



Prepare the way of the Lord —ISAIAH 40:3

NOVEMBER 27-28, 2021

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

O Lord we pray that you would wake us up to your loving presence. Reveal to us the depth of your love in all the places of life. Prepare our hearts and minds to receive the coming of your son among us. Amen.

SONG OF GATHERING: *If In Your Heart*

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

❖ WAKE UP!

- ❖ *Into our midst comes Advent, representing not the end but the beginning of the church year; not the tying-up of all our loose ends, but God's opening up of our future. Its focus is not on all we have to do, but on all God has done, is doing and will do in the marvelous gift of Christ. - Jean Cramer-Heuerman*
- ❖ *God speaks to us, I would say, much more often than we realize... God's message is not written out in starlight; rather it is written out for each of us in the humdrum, helter-skelter events of each day. It is a message that in the long run just might make all the difference. - Frederick Buechner*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: A voice crying in the wilderness, Wake up!

All: A word needing to be heard:

One: Wake up! Prepare the way.

All: Get ready all hearts,

One: Create a quiet place.

All: Listen. Listen deep.

One: A voice shouting in the desert: Wake up!

All: Feed the hungry, shelter the homeless.

One: God comes in unexpected places.

All: Christ is coming!

One: Christ is coming.

All: Wake up!

PRAISE SONG: *All Earth is Hopeful* (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

All: Wake us, O God! Wake us from the busyness that already threatens to obscure the simple splendor of your humble birth.

Wake us to the truth about ourselves, that we give in to the pressures of culture to buy more than we need, to give mainly to those who give to us, to spend more time shopping than praying.

We confess that we need Advent to refocus us, to turn our eyes to those who encounter “no vacancy” signs, and to teach us to listen to those whose pain knows no words. Wake us to a new Advent. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE:

The good news of Advent is that Jesus Christ has come into the world, has led the way through death that we may have life, and is coming again to make all things new.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *How Long?* (music at end of bulletin)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: *Messiah* (music at end of bulletin)

THE READING: *Luke 21:25-36 (The Message)*

Here are some of Jesus' teachings in the temple before the events leading to His death. Jesus speaks of what will happen before the coming of the Son of Man, referring to himself. His advice to His hearers is to be watchful for these signs, but to do so with hope because their redemption is coming.

5-26 “It will seem like all hell has broken loose—sun, moon, stars, earth, sea, in an uproar and everyone all over the world in a panic, the wind knocked out of them by the threat of doom, the powers-that-be quaking.

27-28 “And then—then!—they’ll see the Son of Man welcomed in grand style—a glorious welcome! When all this starts to happen, up on your feet. Stand tall with your heads high. Help is on the way!”

29-33 He told them a story. “Look at a fig tree. Any tree for that matter. When the leaves begin to show, one look tells you that summer is right around the corner. The same here—when you see these things happen, you know God’s kingdom is about here. Don’t brush this off: I’m not just saying this for some future generation, but for this one, too—these things will happen. Sky and earth will wear out; my words won’t wear out.

34-36 “But be on your guard. Don’t let the sharp edge of your expectation get dulled by parties and drinking and shopping. Otherwise, that Day is going to take you by complete surprise, spring on you suddenly like a trap, for it’s going to come on

everyone, everywhere, at once. So, whatever you do, don't fall asleep at the wheel. Pray constantly that you will have the strength and wits to make it through everything that's coming and end up on your feet before the Son of Man."

THE GOSPEL:

Mark 13:32-37

As the first season of the church year, Advent, has several focuses. One is endings and beginnings which is suggested in this New Testament reading. This portion, of Mark's story about Jesus' life, is sometimes called the "Little Apocalypse". Here Jesus is speaking not just about the end of life, but of all human history, and that they are to keep awake to experience what will then come.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert,* for you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

MESSAGE: *"Wake Up!" Pastor David Schoob*

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus
(music at end of bulletin)*

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: Stay awake! Christ has come in the past, he will come again at the end of time-- and he is coming today. Stay awake and look in all the unexpected places.

All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: *May the God of Hope Go With Us
(music at end of bulletin)*

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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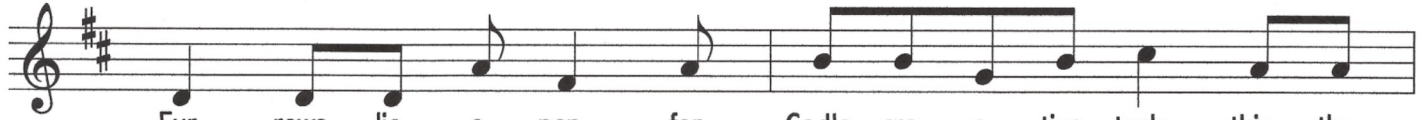
Come to Be Our Hope, Jesus. Text: Jaci Maraschin, Portuguese and English; Spanish tr. Jorge Rodriguez. Music: Marcilio de Oliveira Filho. © 1987, 1989 World Council of Churches. Music © 1989 Marcilio de Oliveira Filho, admin. World Council of Churches. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

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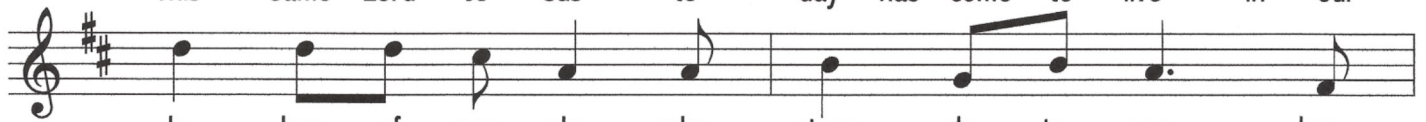
All Earth is Hopeful ELW 266



1. All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!
2. Peo-ple of Is-rael, you heard the proph-et tell:
3. Mount-tains and val-leys will have to be pre-pared;
4. We first saw Je-sus a ba-by in a crib.



Fur-rows lie o-pen, for God's cre-a-tive task; this, the
"A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el"; she con-
new high-ways o-pened, new pro-to-cols de-clared. Al-most
This same Lord Je-sus to-day has come to live in our



la-bor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth-er, whose birth re-
here! God is near-ing, in beau-ty and grace! All
world; he is pre-sent, in neigh-bors we see our



God's truth and jus-tice set ev-'ry-bod-y free.
stores hope and cour-age to chil-dren of this earth
clear ev-'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je-sus is with us, and

ev-er sets us free.

How Long?

Chorus

How long will you hide from me, Oh, Lord? How long?

How long will you hide your face from me? How long?

Verse 1

How long till the wolf lies down with the lamb? How long?

We long to see you, great I Am. *(chorus)*

Verse 2

When will swords be - come that which plows the land. How long?

When will all as one to - geth - er stand? *(chorus)*

Verse 3

When will jus - tice flow like a riv - er run - ning wide? We

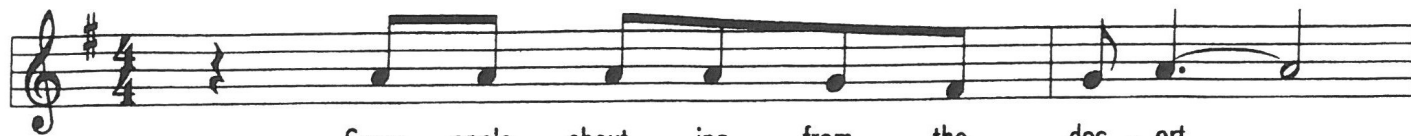
long for you to come and sit, and be close by our side. *(chorus)*

Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus

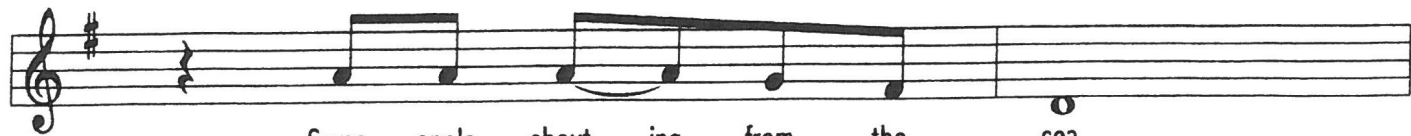
The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus'. It consists of seven staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics are: '1. Come to be our hope, O Je - sus, come to' and '2. Come to build your new cre - a - tion through the'. The second staff continues: 'set road your peo - ple free. From op - pres - sion, come, re -' and 'of ser - vant hood; give new life to ev - 'ry'. The third staff: 'lease us, grant us your true lib - er - ty. Come, re -' and 'na - tion, changing e - vil in - to good. Come and'. The fourth staff: 'lease from ev - 'ry pri - son those who' and 'o - pen our to - mor - row for your'. The fifth staff: 'suf - fer in our land. In your love we find the' and 'joy - ful reign so near. Take a - way all hu - man'. The sixth staff: 'rea - son still to live and un - der - stand.' and 'sor - row; give us hope a - gainst our fear.' The seventh staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

1. Come to be our hope, O Je - sus, come to
2. Come to build your new cre - a - tion through the
set road your peo - ple free. From op - pres - sion, come, re -
of ser - vant hood; give new life to ev - 'ry
lease us, grant us your true lib - er - ty. Come, re -
na - tion, changing e - vil in - to good. Come and
lease from ev - 'ry pri - son those who
o - pen our to - mor - row for your
suf - fer in our land. In your love we find the
joy - ful reign so near. Take a - way all hu - man
rea - son still to live and un - der - stand.
sor - row; give us hope a - gainst our fear.

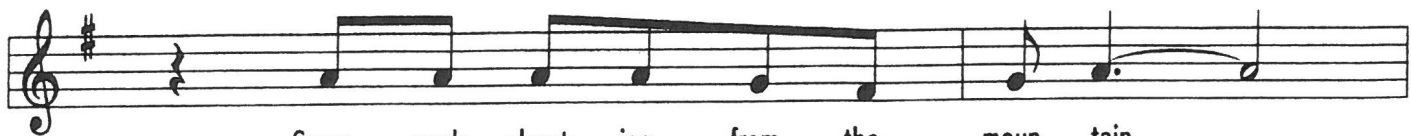
Messiah



Some - one's shout - ing from the des - ert_.
Some - one's shout - ing from the ci - ty
Some - one's shout - ing I am brok - en



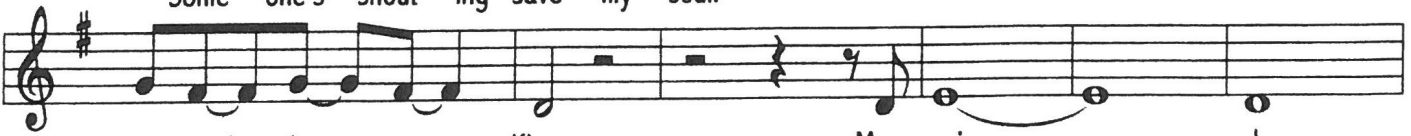
Some - one's shout - ing from the sea
I am young__ I am cold
Some - one's shout - ing make me whole



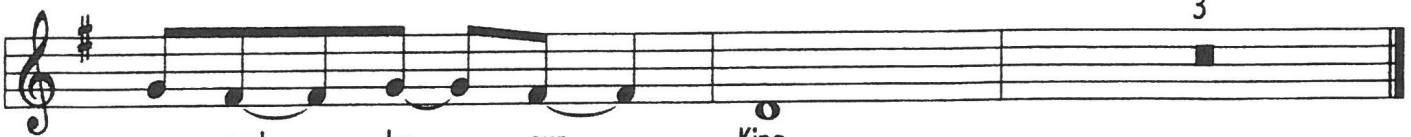
Some - one's shout - ing from the moun - tain
Some - one's shout - ing from the coun - try
Some - one's shout - ing come and change me



Some - one's shout - ing from the val - ley Mes - si__ - ah,
I am lone - ly I am old__
Some - one's shout - ing save my soul.



come and be our King. Mes - si__ - ah,



come and be our King.

3

May the God of Hope Go With Us

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'May the God of Hope Go With Us'. It consists of six staves of music, each with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a time signature of 2/4. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a descending line in the first half of each measure and an ascending line in the second half. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with two alternative versions for the first two lines. The final line of the score ends with a double bar line.

1. May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,
2. May the God of heal - ing free the earth from fear;
fill - ing all our lives with love and joy and peace.
free - ing us for peace, both treas - ured and pur - sued.
May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way
May the God of love keep our com - mit - ment clear
bring - ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.
to a world re - stored, to hu - man life re - newed.
Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;
work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.