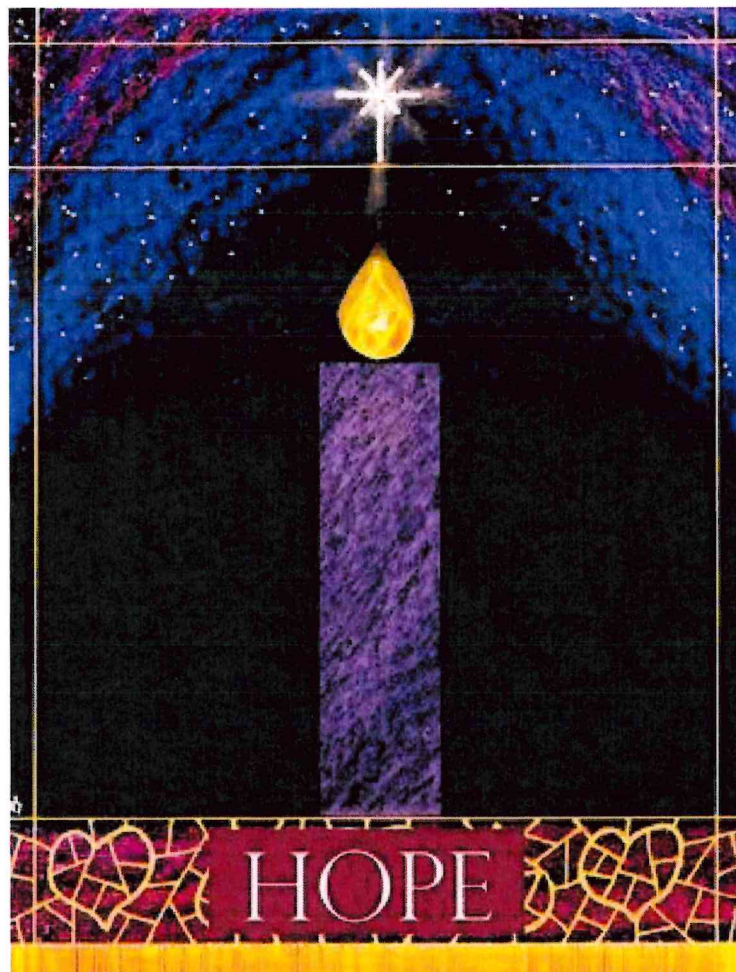




# WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF DETROIT



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**Sunday, December 3, 2023**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**Communion Sunday**

**WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**Prelude**

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

arr. J.S. Bach

*Welcome to all – especially to our guests.*

*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**

Christ is coming!

**We will keep awake!**

Christ is coming!

**We will be ready!**

Christ is coming! He will gather his people from the ends of the earth.

**Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.**

**Gospel Praise**

Perfect Praise

**Lighting the Candle of Hope**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our  
addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways.

**We deserve your judgement and condemnation.**

Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace during our warring  
madness. Holy God, turn us from evil.

**Return us to Christ and his path of peace.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.**

## **Declaration of God's Forgiveness**

### **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 #93** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates  
Redeemer, come! I open wide  
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in me reveal.

### **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament Reading** Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

<b>Anthem</b>	Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending Chancel Choir	David Williams
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**Gospel Reading** Mark 13: 24-37

**Message**

## **WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**\*Hymn AAHH #424**      Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us  
vv.1-3

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*To receive communion, you are invited to come to one of the four stations;  
two in the center aisle, two in the cross aisles  
and follow the directions given by the ushers.*

*If you are unable to come forward, please raise your hand and an usher will serve  
you where you seated.*

### **INVITATION**

#### **GREETING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### 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.**

### BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

### SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

### CLOSING PRAYER

## Dedication of Pledges

### Call to Offering

*We are cautious as we gather for worship. We are not currently passing an offering plate. We have placed an offering plate outside the sanctuary where you may place your offerings.*

### Invitation to Offering

### Prayer of Dedication

**\*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.

### **WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*Hymn GTG #83** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus  
vv. 1-3

### \*Benediction



*(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

Dalos Grobe, Chancel Choir Director/ Organist

Victor Boyd, Gospel Choir Director

Tammy Brown, Liturgist

Members of the Gospel & Chancel Choirs, Advent Wreath Liturgists

\* Please stand as you are able.

Liturgy reprinted by permission from Teri McDowell Ott, *The Presbyterian Outlook*.

Visit [www.wcodetroit.org](http://www.wcodetroit.org) for the link to view our Sunday morning worship services on YouTube.

**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 worshipers: 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.

**Westminster Church of Detroit News**

**Today is Pledge Sunday**

This morning during worship, we will receive and bless the pledges and the pledgers – all the givers who serve God and Westminster through their financial support. If you did not receive one in the mail, pledge cards are available on the table in the narthex.

### **Advent Devotionals for Children, Families and Adults**

This year we are offering two different types of devotionals for Advent. One for families, that offers simple activities that parents and children can do together at home and the other devotional from the PCUSA, is written specifically for adults. Both are available on the table in the lobby outside of the office.

### **Thank you to the Bakers!**

Many thanks to all the bakers who volunteered to make cookies for the Thanksgiving dinners. Dorothy Cole, Elizabeth Cooper, Chris Gaither and her granddaughter Anna, Dawn Hicks, Janette Jackson, Gwen Matthews, Cynthia Norris, Wanda Robinson, Tillie Taylor, Katrina Thomas, Sandra Thomas, Donna Visscher, Letha Walls, and JoAnne White. Many thanks to De'Sean Tice for preheating the ovens and for all his help!

### **2023 Donations End of Year Deadline**

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, note that any final donations for 2023 should be received by the church no later than **07 January 2024** (and dated in 2023) to be recorded in 2023. Anything received after that deadline will be reflected in your 2024 statements.

### **Nametags for Sunday Mornings Are Back!**

Before entering the sanctuary on Sunday morning, please remember to get your nametag, located in the narthex. Wearing a nametag is an invitation to have a conversation with other people. It also helps guests and newcomers to feel welcome and a part of our church community. If you do not see one with your name on it, please add your name to the list next to the nametag board and one will be made for you. Please return your nametag to the board before leaving at the end of the morning.

### **The Playground is Open!**

Our Playground, located near the middle of the sanctuary, is available from the beginning of worship until the children are dismissed to church school. Families with young children have the option to gather there to enjoy books, toys, quiet activities, and walking space. Parents are asked to sit in the pew behind the Playground to supervise their children.

### **Wednesday Adult Bible Study**

The Rev. Beth Downs leads this weekly Adult Bible study. This group meets faithfully every Wednesday from noon to 1:00pm, studying and discerning God's word. All are welcome to come and participate, either in person or by Zoom. The Zoom link can be found on the WCOD website: [wcodetroit.org](http://wcodetroit.org).

### **Westminster Church of Detroit Sewing Ministry Team**

Everyone is invited whether you sew or not. We need your assistance with sorting fabric by color, cutting fabric, and packing. As the year winds down, this is our schedule: We start about 10 a.m. and finish about 2 p.m.

Feel free to join in as follows:

Thursday, December 14    Sorting fabric and quilting. Make plans for 2024.

Thursday, December 28    Sorting fabric and quilting. Make plans for 2024.

### **Pop Can Tabs for the Ronald MacDonald House of Detroit**

As you enjoy cool drinks, please remember to pull the tabs and bring them to church. Removing the pull tab will not change any refund you are due. There is a large jar on the table by the church office where you can deposit them. Annette Trice who is a member of our office staff, takes the tabs to the Ronald MacDonald House of Detroit, near the DMC. The donated tabs are used to purchase laundry supplies. Ronald MacDonald House provides residential space to families while their children recover from surgery.

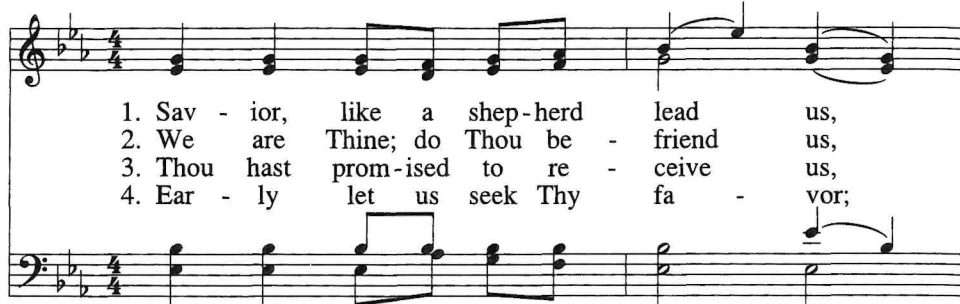
### **POD Toilet Paper Drive**

The Presbytery of Detroit is taking donations of single-wrapped toilet paper rolls. Their goal is 3 rolls per family for a total of 3900. If you would like to contribute, please bring them next time you come to WCOD. If you need further information, contact Unah at [unah@detroitpresbytery.org](mailto:unah@detroitpresbytery.org) or 313-345-6550 x207.



## 424 SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

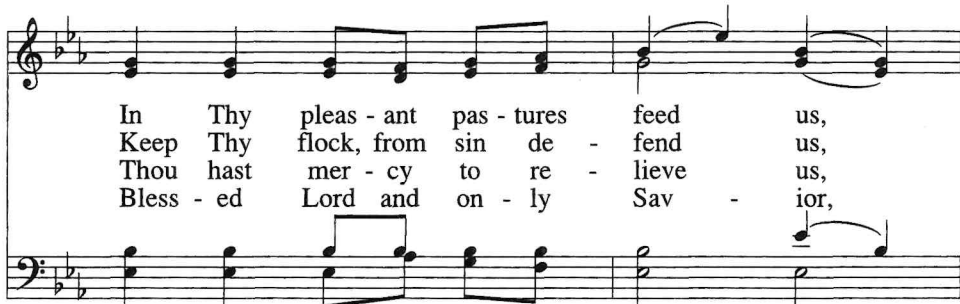
*If a shepherd has a hundred sheep... does he not leave the ninety-nine... and go in search of the one that went astray?  
Matthew 18:12*



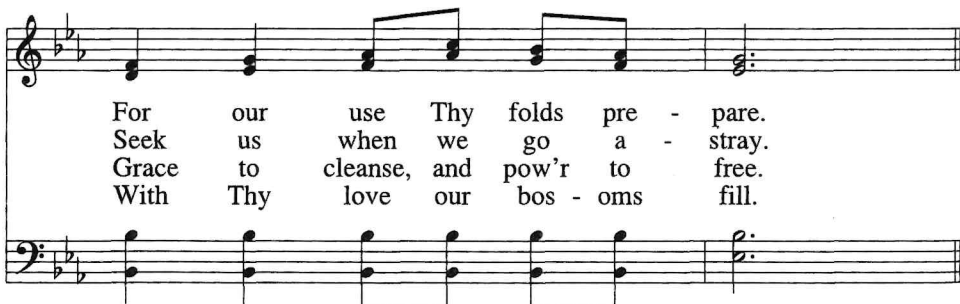
1. Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us,  
2. We are Thine; do Thou be - friend us,  
3. Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us,  
4. Ear - ly let us seek Thy fa - vor;



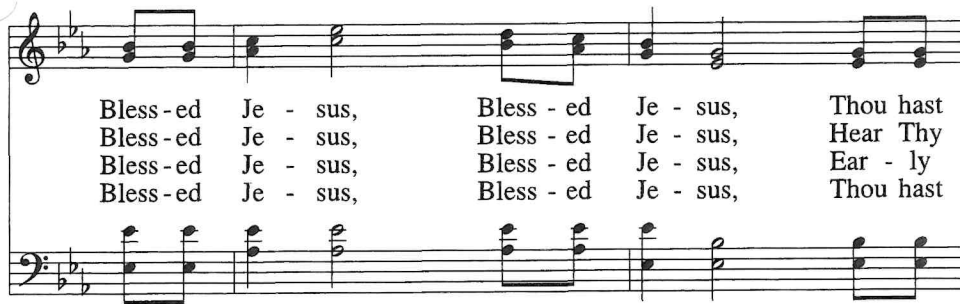
Much we need Thy ten - der care;  
Be the Guard - ian of our way;  
Poor and sin - ful though we be;  
Ear - ly let us do Thy will;




In Thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us,  
Keep Thy flock, from sin de - fend us,  
Thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us,  
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior,



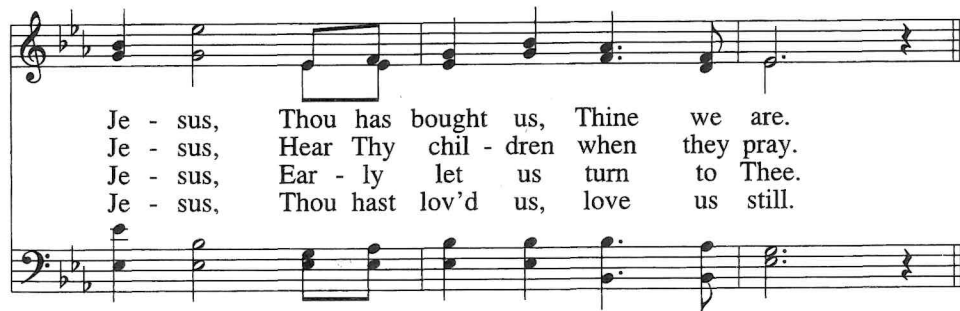
For our use Thy folds pre - pare.  
Seek us when we go a - stray.  
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
With Thy love our bos - oms fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus,      Bless - ed Je - sus,      Thou hast  
 Bless - ed Je - sus,      Bless - ed Je - sus,      Hear Thy  
 Bless - ed Je - sus,      Bless - ed Je - sus,      Ear - ly  
 Bless - ed Je - sus,      Bless - ed Je - sus,      Thou hast



bought us, Thine we are;      Bless - ed Je - sus,      Bless - ed  
 chil - dren when they pray;      Bless - ed Je - sus,      Bless - ed  
 let us turn to Thee;      Bless - ed Je - sus,      Bless - ed  
 lov'd us, love us still;      Bless - ed Je - sus,      Bless - ed



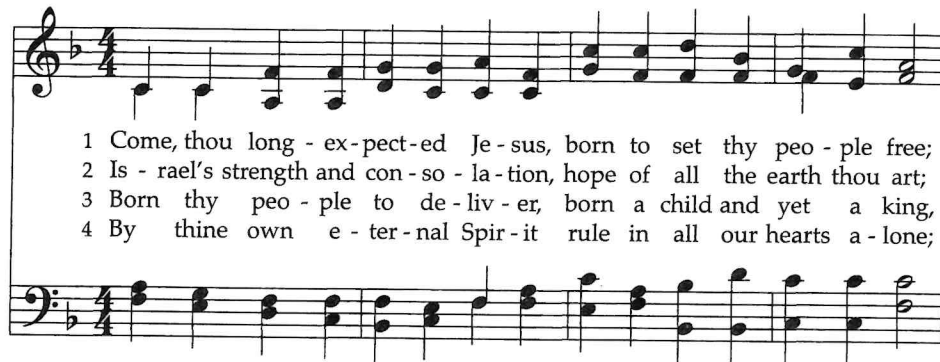
Je - sus,      Thou has bought us, Thine we are.  
 Je - sus,      Hear Thy chil - dren when they pray.  
 Je - sus,      Ear - ly let us turn to Thee.  
 Je - sus,      Thou hast lov'd us, love us still.

Text: Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

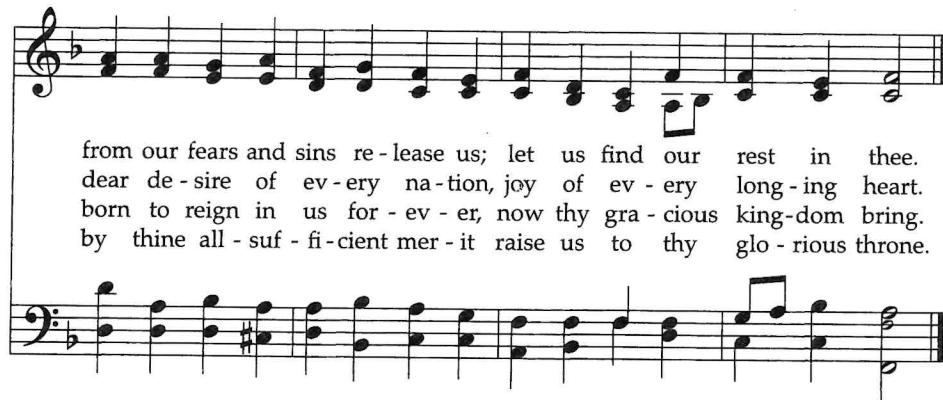
Tune: BRADBURY, 8 7 8 7 D; William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

## 83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
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.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744  
MUSIC: Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

STUTTGART  
8.7.8.7  
(alternate tune: HYFRYDOL, 82)