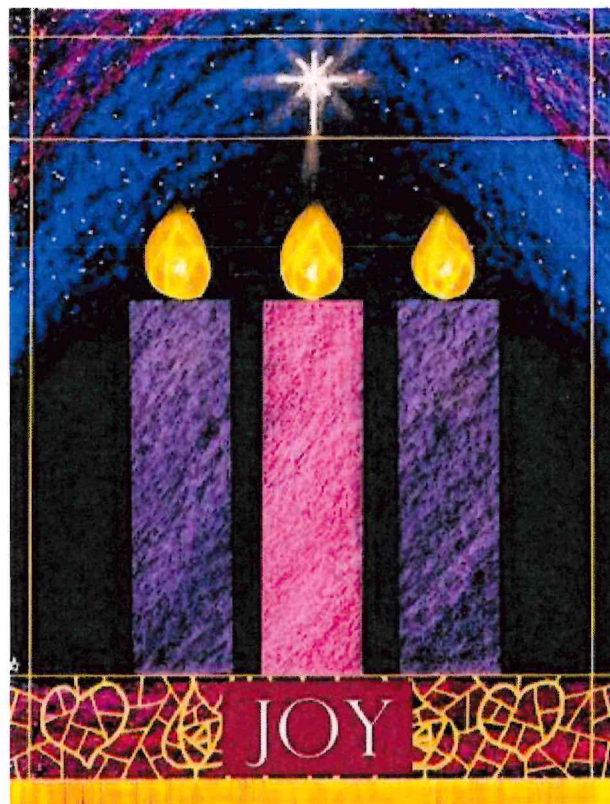




WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF DETROIT



17567 Hubbell Ave
Detroit, MI 48235
(313) 341.2697
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www.wcodetroit.org

Sunday, December 15, 2024

10:00AM

Third Sunday of Advent

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

A Rush of Wings

Gilbert Martin

Welcome to all – especially to our guests.

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad, located in each of the pews.

Hymns labeled GTG are in the Glory to God Hymnal (purple)

Hymns labeled AAHH are in the African American Heritage Hymnal (beige)

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Hear, O People, and come to the manger.

Here our Lord was born and lay sleeping beneath the same stars as you and I.

Upon this same Earth He came to us, as us.

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Emmanuel: the God who is with us.

See, O People, and come to the manger.

Here our Lord was wrapped in blankets, and He became as vulnerable as you and I.

Upon this same Earth He came to us, as us.

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Emmanuel: the God who is with us.

Believe, O People, and come to the manger.

Here our Lord was born to humble Mary, proclaimed by Angels, visited by shepherds, and worshipped by kings.

Upon this same Earth He came to us, as us.

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Emmanuel: the God who is with us.

You are the God who came to us, is for us, and always with us.

Lord, open our hearts this morning to your glory and your love.

Open our minds to your holy mysteries and fill us with your peace. Amen.

Lighting the Candle of Joy

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in days to come “the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.” [Isaiah 35:1]

We light this candle in peace and hope and joy for all nations, all peoples, all tribes, and all creation.

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior’s coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us, sinners.

Lord, you made us and you call us to peace and we choose war.

You call us to love and we choose hate.

You call us to compassion and we choose grudges and to judge one another.

Lord, forgive us and have mercy on us.

Turn away your face from our mistakes and shortcomings and instead remember us in your own righteousness and faithfulness.

Heal us and guide us. Guard us and watch over us.

Take us and make us new through your power and glory.

Amen.

Declaration of God’s Forgiveness

If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.

See, the old has gone. The new has come!

Passing of the Peace/A Time for Celebration

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you!**

Exchange signs of Christ's peace and forgiveness with others.

*We greet one another as neighbors in Christ. You may say, "Peace be with you,"
or respond, "And also with you."*

***Response GTG #83** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in thee.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to live in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Children's Time

The children are excused to Sunday school after the Children's Time.

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
Chancel Choir

David Williams

Second Reading

Luke 1: 39-45

Message

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***Affirmation of Faith (The Nicene Creed, AD 325)**

**We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn GTG #93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Call to Offering

If you would like to make an offering online, scan the QR code located in the Westminster News section of today's bulletin.

Invitation to Offering

Organ Offertory

In Dulci Jubilo

arr. Noel Rawsthorne

***Doxology GTG #606** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever, Amen.**

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

***Hymn AAHH #190**

While We Are Waiting, Come

***Benediction**

Postlude

Noël in G Major

Louis Claude Daquin

The organ postlude is offered as an instrumental prayer. You are invited to remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly, remembering those who are still worshipping.

Worship Leaders:

The Rev. Dakota Whitaker, Pastor/Head of Staff

Dalos Grobe, Chancel Choir Director/Organist

Victor Boyd, Gospel Choir Director

Dianne Phillips, Liturgist

Louis Fisher, Don Steward, Advent Wreath Lighting Liturgists

Deven Humphreys, C J Chapman, Acolytes

Visit our website at www.wcodetroit.org for the link to view our Sunday morning worship services on YouTube or follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

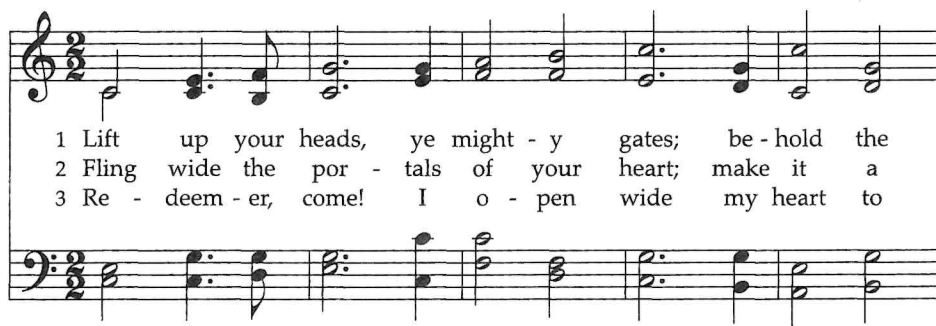


Today's Anthem

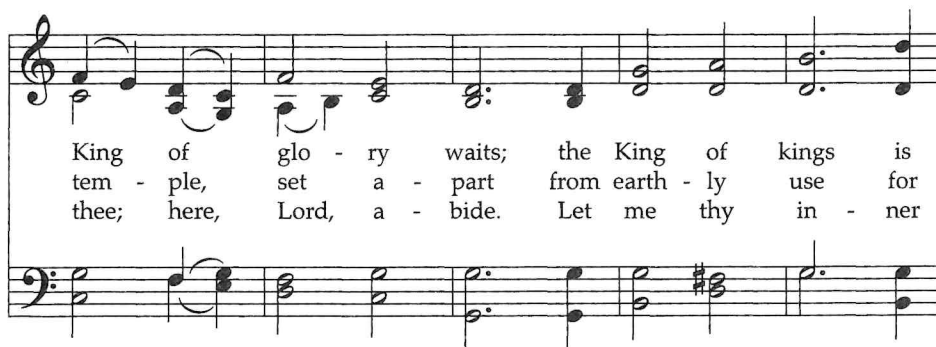
Lo! He comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain; thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign. Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty; those who set at naught and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see. Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears, cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshippers: with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars! Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee high on thine eternal throne; Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own: Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone. Amen.

New to Westminster Church of Detroit? We are so thankful that you have joined us today for worship, and we would love to get to know you and help you get to know us. Please sign the Friendship Pad which can be found in each pew rack. Sign it then pass it down to others sitting in your pew.

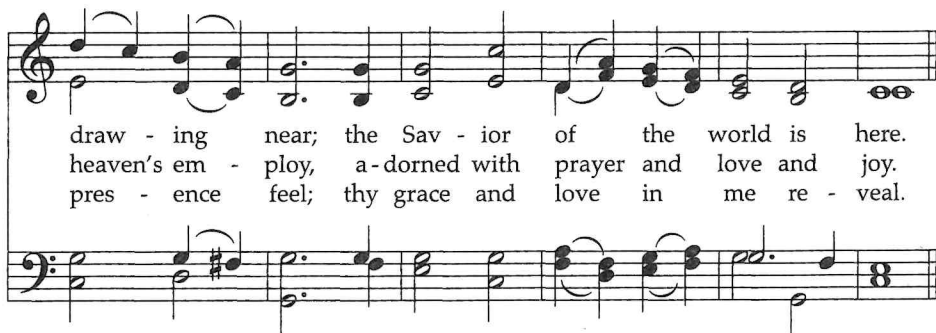
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner



draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

WHILE WE ARE WAITING, COME 190

The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
Revelation 22:20

1. While we are wait - ing, come;
2. With pow'r and glo - ry, come;
3. Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

While we are wait - ing, come.
With pow'r and glo - ry, come.
Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

The third system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

While we are wait - ing, come.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.