



**DOWNTOWN**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

from **Lament** to **Joy**

Celebration of Worship  
Sunday, December 13, 2020  
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Prelude Meditation on "There Is a Longing"

Words of Welcome Rev. Deb Swift

Chime

Introit Freedom Is Coming South African

Prayer of Invitation Pat Tweet

Holy Ground of our Being, you who have known us since before we were born, we are longing to feel as we used to: to attend concerts and go out to dinner, to celebrate the holidays with loved ones, to carry on traditions long passed down. We are aching to worship together, to invite family and friends to join us, and so we invite you to come to us now. As you encourage us to trust *you*, we dare to honestly invite you into the spaces where *we* are – messy, hurting, and unfamiliar. Come and be with us, Holy One, we ask. Amen.

Hymn There Is a Longing LONGING  
(Music on next page)

Acknowledging Who We Are Pat Tweet

One: There is a longing in our souls.

Many: **We try to push it away, but it persists.**

**We try to fill it with other things, but they are hollow.**

**It is exhausting.**

One: We try not to talk about it or think about it. We hold back from sharing our feelings.

Many: **We don't want to upset others.**

One: But you call us to lament, Holy Healer. You call us to be in relationship with you, Dearest Heart of our hearts.

Many: **For when we lament, when we cry and cry out, you restore our vision and we see you more clearly.**

## 470 There Is a Longing in Our Hearts

*Refrain*

*Dm All* *Gm* *C* *F*

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for

*B♭* *Gm7* *A* *A7*

you to re - veal your - self to us.

*Dm* *Gm* *C* *F*

There is a long-ing in our hearts for love we

*B♭* *Gm7* *A7* *Dm* (*hold last time*) *Fine*

on - ly find in you, our God.

*Leader or All*

*Dm* *Gm* *C7* *F* *B♭* *Gm*

1 For jus - tice, for free - dom, for mer - cy:  
 2 For wis - dom, for cour - age, for com - fort:  
 3 For heal - ing, for whole-ness, for new life:  
 4 Lord save us, take pit - y, Light in our

*A* *A7* *Dm* *Gm7* *C7* *F*

hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:  
 hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:  
 hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:  
 dark - ness. We call you; we wait:

*B♭* *Gm7* *A* *Dm* *to Refrain*

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

The refrain that frames this sung prayer describes why we pray, and the stanzas indicate what we pray for. These requests are not for possessions but for qualities and conditions we hope for in the world around us, and they emerge from the changing circumstances of our lives.

Scripture Reading                      Psalm 116                      Pat Tweet  
from *Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness*, by Nan C. Merrill

Reflection I                              "What Is, Is"                      Rev. Swift

Hymn 36                                  In the Bleak Midwinder                      CRANHAM  
(Music at end of bulletin)

Scripture Reading                      Luke 2:8-20                      Pat Tweet  
from the *New International Version*

Music for Reflection      E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come                      Paul Manz  
*"Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins  
Who loved us all and gave his life that we might saved be.  
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God  
Who was, and is, and is to come, sing Holy, Holy Lord.  
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within, rejoice on earth, ye saints below  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon. For Christ is coming soon.  
E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more.  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!"*  
Text: Ruth Manz, Adapted from *Revelation*

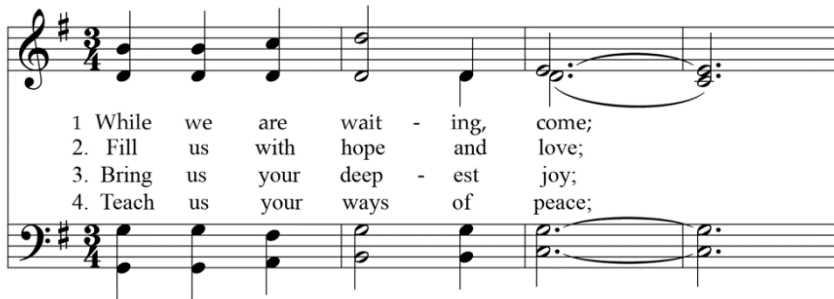
Lighting of the Advent Candle                      Pat Tweet

One:      We are at the half-way point on our Advent journey.  
Jesus is coming, shout for joy!

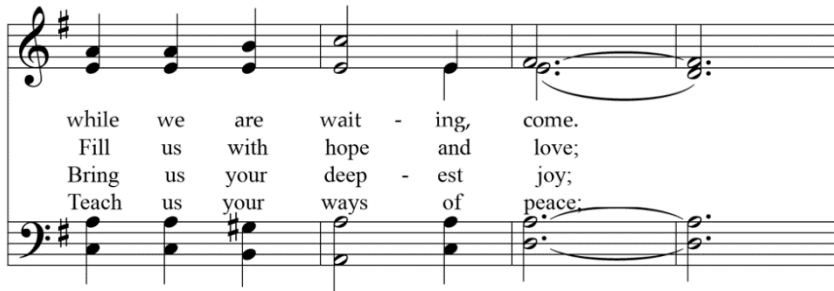
Many:      Joy is a word we see and hear everywhere at Christmas.  
Joy to the world is the message of the season.  
Joy is the theme of this day.

One:      Let us pray.

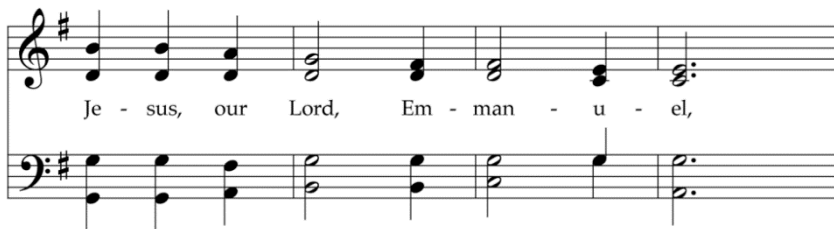
Many:      Dear God, with joy we acknowledge your care and love for us.  
With joy we acknowledge that our help is in you, the Maker of  
heaven and earth, our Maker and our re-Maker through the  
life and death of the One born in Bethlehem. Through faith in  
him, grant us solid joy that lasts long beyond this Christmas  
season and that equips us to face the adversities of life. Amen.



1. While we are wait - ing, come;  
2. Fill us with hope and love;  
3. Bring us your deep - est joy;  
4. Teach us your ways of peace;



while we are wait - ing, come.  
Fill us with hope and love;  
Bring us your deep - est joy;  
Teach us your ways of peace;



Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,



while we are wait - ing, come.

Stanzas 2, 3, 4 (c) 2020 by Deborah Fae Swift.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

Prayers of Healing and Transformation

Rev. Swift

Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit 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 Spirit, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reflection II

“Shepherding Joy”

Rev. Swift

Hymn 53

What Child Is This?

WHITE ROSETTES

1.) What Child is this who, laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

2.) Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

3.) So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Benediction

Rev. Swift

Postlude

What Child Is This?

Arr. Lani Smith

Jason Cloen and Lee Wright, pianos

## In the Bleak Midwinter

36

CRANHAM Irregular

Christina Rossetti, c. 1872; alt.

Gustav Theodore Holst, 1906

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, Frost - y wind made moan,  
 2. Our God, heaven can - not hold Him, Nor earth sus - tain;  
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels May have gath - ered there,  
 4. What can I give Him, Poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;  
 Heaven and earth shall flee a - way When He comes to reign:  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim Thronged the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow,  
 In the bleak mid - win - ter A sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
 But His moth - er on - ly, In her maid - en bliss,  
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - go.  
 The Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 Wor - shiped the be - lov - ed With a kiss.  
 Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

Thank you to. . .

Participants: Rev. Deb Swift, Pat Tweet, Jason Cloen, Alan Jones, and Lee Wright

Choir Members: Marrlee Burgess, Joan Sussman, Brenda Tremblay,  
Emmalouise St. Amand, Ben Magruder, Mark Darling, Jason Cloen,  
Rob Kerner, and Alan Jones. Lee Wright, conductor

Sound Engineers: Donald Fairman, David McDowell, and Ben Magruder (Choral Music)  
Website integration: Mark Anderson



## The Downtown Church Staff

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Pastor

The Rev. Kathryn Kelly,  
Associate Pastor

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Robert Clement, Maintenance

Dr. Lee S. Wright,

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Alan Jones, Associate Musician

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Teresa Ward, Bookkeeper

& Receptionist Coordinator

Keisha Betts, Receptionist

Theresa Reddick, Receptionist

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Joan Mackey, Moderator of Deacons

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