

Calvary Church Sunday Worship
First Sunday of Advent
Until the Dawn...Cry Out
November 29, 2026

* Please rise as you are able.
Bold text is spoken by the congregation.
Nursery care is available; ask a greeter for directions.

Prelude: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," arr. by Aaron Weitekamp — Calvary Brass

Welcome and Poem — Rev. Good

Introit: "Wait for the Lord" by Jacques Berthier — Calvary Choir

*Gathering Words — Kelly Mountain

In God's house,
we are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.
In God's house,
we may come exactly as we are.
In God's house,
we dare to hope. We dream new dreams. We cry out. We call upon God.
In God's house,
all are welcome and all are heard.
So come and worship.
God is here. God is listening.
Let us worship our with-us God.

Candle Lighting

When the nights are long and the roads are hard,
we turn our eyes to the stars.

When the work is demanding and injustice unending,
we stand together, arm in arm.

When fear looms large and grief weighs heavy,
we cry out to God without holding back.

And when the dawn of tomorrow feels far away,
we gather together to light the candle of hope.

Light candle.

Like the stars above, may this light shine bright.
May it guide our path. May it inspire deeper hope.

Until God's promised day, may it be so. **Amen**.

Call to Confession — Rev. Good

In scripture, we see people cry out to God with honesty and authenticity.
The Psalmists pray, “How long, O God?”
They beg, “Come and save us,” and “Let your face shine upon us.”

From their raw honesty, we know that we can go to God with just as much honesty about the truth of our lives.

So join me in the Prayer of Confession.
Join me in this moment of truth-telling.
Just as the Psalmists did, let us go to God in prayer.
Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Good

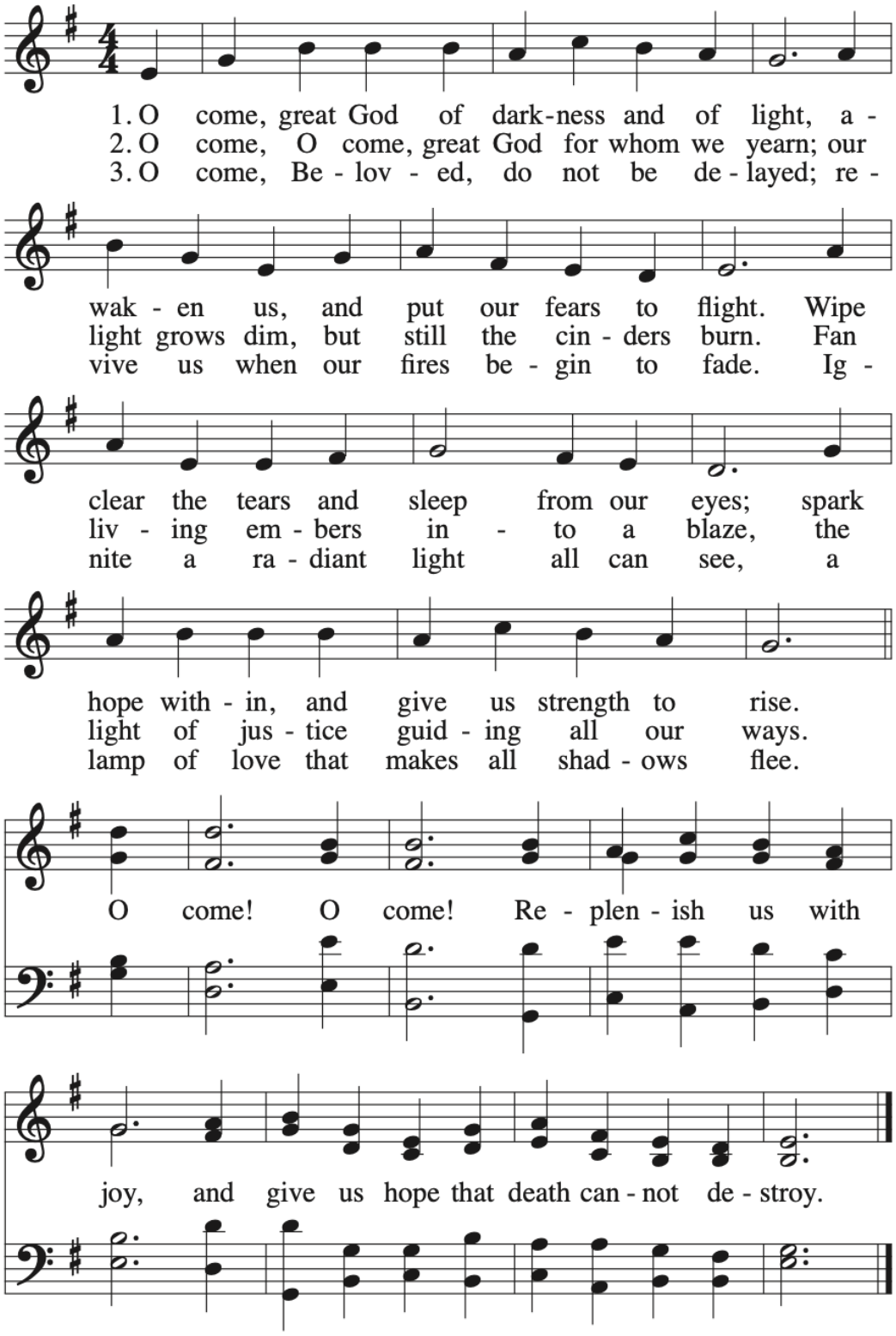
Holy God, we have been known—
to bite our tongues,
to work through a broken heart,
to don our favorite rose-colored glasses.
We have been known—
to look for the bright side,
to sweep the pain under the rug,
to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss.
We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves.
Forgive us for filtering our honesty.
Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament.
Forgive us for not turning to you first.
Remind us that you are a God who listens and you are a God who restores.
With open hearts, we pray. Amen

*Passing the Peace — Rev. Good

Peace be with you. **And also with you.** *Please share a sign of peace with your neighbors.*

*Hymn: “O Come, Great God of Darkness and of Light”

VENI EMMANUEL
French, 15th c.
Chris Shelton adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1811–1890



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Prayer for Illumination — Kelly Mountain

Gracious God, for generations, we have cried out to you, and you have listened.
So as we turn to hear your Word read and proclaimed, give us the ability to listen as well as you do.
Give us the ears and the heart to hear your words.
In hope we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9 — Kelly Mountain

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would shake before you! As the fire kindles the brushwood and the fire makes water boil, make your Name known to your adversaries, and let the nations treble before you!

When you did awesome things that we could not have expected, you came down, and the mountains quaked in your presence!

From ages past no ear has ever heard, no eye has ever seen any God but you intervening for those who wait for you! Oh, that you would find us doing right, that we would be mindful of you in our ways! You are angry because we are sinful; we sinned for so long - how can we be saved? All of us became unclean and soiled, even our good deeds are polluted. We have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. No one calls upon your Name, there is none who clings to you, for you hid your face from us and delivered us into the hands of our sins. Yet you are our parent, we are the clay and you are the potter, we are all the work of your hands. Don't let your anger go beyond measure, O God, don't remember our sins forever, for we are your people.

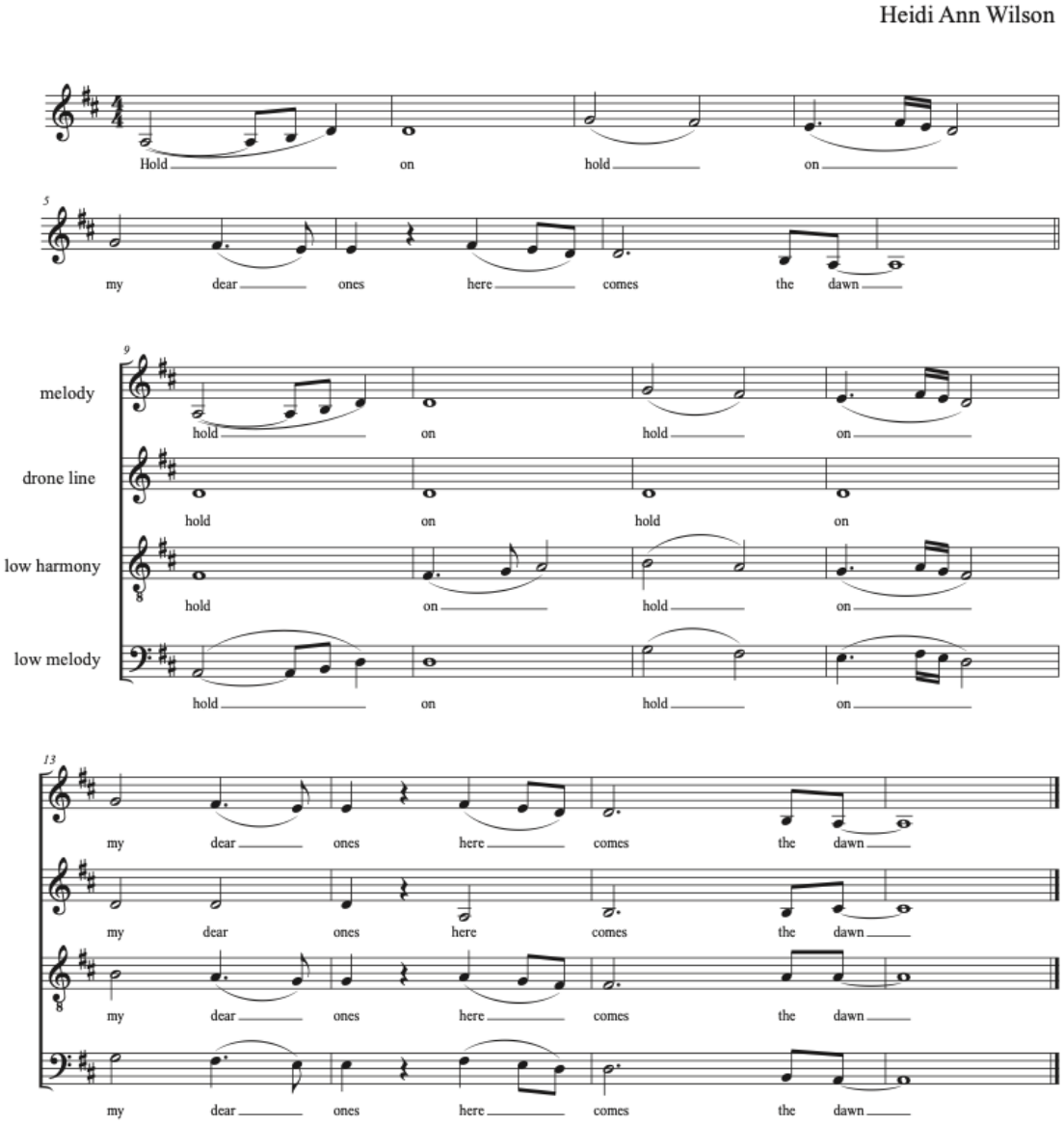
The Word of God for us. **Thanks be to God.**

Music: "O Little Town of Bethlehem," arr. by Zach Smith — Calvary Brass

Children's Time

After the song, children are invited to attend Jr. Church (classroom 1) or the nursery (room 3).

Song: “Hold On”



Scripture: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, adapted by Nan Merrill Kelly Mountain

Eternal Listener, give heed to your people, You, who are our Guide and our Light!
You, who dwell amidst the angels, shine forth into the heart of all nations!
Enliven your people with compassion that peace and justice might flourish.

Restore us, O Holy One; let your face shine upon us, teach us to love!

Gentle teacher, help us to turn to You in prayer, fasting from our negative thoughts.
In your steadfast Love, You weep with our tears, tears that rise from fear, doubt, and illusion.

You uphold us when we feel the sting of pride, when our anxiety threatens to paralyze us. Restore us, O Holy One; let your face shine upon us, teach us to love! Receive our gratitude, O Heart of all hearts! Look upon us and see what Love can do; rejoice in the new birth that You create!

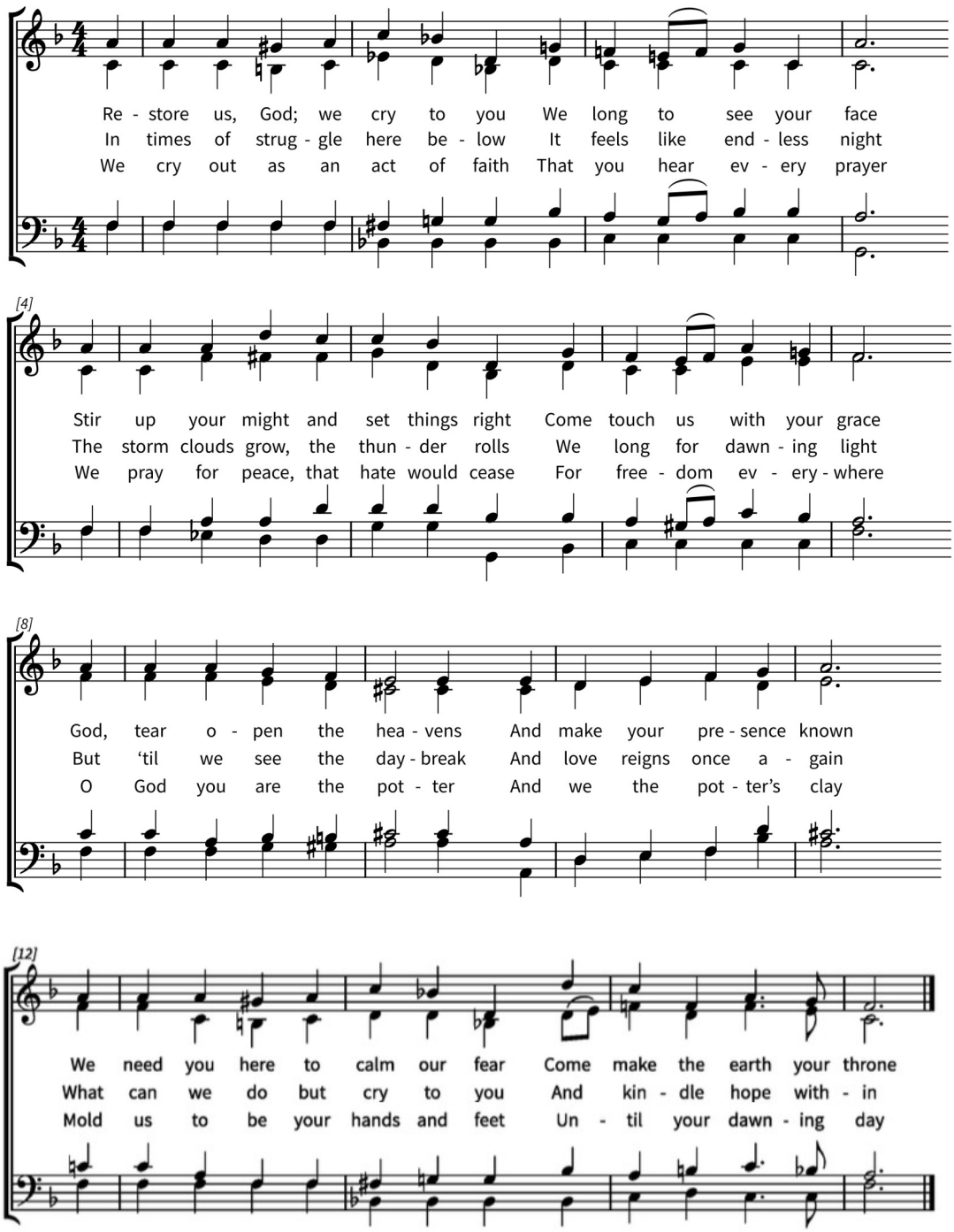
The Word of God for us. **Thanks be to God.**

Music: “Advent Alleluia,” arr. by Keith Christopher — Calvary Choir

Thoughts — Rev. Good

*Hymn: “Restore Us God”

Words: Anna Strickland (2026) — Music: Lewis H. Redner (1868)



*Affirmation of Faith — Rev. Good

We believe even on the longest nights—
when our steps are unclear and fear takes hold—
that the sun is still rising.
We believe in that sunrise like we believe in God's promised day.
So instead of giving in to the great unknown, we move, in spirit, toward that light.
We summon our courage.
We carry each other.
We dance under the stars.
We listen for the angels.
And we believe the good news of the gospel, which says that God loves God's creation so fiercely that God took on flesh to be with us.
This is the truth that sustains our journey.
In this, we believe.

Offering

If you wish to make a monetary donation, you can leave cash or a check in the offering baskets located at the entrances to the sanctuary or scan the Venmo code at the right.

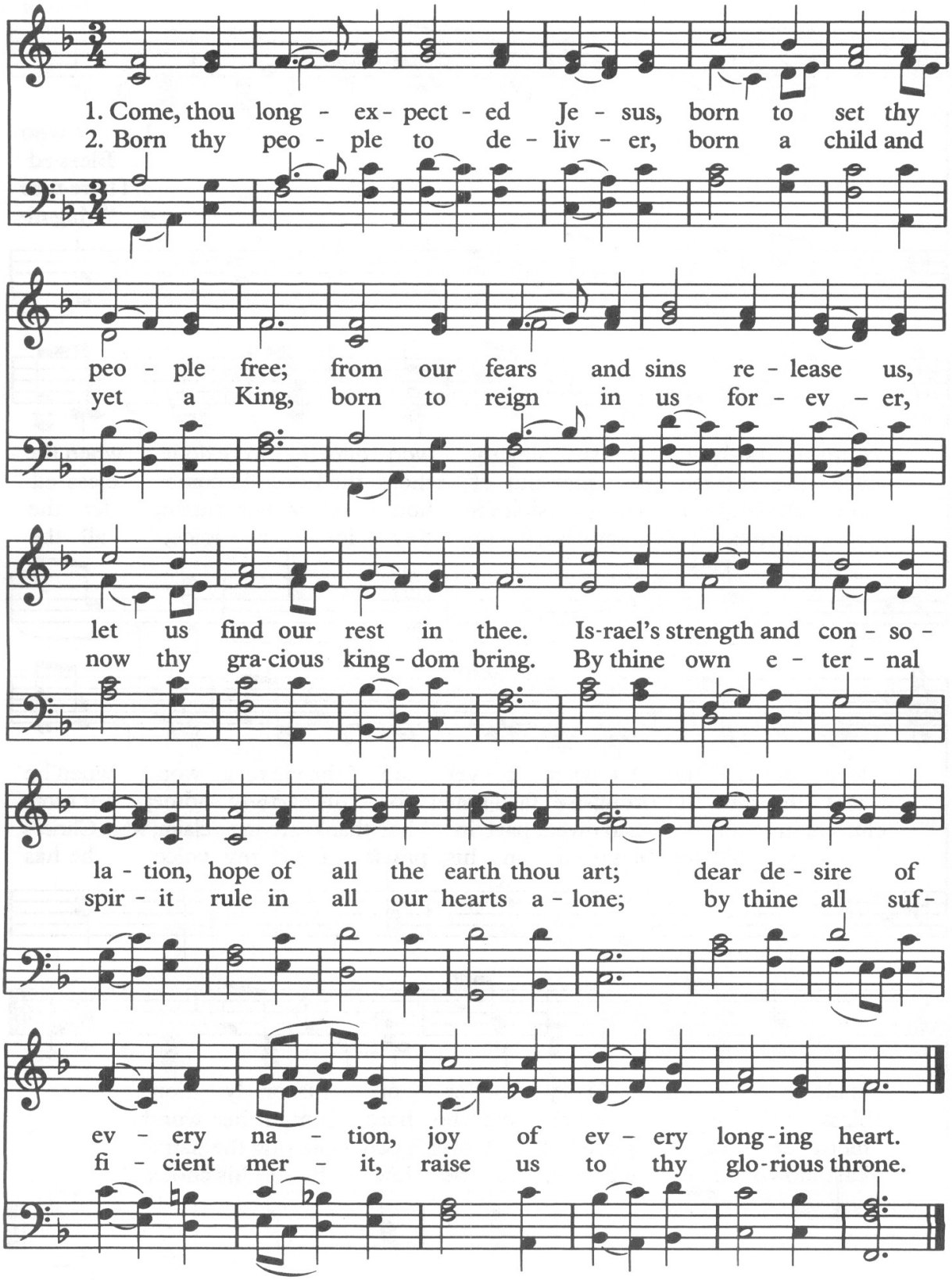
*Doxology — Mary Luti, Old 100th (95, large hymnal)

Praise Love who watches through the night,
announcing hope at dawn's first light,
who gives instead of mourning tears
the joy of all our longing years. Amen.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving — Rev. Good

Holy One, be with us in this advent season.
In our waiting and our preparing, may we make room for your presence.
In our waiting and in our preparing, may we make room for your love.
In our giving and our receiving, may we share your grace.
Amen.

*Hymn: “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” 196 [large hymnal]



WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

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Announcements Rev. Good

Monday Muddle 10 AM in the Parlor
Book Group Tuesday 7 PM in the Parlor
Bible Study Wednesday 10 AM in the Parlor; Calvary Choir 7:30 PM in the choir room
Helping Hands Thursday 10 AM in classroom 1

Benediction Rev. Good

Postlude: Nun komm der Heiden Heiland ("Now comes the Savior of the Gentiles")
by Johann Pachelbel Sue Paro, organ

Gratitude to those who, behind the scenes, helped make this morning's service more warm and welcoming:

Greeter: Kelly Mountain
Jr. Church leaders: Kaitlyn Threhane and Clayton Jones
Nursery helper: Parke Wilde
Coffee hour: Terry Rice

Christmas Plants and Donations to the Living Memorial

We invite you to order Christmas plants to decorate the sanctuary in memory or in honor of loved ones, and take them home after the Christmas Eve service. You may also donate to the Living Memorial, which generates interest income that is used to support the mission and ministry of the church.

Orders and payment for plants are due by 9:30 AM on Monday, November 30th.
We will not be able to fulfill plant orders received after that time.

To order flowers and/or donate to the Living Memorial, return this form to the church office.
You can pay with

- cash
- check made payable to Calvary Church
- Venmo to @CalvaryArlingtonMA (please indicate that the payment is for flowers)

Number of poinsettias:	_____x $ 6	=	$_____
Number of Christmas cacti:	_____x $ 8	=	$_____
Number of cyclamen:	_____x $ 8	=	$_____
Living Memorial donation:			$_____
Total:			$_____

Paying with: ____ cash ____ check ____ Venmo

Your name:

Given in Memory of:

Given in Honor of:

