
Gathering those who fear they are not enough,
so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.



Liturgy for this service is adapted from A Sanctified Art

We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Steven Scott (b. 1944)

RINGING OF THE BELL

INTROIT

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(traditional)

*By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

WELCOME

Megan Klose

* ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & CALL TO WORSHIP Irv Morgan & Donald Vafides

ONE: In a weary and worn world how do we begin again? Where do we start?

ALL: Let us begin with tenderness. Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeves. Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope. Let us begin with love.

ONE: Yes, let us start with love. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

ALL: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

ONE: May it be so! Amen.

* GATHERING HYMN 82

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jenny Lansbury

ONE: Friends, hope can feel slippery. One moment we may believe that change will come, that good will win, that the suffering of today will not be the suffering of tomorrow. The next moment we can receive word of more violence, more injustice practiced in the world. Hope can feel slippery. Fortunately for us, God's grace is not. No matter what we are able to hold, God is able to hold onto us. So, trusting that God's grace does not let us go, join me in the prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: Gracious God, you paint pictures of what could be,

ALL: but we declare those visions impossible.

ONE: You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,

ALL: but we spout skepticism and uncertainty.

ONE: You dream of a more just day,

ALL: but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon.

ONE: Forgive us for losing sight of hope.

ALL: Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is.

ONE: Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it.

ALL: Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray, amen.

Personal prayer in silence

** Please rise in body or spirit*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Yena Hwang

ONE: No matter what you hold onto, and no matter what you let slip through your hands, God is holding onto you. That good news will never change. So, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: Today is a new day. Today, we have reason to hope. Today, we are forgiven.

ALL: And the same will be true tomorrow. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

* GLORY TO GOD 583



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979

GLORIA (Taizé)

Music © 1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

* PASSING THE PEACE

Yena Hwang

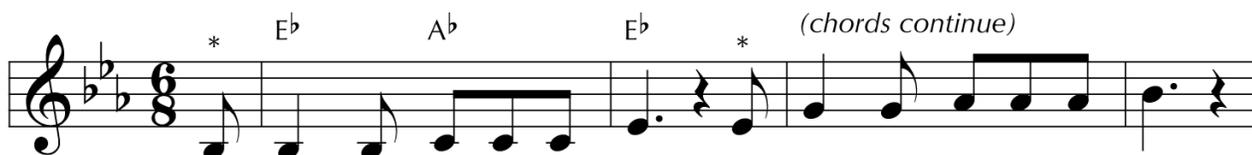
ONE: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Children ages 4 and up are invited to continue their worship at Godly Play in Room 59.

We Listen for God's Word

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION HYMN 95



Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord,



and all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

PREPARE THE WAY
7.7.6.7

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

Jenny Lansbury

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.**ANTHEM***Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*

R. Fisher Boyce (1887-1968)

Honey & Locusts with members of Cheese & Taxidermy

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Yena Hwang

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.**SERMON***Hope is Worth the Risk*

Yena Hwang

We Respond to God's Word*** SERMON HYMN 847***Our Hope, Our Life**** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Megan Klose

ALL: We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our nights with stars, who follows winter with spring, who dwells with and among us. We believe that this God has dreams for creation, dreams of justice like a mighty stream and swords that will be beaten into plowshares. Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability. We hold onto hope, and we declare: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Amen.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER FAITHFULLY

Jenny Lansbury

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jenny Lansbury

ONE: Lord in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

The Prayers of the People are offered on behalf of and with the congregation, usually by an elder who is currently serving or has previously served on Session. Prayer requests can be sent to Pastors Yena and Megan at prayers@fallschurchurchpresby.org.

Please keep in your prayers:

Theresa Brown, Avery Burns, Allan Capon, Linda Garvelink, Winnie Harris-Zoellner, Ruth Mileham, Ken Waugh, all with continuing health concerns.

The 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.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Megan Klose

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Megan Klose

Please support the mission and ministry of the church with your financial contributions. Offerings can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church office, given online through our secure giving portal (fpc.breezechms.com/give/online), texted to give at 7037751355, or scanned using the QR code.



OFFERTORY

People Look East

arr. Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

*People, look east. The time is near, of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.
Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

*** DOXOLOGY** (tune: *The First Noel*)

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God__ from whom all__ bles - sings flow. Praise God, _ all crea - tures
here__ be - low. Praise God__ a - bove, ye__ heaven - ly
host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, _ and Ho - ly Ghost. No - well, _ No -
well, No - well, No - well__ Born is the King_ of Is - ra - el!

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Megan Klose

We Are Sent into the World

*** SENDING HYMN 765**

May the God of Hope Go with Us

*** CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Yena Hwang

*** CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(traditional)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set us free;

Send us out into the world to be a light for Thee. Amen! Go share the love of Jesus!

POSTLUDE

Go Tell It on the Mountain

(traditional)

Honey & Locusts with members of Cheese & Taxidermy

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Supporting Us in Worship

Worship Leader	Jenny Lansbury
Ushers	John Moses, Elizabeth Shipley-Moses
Audio/Video	Alexi Hawkins
Sexton	Marnie Sarver

Thank you to Marnie Sarver and friends for decorating our church for the Christmas season.

A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. Please sign the red welcome pad which can be found at the end of the pew, then pass the pad along to your neighbor.

There are nametag boards outside of the sanctuary side entrance. Please make a nametag and wear it as a sign of hospitality.

Large-print bulletins are available at the sanctuary entrances. Portable electronic assistive listening devices are available in the narthex.

A recording of today's service can be found at www.fallschurchpresby.org/sermon.

If you would like to learn more about our family of faith, please talk to one of the pastors as you exit the sanctuary. More information can be found on our website.

Children in Worship

Children are always welcome in our services. Children's bulletins and coloring sheets are available for children of all ages at each sanctuary entrance. **The Kids' Corner** in the front right of the Sanctuary is a space where children and their grownups can play, read, color, and participate in worship. **Children up to age 4:** Child care is offered in Room 201. Parents may drop off and pick up children throughout this service. **Children aged 4 and up:** Godly Play is offered in Room 59 following the Passing of the Peace.

Fellowship Hour

Please join us in Fellowship Hall following worship to greet your neighbors and enjoy some light refreshments.

Announcements

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received today. This PC(USA) offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need, and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Special Offering envelopes are in the pews.

Christmas Eve Service, Tuesday, December 24

7:45 p.m. – String Quartet Prelude Music

8:00 p.m. – Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Generosity Thank You. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5) Each year, during the darkest month of our hemisphere, we celebrate the coming of Jesus the Christ, the Light of the world. And as people of Christ, isn't that what we are about, bringing this Light to the dark corners of the world? At this hopeful, anticipatory time of the year, your Generosity Team is pleased to announce that we now have 110 pledges totaling \$780,125 toward next year's budget. Thank you for journeying with us and for being part of bringing the Light. Merry Christmas!

FCPC Library Crèches. Be sure to stop by the library during this holiday season to view our Advent and Christmas books and crèches from around the world. There are 23 crèches on display throughout the room. Can you find them all?

City of Falls Church Watch Night events at FCPC, Tuesday, Dec. 31, 7-11 p.m. Free events include Northern Lights Big Band Orchestra, Victorian Society photo parlor, interactive music performance for all ages, face painting, and puppet show.

Thank You, Generous Santas! FCPC's Mercy Ministry elf delivered 75 toys, games, puzzles, books, and gift cards to Northern Virginia Family Service (with 44 additional gifts made online!), thanks to your generous donations. These gifts will bring much joy to children and families in need in our area.

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 22 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Drop & Dash Sunday

Choir Rehearsal, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Serendipity Class, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, in person and online

Monday, December 23 – *No scheduled events*

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

7:45 p.m. – String Quartet Prelude Music

8:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day – *Church office closed*

Thursday, December 26 – *No scheduled events*

Friday, December 27 – *No scheduled events*

Saturday, December 28 – Bible Study & Fellowship Group, 8:00 a.m., Parlor

Sunday, December 29 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, in person and online

Falls Church Presbyterian belongs to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, “working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.”

Falls Church Presbyterian is also a Matthew 25 church seeking to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty.

The Rev. Yena Hwang, Pastor

The Rev. Megan Klose, Associate Pastor

Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement

Dr. Don Armstrong, Director of Music; Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
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.

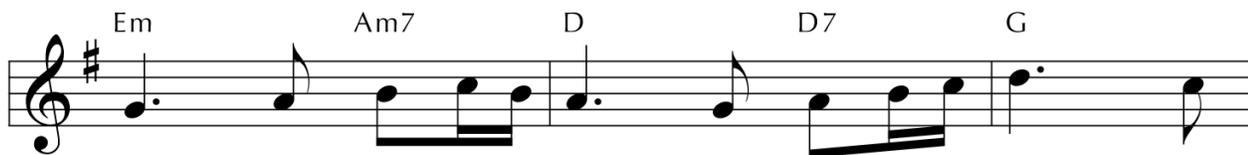
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Our Hope, Our Life

(Psalm 49)



1 Our hope, our life are in the Lord, the God we
 2 Some flaunt their gold; some trust its power, but what they
 3 Though wealth or learn - ing may be ours, or fame that
 4 Be - yond this age of shame and sham we glimpse a



hon - or and con - fess. Why crave re - nown or
 cher - ish will de - cay; and still the ran - som
 spreads through - out the land, the shack - les of mor -
 bet - ter des - ti - ny: the Lord will lift us



op - u - lence? They fade, those things we now pos - sess.
 for a soul re - mains a price too great to pay.
 tal - i - ty pre - vent so much that we have planned.
 free from death to dwell in praise e - ter - nal - ly.

As this recent paraphrase of Psalm 49 illustrates, human beings have long been tempted to put their trust in earthly assets, especially wealth and fame. But these are not enduring possessions, and they cannot save us. Only in God can we find unfailing hope and eternal life.

TEXT: Martin E. Leckebusch, 2006, alt.

MUSIC: English folk melody; harm. John Weaver, 1988

Text © 2006 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.

Music Harm. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

O WALY WALY

LM

May the God of Hope Go with Us 765

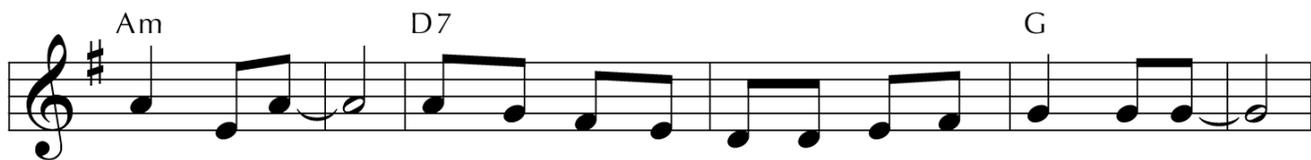
Song of Hope / *Canto de esperanza*



May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our
¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en



lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us
cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -



on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.
nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.



Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;
O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos de tu a - mor.



work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.
Lu - che - mos por la paz, fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.

This Argentine folk melody sets Spanish and English words, both created by a PC(USA) missionary with much Latin American experience. The two versions complement each other: the Spanish text offering a prayer to God, and the English one providing inspiration for the singers.