



DECEMBER 3-4, 2022

2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

God of love, come to us with your gift of presence as we travel in our loneliness. May your love encompass us on this journey to Bethlehem and into the rest of our lives, so that we might never be alone. Through Jesus we pray. 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)
- ❖ *I believe deeply that God does his best work in our lives during times of great heartbreak and loss, and I believe that much of that rich work is done by the hands of people who love us, who dive into the wreckage with us and show us who God is, over and over and over. There are years when the Christmas spirit is hard to come by, and it's in those seasons when I'm so thankful for Advent. Consider it a less flashy but still very beautiful way of being present to this season. Give up for a while your false and failing attempts at merriment, and thank God for thin places, and for Advent, for a season that understands longing and loneliness and long nights. Let yourself fall open to Advent, to anticipation, to the belief that what is empty will be filled, what is broken will be repaired, and what is lost can always be found, no matter how many times it's been lost.*
- Shauna Niequist (Novelist)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: May the peace of God come among us.

All: May the peace of God enter our loneliness.

Leader: We find peace in God's presence.

**All: May God be present in and through us.
May God be born in us today!**

PRAISE SONG: *If God Were Born Among Us* (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

All: God, you have told us not to worry because you care for us. And yet, we have allowed our fears and our anxieties to keep us awake at night. We have tried to fill our loneliness with a multitude of things and yet we still feel alone. We have forsaken the peace you long to make real within us. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive us for failing to remember to trust you, even when we have trouble sensing your presence. Forgive us for forgetting to call on your name when we are alone in the dark. Forgive us for worrying about so many things instead of bringing our worries to you in prayer. Free us, once more, to walk with you and then help us carry your presence to one another. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *Build Up (music at end of bulletin)*

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

THE READING: *John 14: 18-23*

As John tells the story of Jesus' life, this is part of the time when Jesus was with His disciples in an upper room in Jerusalem. It takes place just before Jesus is arrested, put on trial, sentenced, and crucified. It is part of what is called the Upper Room Discourses where He implies what is coming in His and their future.

Jesus said, 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.' Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?' Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'

THE GOSPEL: *Luke 2: 7*

Luke provides the most details of Jesus' birth. Here is a simple summary of what happened when Mary gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

MESSAGE IN WORD AND SONG:

“Be Born Among Us, the Lonely and Lost”

Is There Room in Your Heart for a King?

Prayer for Emmanuel

Entertain the Angels

Stranger Standing at My Door (You, the Christ)

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: May you know the blessing of Immanuel God with us! May you be the blessing of God with us! Christ was born, is born, and will always be born to the lonely of the world! **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG: *From God’s Heart (music at end of bulletin)*

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



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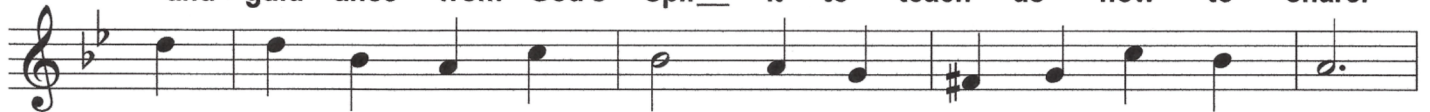
If God Were Born Among Us



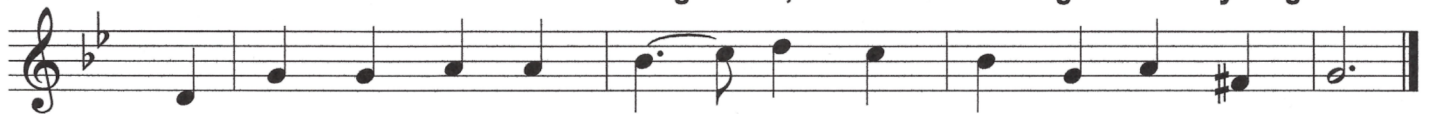
1. If God were born a - mong us, a strang - er full of need,
2. Fear not, the an - gel tells us, yet we still live in fear
3. The hurt - ing world we live in calls for our love and care



would we see God as ho - ly or one more mouth to feed?
of dif - f'rence that di - vides us, of those out - side our sphere.
and guid - ance from God's Spir - it to teach us how to share.



If God were born a - mong us in some in - dif - f'rent place,
The o - ver - crowd - ed lodg - ings e - voke our year - ly scorn,
The love of God can change us, trans - form - ing us by grace



would we pro - vide a ref - uge? Would God find wel - come space?
but would we find the room now if God were new - ly born?
to wel - come each new stran - ger and see in them God's face.

Build Up

Chorus

Build up, pre - pare the way. Re - move the ob -
struc - tions from my peo - ple's way. Build up,
pre - pare the way. God is near.
God is here to - day. *3rd time to Coda*
Break the chains of in - jus - tice.
God sees all our de - struc - tion;
Let the op - pressed go free.
how we get in love's way.
Share our homes with the home - less and our
Still God comes and meets us with a
bread stead - y, with the hun - gry.
heal - ing em - brace.

Coda

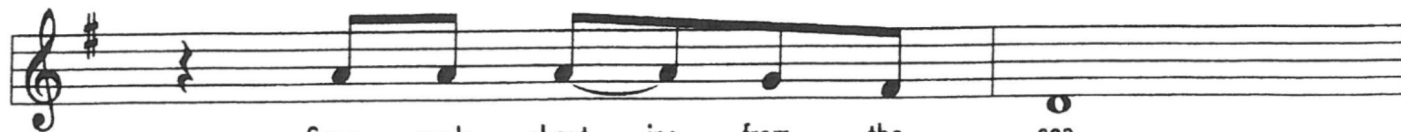
Then your light will break forth like the dawn
and your heal - ing will break in - to song.

Repeat 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



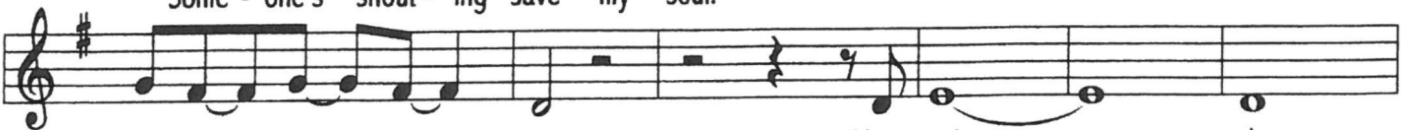
Some - one's shout - ing from the sea
I am young I am cold
Some - one's shout - ing make me whole



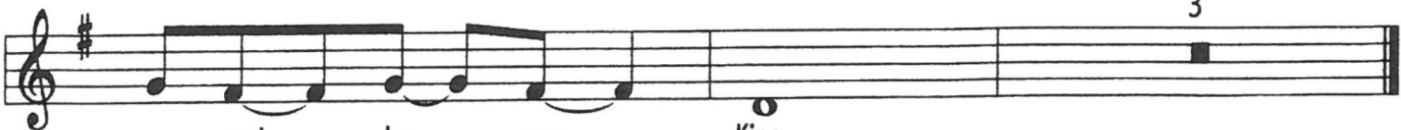
Some - one's shout - ing from the moun - tain
Some - one's shout - ing from the coun - try
Some - one's shout - ing come and change me



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.

From God's Heart

May our words and what we do be
In - to re - vealed hun - gry vio - lent place your
Grace re - vealed for a child ar - rives. good
From God's heart

lived in grat - i - tude to you.
word's in for ev' - ry tribe and race.
news for for poor of and ev' - ry kind.
hope a - bounds and joy a - bides.

Em - man - ue - el - love has come
Let love in - crease, let ha - tred fall.
The low raised up, the rich brought low
- God with us - in the night.

in an un - ex - pect - ed low - ly one.
Be peace on earth, good will to all.
so a - bun - dant life the world may know.
Glo - ry to the One who brings the light.