

But nobody knows when that day or hour will come...



...not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows.

**The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship for November 29, 2020
First Sunday in Advent**

Opening Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on *Truro*
melody for hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Ewald Weiss

Welcome

Advent Song

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace" (vs. 1)
Amy Finka, cantor

*Come now, hope of unity;
make us one body.
Come, Lord Jesus;
reconcile all people.*

Advent Candle Lighting

led by Dave Coleman

Hymn

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates"

Prayer of Confession

led by Stephanie Coleman

God of the Prophets,

*we acknowledge that we have often failed to work
for the realization of your magnificent creation.*

We have proclaimed the gospel only for some.

*We have provided shelter only for some,
leaving others in the wilderness of our own making.*

*We have maintained the status quo
and have preserved half-truths and whole lies.*

*We have refused to acknowledge the truths of people who are
Black, brown, Asian, indigenous, those with disabilities, gay, transgender,
those of low wealth, and those who lack formal education.*

*We have promoted social righteousness
but left it behind in our workplaces, state houses and our nation's capital.*

But you are not done with us.

You are still reforming us.

*We ache and stretch, feeling the pain that comes
as we move out of the stiffness of privilege and dominance.*

Help us to prepare the way for you to break through and tear open our illusions of heaven.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Grace

*May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.*

Announcements

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

Mark 13:24-37

read by Dave Coleman

"In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won't give its light. The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. 26 Then they will see the Human One coming in the clouds with great power and splendor. Then he will send the angels and gather together his chosen people from the four corners of the earth, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven.

"Learn this parable from the fig tree. After its branch becomes tender and it sprouts new leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that he's near, at the door. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

"But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows. Watch out! Stay alert! You don't know when the time is coming. It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one a job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know when the head of the household will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. Don't let him show up when you weren't expecting and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Stay alert!"

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1-12

*If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!
Mountains would quake before you like fire igniting brushwood or making water boil.
If you would make your name known to your enemies,
the nations would tremble in your presence.*

*When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations;
when you came down, mountains quaked before you.
From ancient times,
no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any god but you who acts on behalf of those who wait for the LORD!
You look after those who gladly do right;
they will praise you for your ways.
But you were angry when we sinned;
you hid yourself when we did wrong.
We have all become like the unclean;
all our righteous deeds are like a filthy rag.
All of us wither like a leaf;
our sins, like the wind, carry us away.
No one calls on your name;
no one bothers to hold on to you, for you have hidden yourself from us,
and have handed us over to our sin.*

*But now, LORD, you are our father.
We are the clay, and you are our potter.
All of us are the work of your hand.*

*Don't rage so fiercely, Lord;
 don't hold our sins against us forever,
 but gaze now on your people, all of us:
 Your holy cities have become a wilderness;
 Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem a wasteland.
 Our holy, glorious house,
 where our ancestors praised you, has gone up in flames;
 all that we treasured has become a ruin.
 After all this, will you hold back, Lord?
 Will you keep silent and torment us so terribly?*

Sermon

Rev. Mike Wilson

Special Music

"My Lord, What a Morning"
 Amy Finka, soprano

African American Spiritual

Refrain:

*My Lord! what a morning; my Lord! what a morning;
 O my Lord! what a morning, when the stars begin to fall,
 when the stars begin to fall.*

*You will hear the trumpet sound to wake the nations underground,
 looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]*

*You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,
 looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]*

*You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,
 looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]*

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Moment for Mission

Siloam Health

Hymn

"O God of Every Nation"

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary


Chorale Prelude on *Stuttgart*
 melody for hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Raymond H. Haan

Today's bulletin illustration/opening image is by DPC artist-in-residence Rolin Smith.

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Come Now, O Prince of Peace



1 Come, hope of u - ni - ty; make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.

The first system of the musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The lyrics are: 1 Come, hope of u - ni - ty; make us one bod - y. 2 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y. 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior. 4 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.



Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec - on - cile all peo - ple.

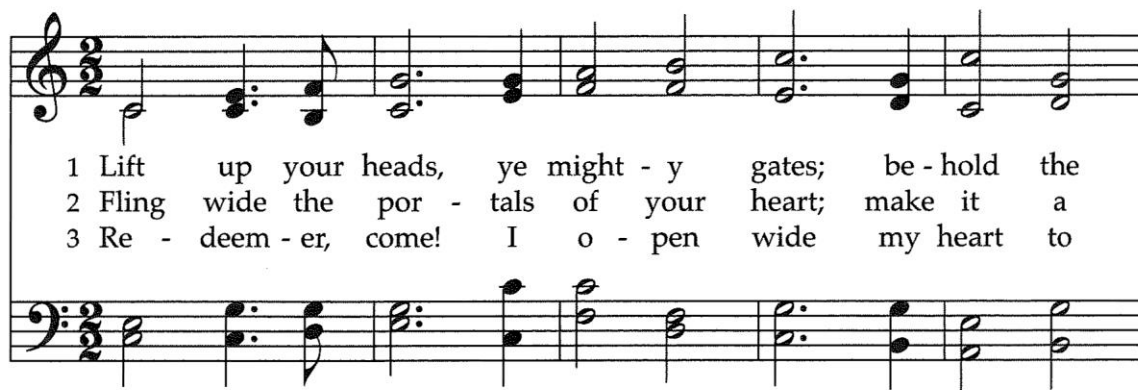
The second system of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment for the four-part choir. The lyrics are: Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec - on - cile all peo - ple.

Originally created for a 1988 world conference for the peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, these four stanzas centering on peace, love, freedom, and unity demonstrate how texts for particular situations can become hymns that speak deeply to shared human longings.

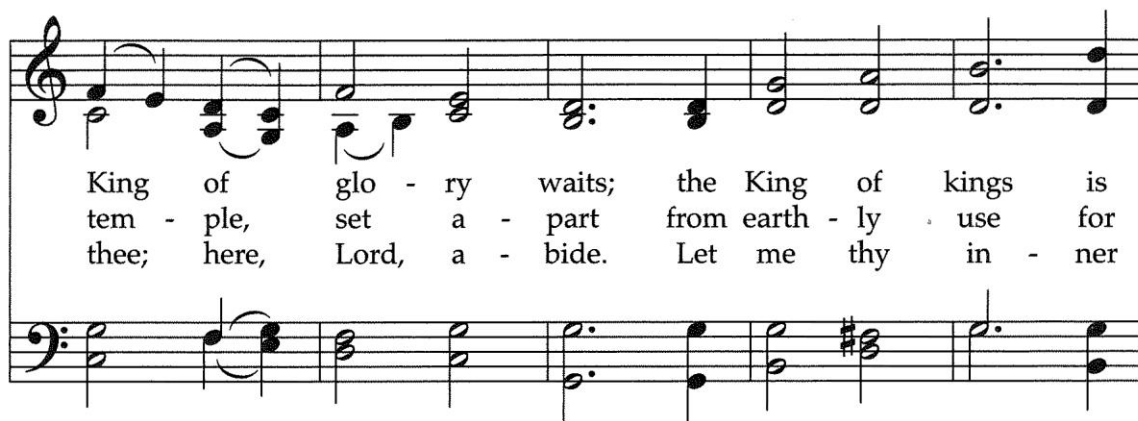
TEXT: Geonyong Lee, 1988; English trans. Marion Pope, c. 1990
MUSIC: Geonyong Lee, 1988
Text and Music © 1988 Geonyong Lee

O-SO-SO
6.5.5.6

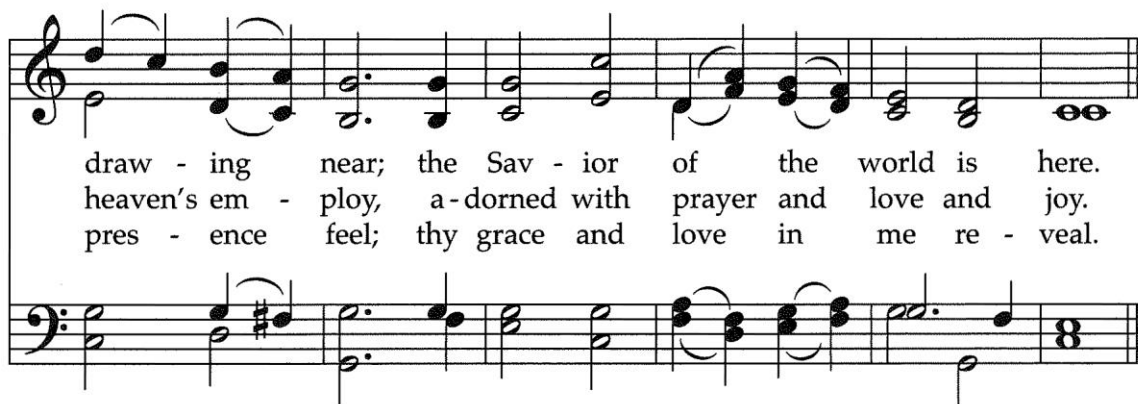
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner



draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7-10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

TEXT: Georg Weissel, 1642; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863
MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778

TRURO
LM

O God of Every Nation

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.