra-zar.
Dios es-tá ya muy cer-ca,
ve-nid-lo a en-con-trar,
y to-das las puer-tas
a-brid de par en par.

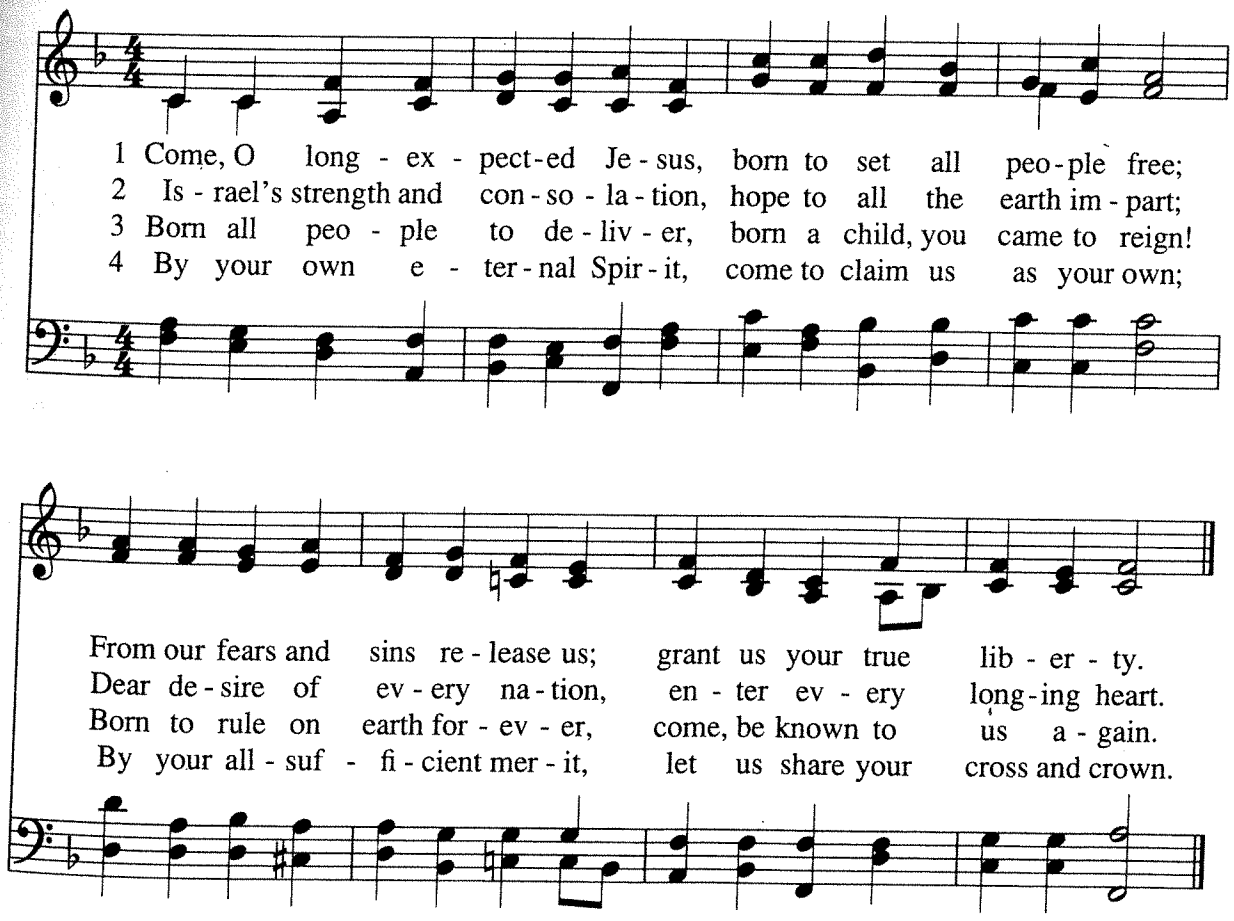
4 En un pe-se-bre
Je-sús a-pa-re-ció,
pe-ro en el mun-do
es-tá pre-sen-te hoy.
Vi-ve en-tre la gen-te,
con e-llas es-tá;
y vuel-ve de nue-vo
a dar-nos li-ber-tad.

3 Moun-tains and val-leys will
have to be made plain;
o-pen new high-ways,
new high-ways for our God,
Who is now com-ing closer,
so come all and see,
and o-pen the door-ways
as wide as wide can be.

4 In low-ly sta-ble
the Prom-ised One ap-peared,
yet feel that pres-ence
through-out the earth to-day,
For Christ lives in all Chris-tians
and is with us now;
a-gain, on ar-riv-ing
Christ brings us lib-er-ty.

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus 122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

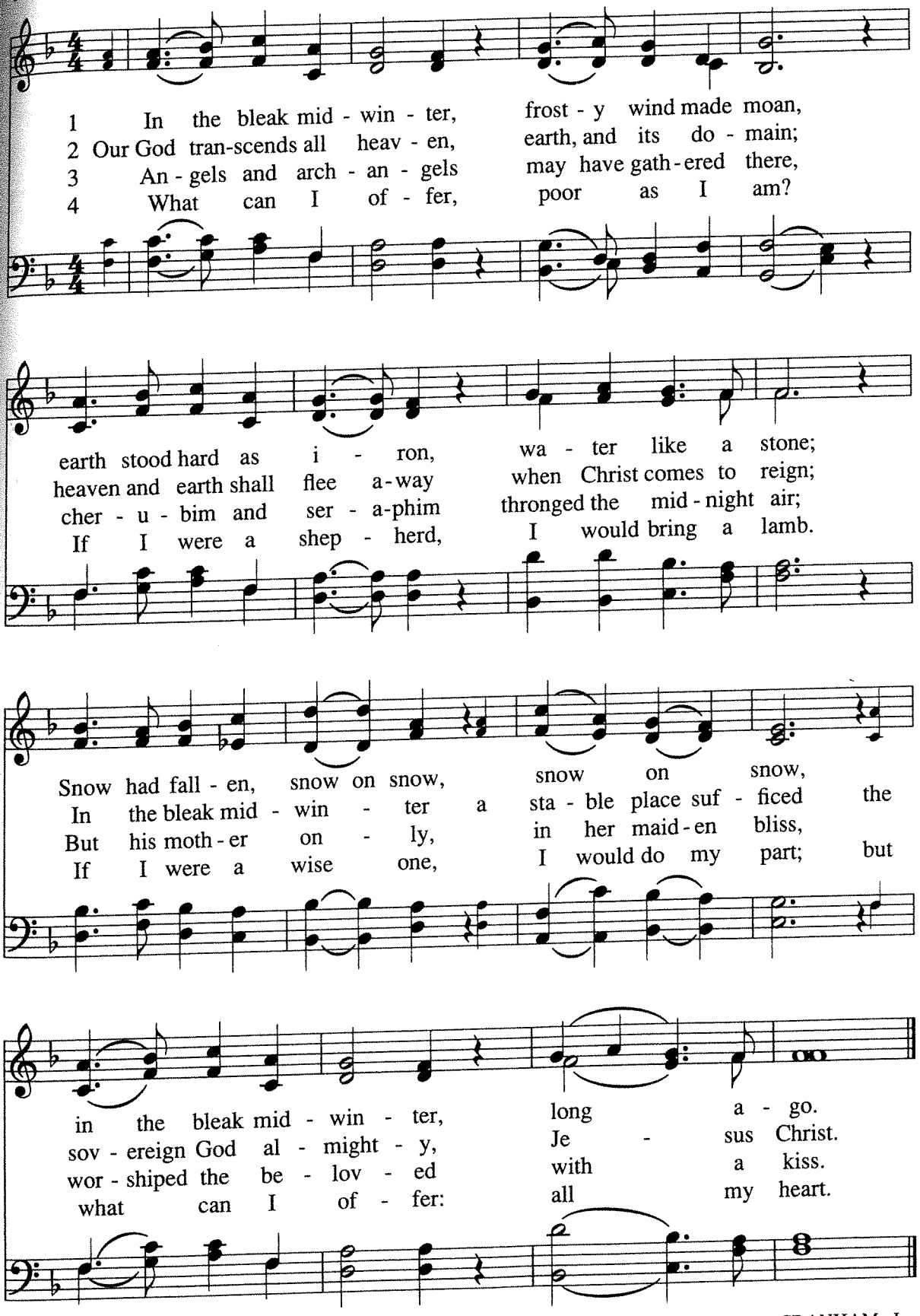


Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was one of the students known as "Methodists" at Oxford University. He wrote hymns for every occasion. This is from his small collection Hymns for the Nativity.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660–1716)
from Psalmodia Sacra, *Gotha, 1715*
Alternate tune: IN BABILONE

In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt.



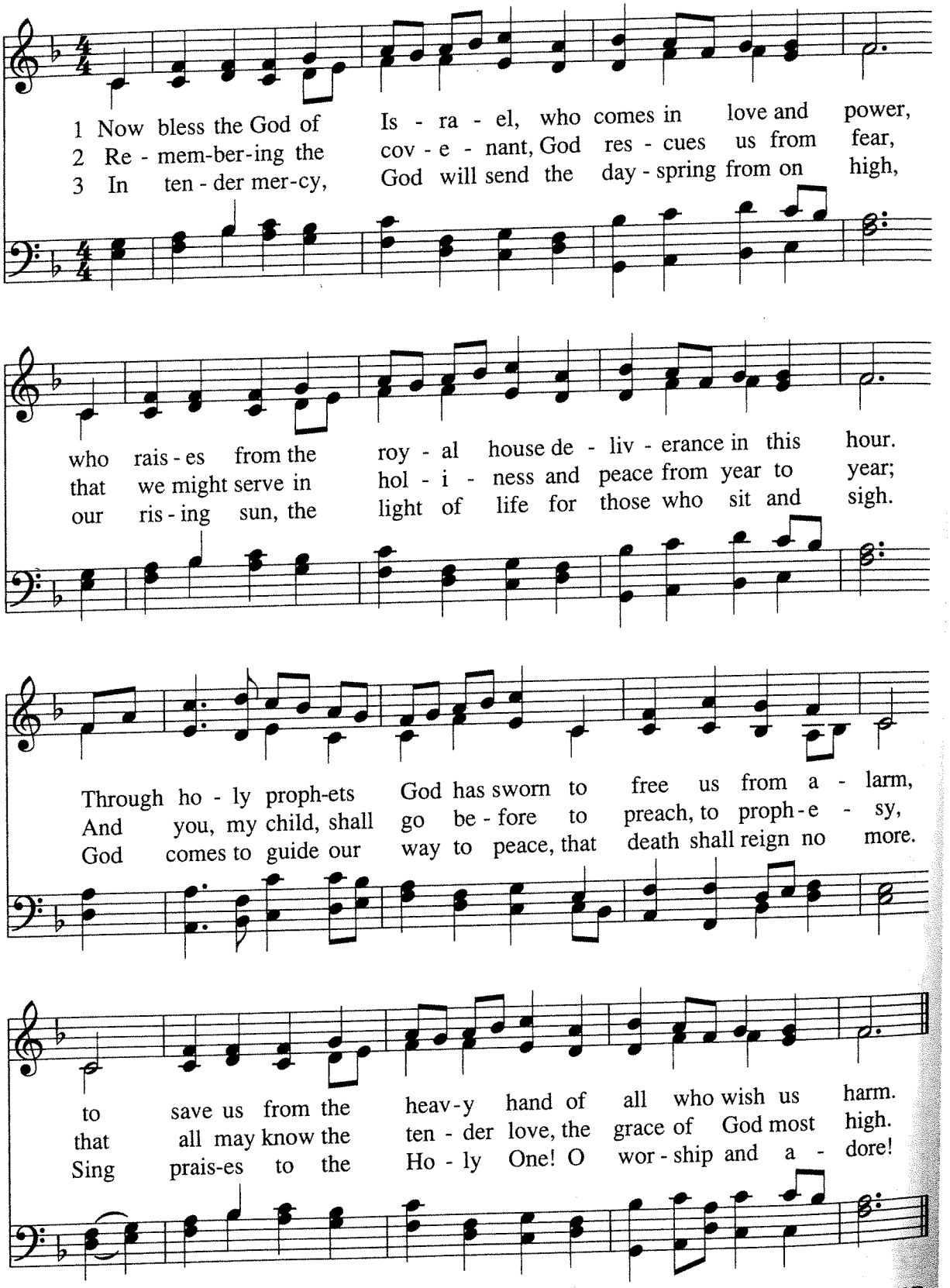
Christina Rossetti has portrayed the Christmas story, not in warm Bethlehem, but in the winter of her native England. Rossetti was an accomplished writer of poetry and prose, noted for her deep spirituality.

Tune: CRANHAM Irr.
Gustav Holst, 1906

110 Now Bless the God of Israel

Ruth Duck, 1985

Luke 1:68–79; Ps. 18:1–3; Isa. 9:2–7



This text by United Church of Christ clergywoman Ruth Duck is a paraphrase of the "Benedictus," which is often sung at [illegible] prayer. She came to appreciate daily prayer while

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.
Traditional English melody
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906