



DECEMBER 17-18, 2022

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### ***MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:***

Gracious God, out of the darkness you send a light; out of a lifeless stump you call forth a new shoot; out of the discord of our lives you proclaim a vision of new life for us and the world.

May your Spirit rest upon us that the hope which you inspire will be lived out in our lives. We pray this in the name of the One whose birth we prepare to celebrate, Jesus, the light and life of the world. Amen.

### ***PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS***

### ***THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:***

- ❖ *We are all meant to be mothers of God, for God is always needing to be born.*  
- Meister Eckhart (Medieval Theologian)
- ❖ *The coming of the Lord is the coming of the new, not the renewal of the old. Our Advent is the celebration of this hope.*  
-Thomas Merton (American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, mystic poet, social activist and scholar of comparative religion)

### ***CALL TO WORSHIP:***

One: Shout for joy!

**All: The Savior is coming.**

One: Sing with gladness!

**All: Our darkness shall be turned to light.**

One: Let every heart prepare a space.

**All: Let every home make ready.**

One: Let all the hungry be filled.

**All: Let all the homeless be sheltered.**

One: For a new day is dawning.

**All: The world is being made new.**

One: The Savior is coming.

**All: Sing with joy!**

**PRAISE SONG:** *No Obvious Angels (music at end of bulletin)*

**OUR CONFESSION:**

**All:** How long, O God, 'til we see your face? How long 'til refugees can go home in peace? How long 'til drive-bys, accidental shootings and gang violence leave our neighborhoods? How long must people be discriminated against because of the color of their skin, their accent, their age, their sexual orientation, their handicap, their gender, their appearance?

**O God, we long for your coming, yet fear the changes you may require.**

**Remind us, God, that sweet baby Jesus grew up and called us to new lives of compassion and justice. Shout in the midst of packages and parties that you come to free us from sin and make us new. Make us ready for Christmas.**

**Walk with us this Advent. Amen.**

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

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

**THE GOSPEL:**

**Luke 3:1-18**

*Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, is often considered the forerunner of Jesus through the message he brought. In the usual Lukan style of providing many details, Luke here shares both the time of John's strong message and the words for his hearers to show in their living.*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the

root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

#### **MESSAGE IN WORD AND SONG:**

***"Be Born Among Us, the Ones Willing to Risk a New Way of Living"***

***My Heart, Your Bethlehem***

***Prepare the Way***

***Let This Be the Time***

***The Work of Christmas***

#### **THE PRAYERS**

##### **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is 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: In our Lord's new kingdom, the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and a little child shall lead them. With hearts hungry for this new vision of life, let us put faith in the child of Bethlehem and follow him into the new.

**ALL: Amen.**

**THE SENDING SONG: *Sing We the Song of Emmanuel***  
**(music at end of bulletin)**

**THE DISMISSAL:**

**Leader:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

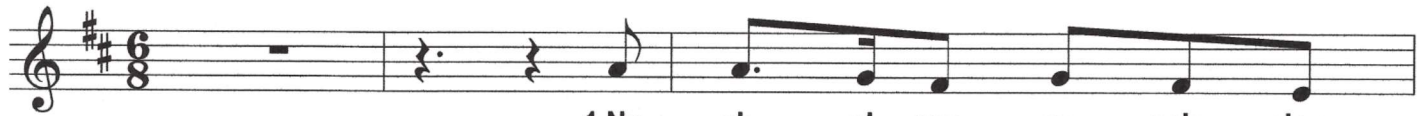
**OUR Welcome IS WIDE OPEN**

Skeptic. Cynic. Believer. Confident. Fearful. Doubter. Seeker. Questioner. Latino. Black. Asian. White. Indigenous. Immigrant. Any combination of ethnic or racial identities. Female. Male. Straight. Gay. Bisexual. Transgender. Questioning. Rich. Poor. Middle-class. Barely making it. Able bodied. Specially abled. Disabled. Young. Old. In-between. Married. Single. Divorced. Awaiting trial. Served time. On probation. Tired. Worn. Hopeful. Employed. Unemployed. Workaholic. Slacker. Anxious. Depressed. Confused. Centered. Inked. Pierced. Both. Life long follower of Jesus. Regular attendee. Occasional attendee. Curious onlooker. Don't quite fit the box. Need a prayer right now. **Trinity is a faith community where we believe in God's love, grace and mercy—illustrated most clearly through Jesus Christ. We believe we are all children of God, created in God's image and equal in God's sight. We believe God loves us just as we are and way too much to let us stay this way. We are called to live in God's light and be transformed, not through judgment but through unconditional love. We believe God's love is all-inclusive and is stronger than the pressure to be perfect regardless of whatever labels we carry. Saint. Sinner. Democrat. Republican. Independent. Libertarian. Green. Socialist. Apolitical. Addicted. Recovering. We don't care what religion or denomination you are. We are all Human. We are all Flawed. We are all Beloved. —You are welcome here.**

**COME as you are.**

TRINITY CONGREGATION WELCOME STATEMENT | MARCH 2017

No Obvious Angels



1.No ob - vi - ous an - gels sing  
2.Our an - gel po - ten - tial is  
3.Who - ev - er will take it is



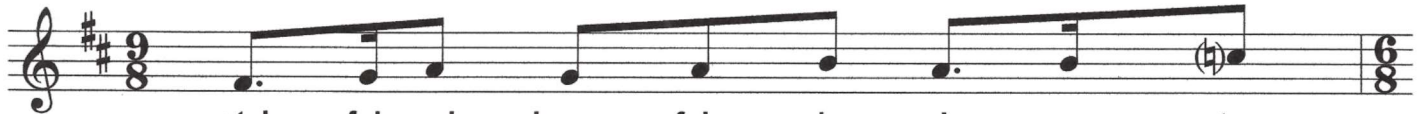
through the night skies, no thun - der - struck shep - herds tell  
wait - ing to start! The Spir - it will teach us the  
giv - en the role: the fruit - ful, the faith - ful, the



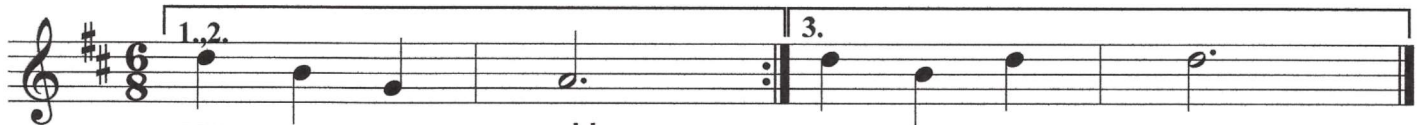
out their sur - prise, for Christ - mas comes in - to the  
song of the heart, for Christ - mas comes in - to the  
joy - ous of soul, for Christ - mas comes in - to the



here and the now through star - sight - ed peo - ple, the  
here and the now through peace - mak - er peo - ple, the  
here and the now when we are the an - gels who



watch - ful and hope - ful, who wake us to  
just and the gen - tle, the stars who will  
dream and de - liv - er, who rise and cre



1.,2. see a new world.  
light the new world.

3. - ate this new world!

# 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*

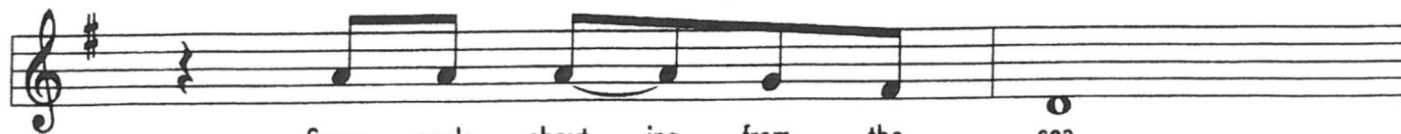
When will jus - tice flow like a riv - er run - ning wide? We

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

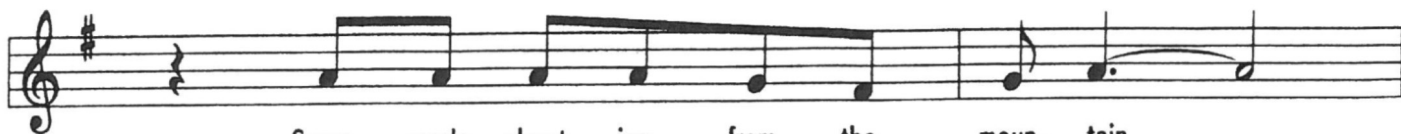
Messiah



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



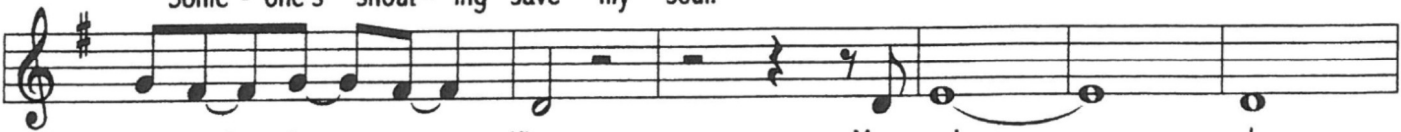
Some - one's shout - ing from the sea  
I am young\_\_ I am cold  
Some - one's shout - ing make me whole



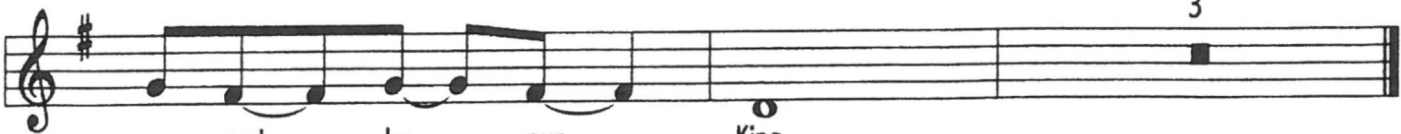
Some - one's shout - ing from the moun - tain  
Some - one's shout - ing from the coun - try  
Some - one's shout - ing come and change me



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,

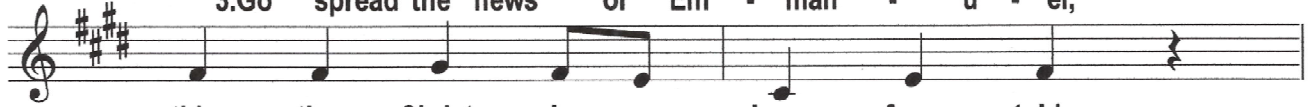


come and be our King. 3

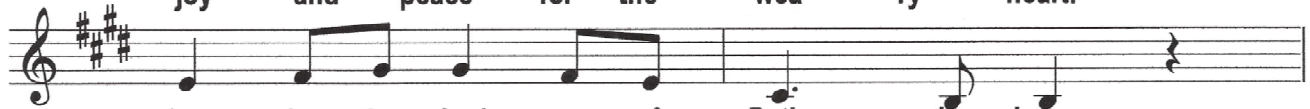
Sing We the Song of Emmanuel



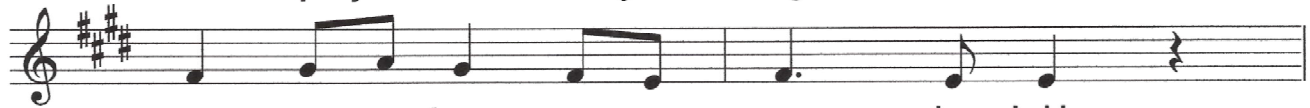
1. Sing we the song of Em - man - u - el,  
2. Come we to wel - come Em - man - u - el,  
3. Go spread the news of Em - man - u - el,



this the Christ who was long fore - told.  
king who came with no crown or throne  
joy and peace for the wea - ry heart.



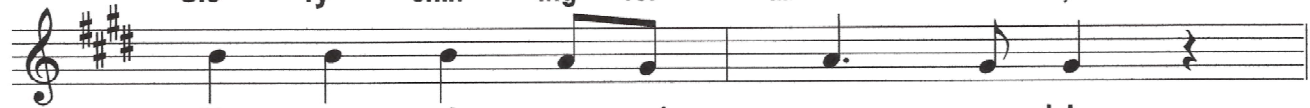
Lo in the shad - ows of Beth - le - hem,  
Help - less he lay, the in - vin - ci - ble,  
Lift up your heads for your king has come,



prom - ise of dawn, now our eyes be - hold.  
mak - er of Mar - y, now Mar - y's son.  
sing for the Light o - ver - whelms the dark.



God most high in a man - ger laid,  
O what wis - dom to save us all,  
Glo - ry shin - ing for all to see,



lift your voic - es and now pro - claim.  
shep - herds, sag - es be - fore Him fall.  
hope a - live, let the gos - pel ring.



Great and glo - ri - ous, love has come to us,  
Grace and maj - es - ty, what hu - mil - i - ty,  
God has made a way. He will have the praise.



join now with the hosts of heav - en.  
come on bend - ed knee, a - dore Him.  
Tell the world His name is Je - sus.



Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! (Sing 4X)



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