

*The Middle Spring Presbyterian Church USA*

*November 29, 2020 - 1st Sunday of Advent*

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We begin a new church year today with the first Sunday of Advent. We watch for Jesus' advent, or coming, among us: his return on the last day, and his presence with us now.  
Welcome.



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME** The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Sanctified Art\**)

I dream of sunflower fields.  
I dream of key lime pie with a mile-high meringue.  
I dream of the days when we could be part of a crowd.  
I dream of playful days.  
  
I dream of empty beds in jail cells.  
I dream of full tables instead of empty bellies.  
I dream of schools with enough money to teach.  
I dream of parents with enough money to feed.  
  
I dream to keep awake, because if we don't dream of better days,  
then we might forget that this is not what God imagined.  
So today we light the candle of hope,  
**for hope is the very thing that keeps dreams afloat.**  
  
May this light be an invitation to keep awake.  
**May this light be our invitation to be Advent people—people who dream. Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" Glory to God #93,  
Blue hymnal #8 or page 3.

**RESPONSIVE LESSON** Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

- <sup>1</sup> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
- <sup>2</sup> before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might,  
and come to save us!
- <sup>3</sup> **Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**
- <sup>4</sup> O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

- <sup>6</sup> You make us the scorn of our neighbors;  
our enemies laugh among themselves.
- <sup>7</sup> **Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**
- <sup>17</sup> But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
- <sup>18</sup> Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.
- <sup>19</sup> **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(A Sanctified Art \*)*

**Original Dreamer,  
Over and over again in scripture, we hear your dream for a beautiful world.  
We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation.  
We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness.  
We hear your dream for community and hope.  
We hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes.  
We continue to live with the curtains drawn,  
the covers pulled tight,  
eyes shut to the realities of the world.**

**By your forgiveness, kindle a hope in us that will burn through the darkest nights.  
Give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world,  
until the stars fall from heaven and we live as a transformed people.**

**SILENCE** *Breathe in and pray...Lord Jesus Christ  
Breathe out and pray...restore us.*

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S MERCY**

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven  
**Thanks be to you O god, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**A TIME WITH CHILDREN**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** *(A Sanctified Art)*

**LESSON** Mark 13:24-37

**SERMON** "Keep Awake to Dream" by Rev. Kimberley Wadlington

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(A Sanctified Art)*

We believe in God.  
**We believe that God has dreams for humanity.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit.  
**We believe that the Holy Spirit comforts us when our dreams turn to nightmares.**

We believe in Jesus.  
**We believe that Jesus walked this world to wake us up, inviting us to be the church  
in the world.**

We believe in dreams.

**We believe in the power that dreams have to show us a new way.**

So in this Advent season,

**We are those who dream and those who wake up. May it be so. Amen**

**OFFERING** In response to God's goodness, we say together:  
**Thank you, O God, for the gifts you give.**  
**Enable us to be good stewards of your abundance.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

**WORDS FOR THE WEEK**

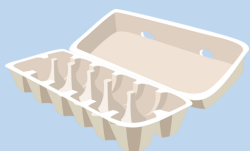
**SENDING HYMN** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Glory to God #82,  
Blue Hymnal #2 or page 4.

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

*\* Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

**King's Kettle** is still in need of empty large 12-egg cartons. Feel free to drop them off at 30 N Fayette St (in the bin to the far right) or at the church outside Fellowship Hall.



This Sunday's church flowers are given by Mary Stouffer in memory of Libby Myers, a co-worker, mentor and friend.

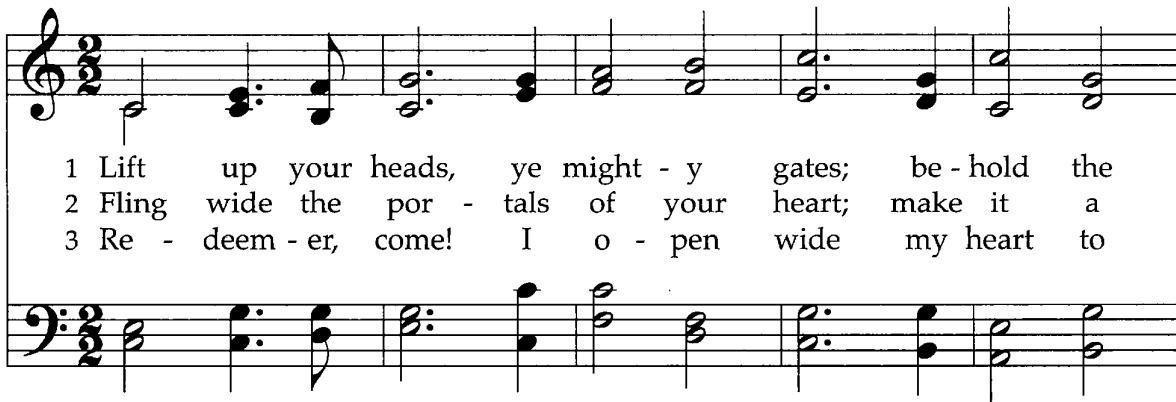
This week you are invited to pray for Krislund Camp in our presbytery circle of prayer, King's Kettle Food Bank in local charitable organizations and El Guayabo Presbyterian Church in Las Curcitas, Honduras.

**December Care & Share.** Looking for volunteers to bake approximately two dozen cookies and deliver to the Church by Tuesday, December 15. Deacons will put trays together on Wednesday the 16th with plans to deliver sometime after that. We welcome help in delivering and baking. If you are interested in helping, contact Sue Beidel at (717) 423-6705.

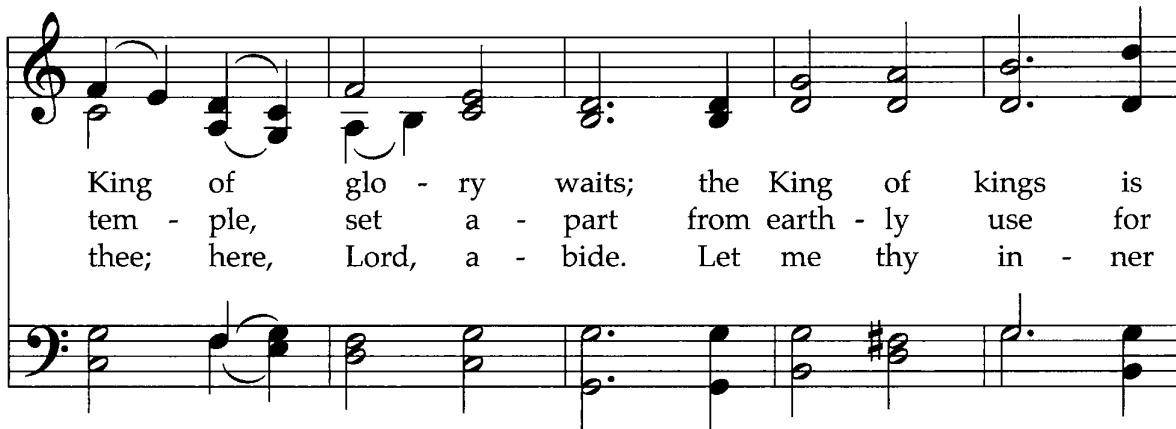


**Military Christmas Boxes!!!** Please bring individually wrapped items such as Twizzlers, Swedish fish, crackers, nuts, chips, jerky, candy pretzels, gum, breath mints, small card games and small puzzles **by December 7!!** Leave items in the designated box by Fellowship Hall or pick up is available by calling Dorina at (717) 532-9040. Monetary donations are welcome too!

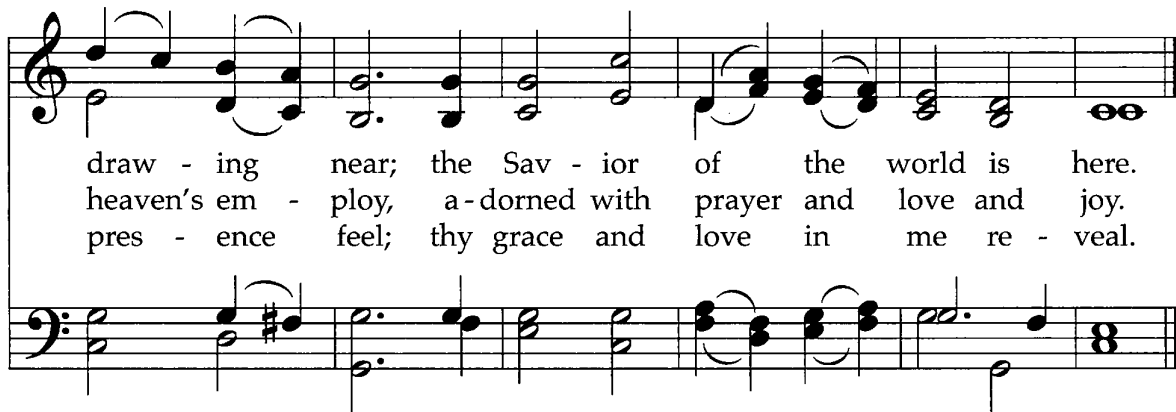
# Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93



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.

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## Church Schedule

|             |                                                                         |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, 1  | 10:00 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM                                         |
|             | 7:00 p.m. Presbytery meeting via ZOOM                                   |
| Thursday, 3 | 2:00 p.m. Deadline for reservations for in-person worship on December 6 |
| Sunday, 6   | 10:30 a.m. Worship Online and in-person by <u>reservation only</u> .    |
|             | See church website & mid-week email for information.                    |
|             | 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. YF meeting at church                              |

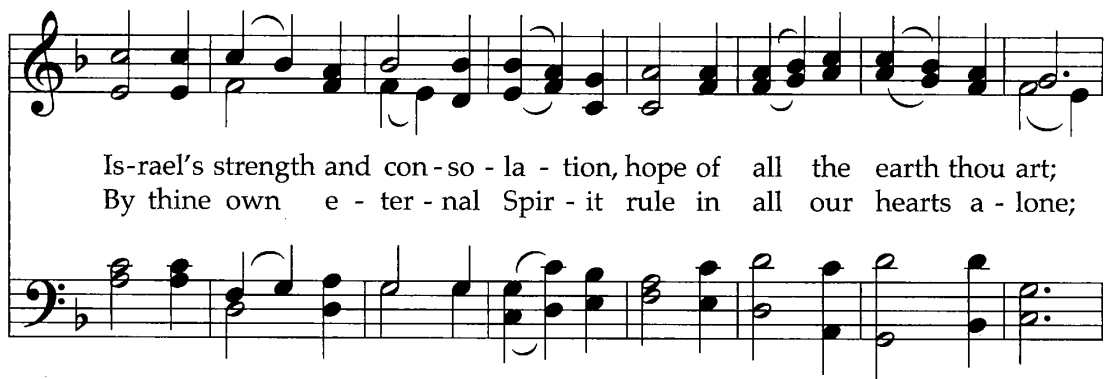
## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-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.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744  
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL  
8.7.8.7.D  
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)