

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30AM

Jesus' Second Coming ~ The Candle of Expectation

OPENING¹

HYMN (v. 6, see p. 3)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

CALL TO WORSHIP²

L: In anticipation we gather.

P: With expectation we wait.

L: We gather to watch for the coming of the good news

P: We wait to see the fullness of God's vision

L: O God, open the doors to our hearts, that this year we may have room for the birth of Jesus

P: O God, as we marvel over all that you are doing, overwhelm us with so much wonder that words of praise spring forth from our lips!

Leader: In this time of waiting, let true worship begin in our hearts.

P: Let our praises rise up to the heavens! Let our celebrations spread new hope over a tired world! Let us gather together all our dreams and lives to worship our God! Amen.

HYMN (see p. 4)

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

CANDLELIGHTING³

ALL SING (see p. 4): **How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven. No one discerns God's coming, but in this world of sin, Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

VIRTUAL CHOIR ANTHEM

An Advent Credo

by Martin

SCRIPTURE

John 1: 1-5, 14, 16

ANTHEM (sung by Jordyn Myers & Paula Strayer)

Fullness of Grace
by Getty, Getty, & Townend

READING

HYMN (see p. 5)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

POEM

Blessed Are You Who Bear the Light

by Jan Richardson

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM

Heaven Has Come to Us
by Wilerton, Altohoff, & Hudson

READING

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21: 1-5a

QUARTET ANTHEM

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

by Haan

READING

Our Song of Hope

DUET (sung by Denny Daugherty & Braden Bicher)

When He Comes Again
by Goss

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

QUARTET ANTHEM

Of the Father's Love Begotten

by Ijames

TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

SILENT CONFESSION⁴

Advent is a season of expectant waiting and preparation. We confess waiting in anticipation and not enjoying the increasing excitement. Our need for instant gratification consumes us, more than the excitement for what is to come. When wonder does arrive, we quickly look towards the next gift, adventure, thrill or event without enjoying what is present in our lives. We confess that we build expectations in our lives and are not grateful for daily gifts that surround us. Remind us that waiting is the means God often uses to carry his plans in our lives. May we remember as we wait, God strengthens our heart. You alone O God anticipate our sin and forgive us. Through Your grace, we are wonderfully renewed.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CLOSING⁵

VIRTUAL CHOIR ANTHEM

Hallelujah Chorus

by Handel

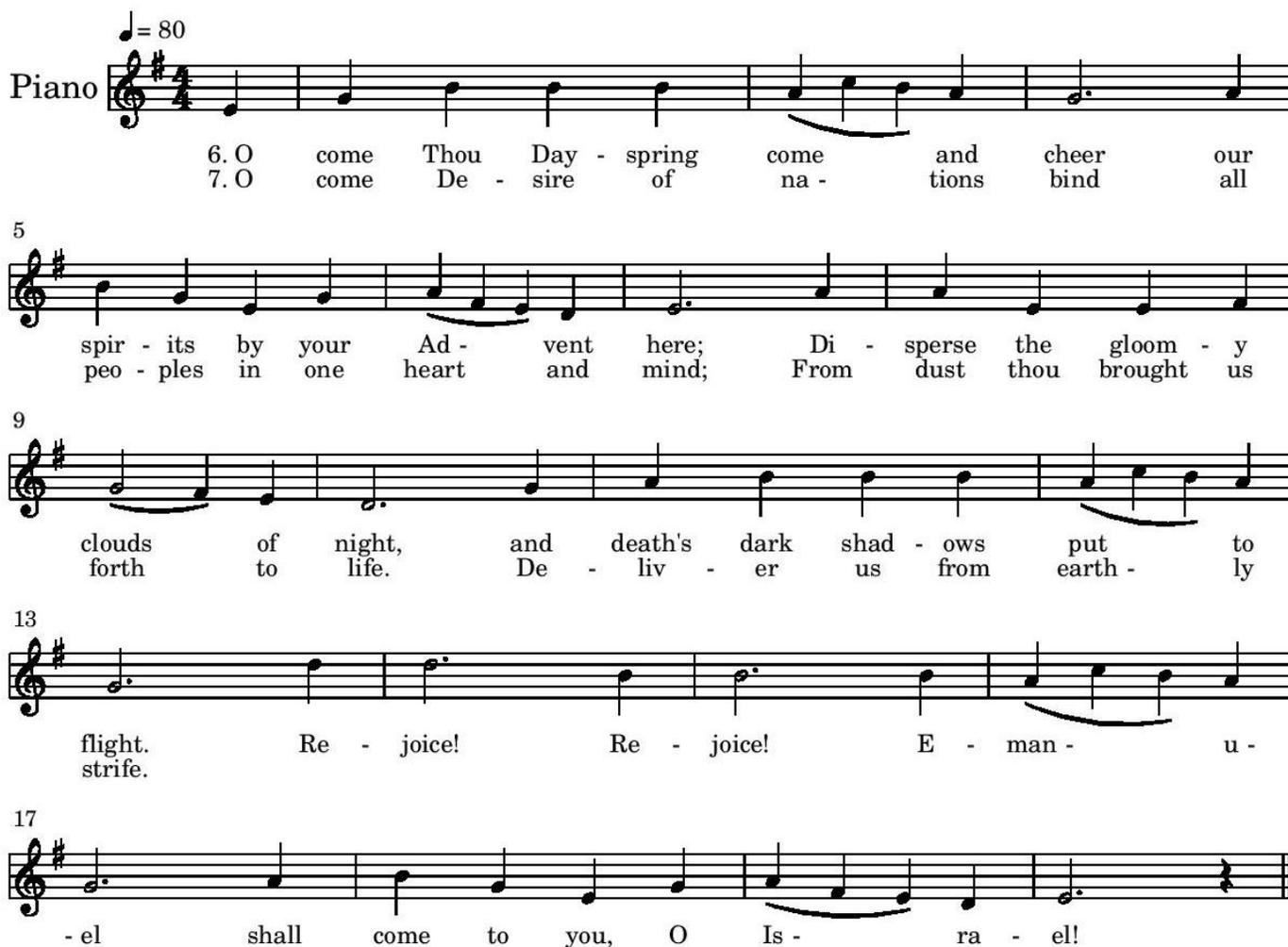
¹ Written by Deb Herlocker & read by Matt Grimes.² The call to worship was written by David Firestone & Elaine Bevivino.³ The text for the candlelighting was written by Jen Cooper.⁴ The silent confession was written by Danika Dallam and Paula Strayer.⁵ The closing was written by Deb Herlocker & read by Matt Grimes.

*Music reproduced and licensed under CCLI License # 3220582 and One License #A-725030. Streaming licensed under CCLI License #CSPL062300.

Thank you to Lee Brown for donating the Christmas tree in the sanctuary! Thank you to all who made all the musical and visual offerings possible for this Sunday! We especially thank Ashlyn Puller for providing her artistic skills during the service today! We thank all of the musicians and vocalists for their musical offerings including the members of the two quartets: Barb Neff, Olivia Daugherty, Paula Strayer, Mike Gibbs, Braden Bicher, Brenda Beyer, Andrew Texter, Jordyn Myers. And we thank all those who submitted videos and audio for the various choir anthems!

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



6. O come Thou Day - spring of come and cheer our
7. O come De - sire of na - tions bind all

5
spir - its by your Ad - vent here; Di - sperse the gloom - y
peo - ples in one heart and mind; From dust thou brought us

9
clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to ly
forth to life. De - liv - er us from earth - ly

13
flight. strife. Re - joice! Re - joice! E - man - u -

17
- el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. Com - fort com - fort now my peo - ple, tell of peace so
2. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert
3. Straight shall be what long was crook - ed and the rough - er

4



says our God; Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing un - der
far and near, Call - ing us to true re - pen - tance since the king - dom
pla - ces plain! Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his

8



sor - row's load. To God's peo - ple now pro - claim that God's par - don
now is here. Oh that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for
ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is

12



waits for them; Tell them that their war is o - ver, God will reign in
God a way; Let the vall - eys rise to meet him and the hills bow
shed a - broad; And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is

16



peace for - ev - er.
down to greet him.
ne - ver bro - ken.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with
 3. O ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose
 4. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
 5. For lo the days are hast - ening on by

4

glo - ri - ous song of old, From an - gels bend - ing near the earth to
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heav - en - ly mu - sic floats o'er
 forms are bend - ing low, Who toil a - long the climb - ing way with
 world has suf - ered long, Be - neath the an - gel strain have rolled two
 proph - et bards fore - told; When with the ev - er cir - cling years comes

8

touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
 all the wear - y world; A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
 pain - fu steps and slow, Look now! for glad and gold - en hours come
 thou - sand years of wrong; And man at war with man hears not the
 round the age of gold; When peace shall o - ver all the earth its

12

heav - en's all gra - cious King!" The world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to
 bend on hov - er - ing wing, And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the
 swi - ftly on the wing; O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and
 love song which they bring; O hush the noise ye men of strife and
 an - cient splen - dors fling; And the whole world give back the song which

16

hear the an - gels sing.
 bless - ed an - gels sing.
 hear the an - gels sing.
 hear the an - gels sing.
 now the an - gels sing.