



First Mennonite Church of Halstead

December 7, 2025

Through Scripture, John the Baptist still urges people to prepare for Jesus' coming. O God, make today's worship and Christian fellowship part of our hearts' preparation.

Gathering Music - Cindy Siemens

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel/Agnus Dei – Arr. by Phillip Keveren

Welcome and Announcements - Chuck Haspels

Centering Music - Cindy Siemens

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus/In Christ Alone - Arr. by Phillip Keveren

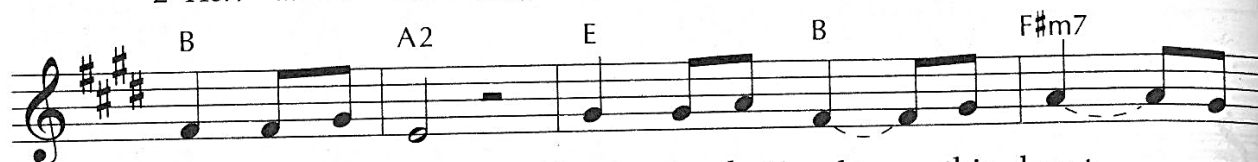
Call to Worship

Second Sunday of Advent Reading

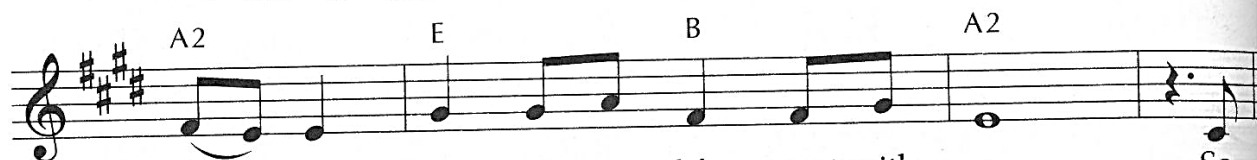
Worship Through Singing – Here I Am to Worship - VT #227



1 Light of the world, you stepped down in - to dark - ness, o - pened my
 2 King of all days, oh so high - ly ex - alt - ed, glo - rious in
 1 Licht die-ser Welt, du strahlst in un-s'rer Nacht auf. Leuch-test den
 2 Herr al-ler Zei - ten, du bist hoch er - ha - ben, herr - lich im

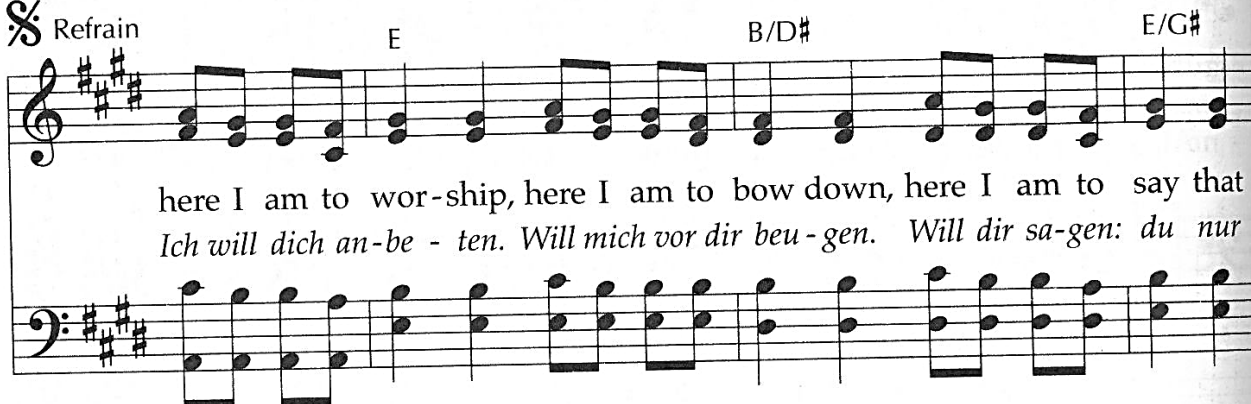


eyes, let me see beau - ty that made — this heart — a -
 heav - en a - bove, hum - bly you came to the earth you cre -
 Weg, lässt mich sehn. Herr dei - ne Schön - heit lässt mich — an -
 Him - mel er - höht. Doch vol - ler De - mut kamst du auf die



dore you, hope of a life spent with you. So
 at - ed, all for love's sake be - came poor. So
 be - ten. E - wig werd' ich vor dir stehn.
 Er - de. Zeigst, wor - in Lie - be be - steht.

Refrain



here I am to wor-ship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that
 Ich will dich an-be - ten. Will mich vor dir beu-gen. Will dir sa-gen: du nur



you're my God. You're al-to-geth-er love-ly, al-to-geth-er wor-thy, al-to-
 bist mein Gott, du al - lein bist herr-lich, du al-lein bist wür-dig, du nur

E/G#

1 A2 To verse 2

2 A To bridge

Last time A Fine

geth-er won-der-ful to me.
bist voll-kom-men gut zu mir.

Bridge

B E/G# A2

And I'll nev - er know how much it cost to see
Herr nie be - grei - fe ich die Last, die du

B E/G#

1-3 A2

4 A2 To refrain

my sin up-on that cross. I'll nev - that cross. So
am Kreuz ge-tra - gen hast. Herr nie - gen hast.

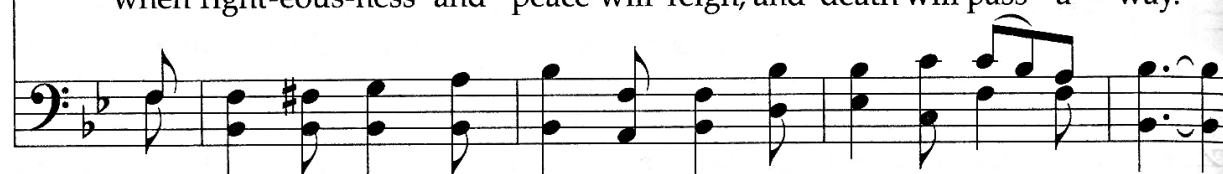
Worship Through Singing – Prepare the Way! the Prophet Called - VT #220



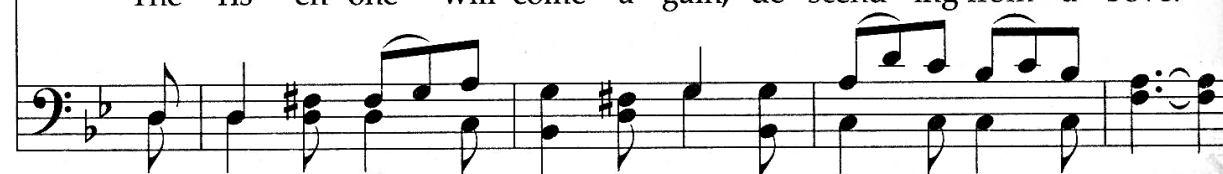
1 "Pre - pare the way!" the proph-et called; a mes - sen-ger will come
2 "Pre - pare the way!" cried John to all be - side the Jor - dan stream.
3 Pre - pare the way in us, O God, to greet that glo-rious day



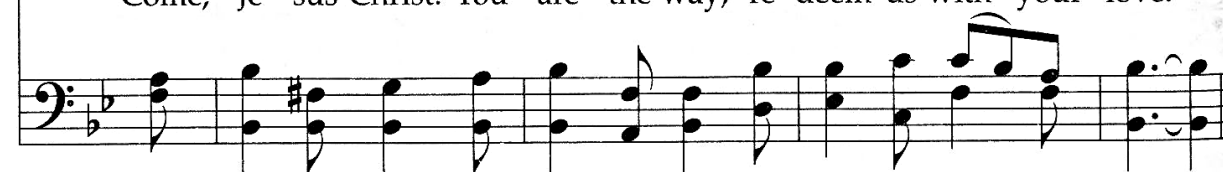
to re - af - firm God's cov - e - nant and lead the peo - ple home.
All flesh will see God's sav - ing work, the proph-ets' an - cient dream.
when right-eous-ness and peace will reign, and death will pass a - way.



The truth will shine like pur - est fire in that a-wait - ed hour.
The val - leys and the moun-tain-tops will make a lev - el place.
The ris - en one will come a - gain, de - scend - ing from a - bove.



Come, Je - sus Christ! You are the way; re - new us with your pow'r.
Come, Je - sus Christ! You are the way; re - store us with your grace.
Come, Je - sus Christ! You are the way; re - deem us with your love.



Offering & Offertory – Western District Conference

Still, Still, Still/Mary Did You Know? – Carol Tornquist

Scripture - Matthew 3:1-12 (p. 1499)

Special Music - Children's Bell Choir

Joy to the World

Children's Time - Melanie Haspels

A nursery is available in the basement for children aged 4 and younger following Children's Time.

Worship Through Singing – Comfort, Comfort, O My People –

VT #212

F Dm Bb F C F

1 Com - fort, com - fort, O my peo - ple, speak of peace, now says our God.
2 Hark, the voice of one who's cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 O make straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain.

Dm Bb F C F

Com - fort those who sit in shad - ows, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.
bid - ding all to full re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits a ho - ly reign.

C F Bb C

Speak un - to Jer - u - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them.
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
For the glo - ry of our God now o'er earth is shed a - broad.

F Gm Dm F Bb F Bb C F

Tell of all the sins I cov - er, and that war - fare now is o - ver.
Val - leys, rise in ex - al - ta - tion; hills, bow down in ad - o - ra - tion.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Worship Through Singing – *Make Room* – Lyrics Projected

Pastoral Prayer - Pastor Steve

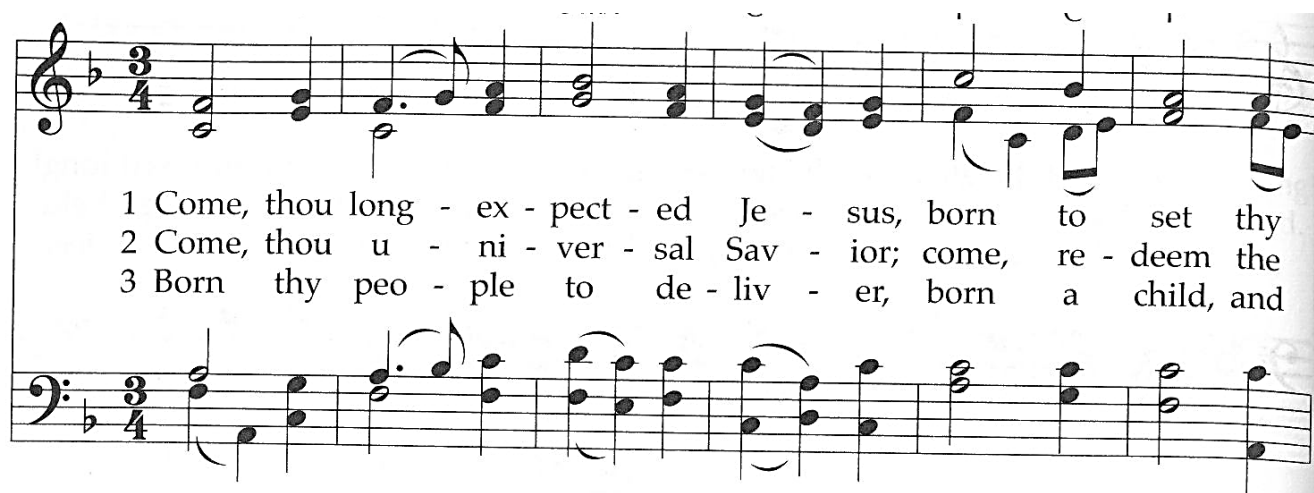
Message - Pastor Steve

Joining John on the Porch

Response Song - *Prepare Him Room* – Lyrics Projected

***Closing Prayer**

***Sending Song – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus – VT #218**



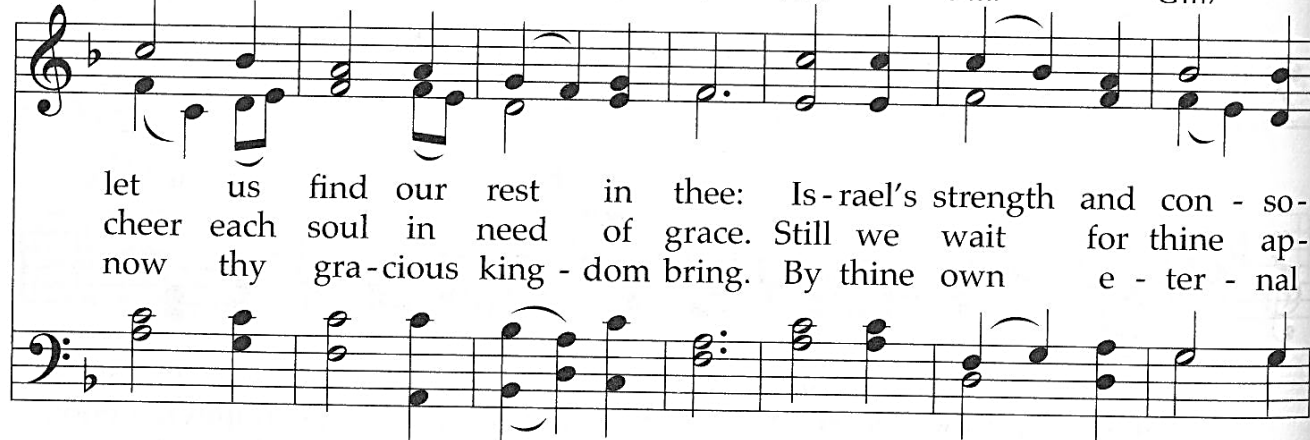
1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
 2 Come, thou u - ni - ver - sal Sav - ior; come, re - deem the
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and

(Em/G) (A) (D) (A) (D) (Em/D) (A)
 Gm/Bb C F C F Gm/F C



peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
 hu - man race. Life and joy spring from thy fa - vor;
 yet a king; born to reign in us for - ev - er,

(D) (A) (D) (Em/G) (A) (D) (F#m) (Bm7) (Em7)
 F C F Gm/Bb C F Am Dm7 Gm7



let us find our rest in thee: Is - rael's strength and con - so -
 cheer each soul in need of grace. Still we wait for thine ap -
 now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
 pear-ing— make our sense - less strug - gles cease. Guide us from our
 Spir - it, rule in all our hearts a - lone. By thine all - suf-

(D) (A) (D) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D)
 F C F B \flat F/C C7 F

ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 wea - ry wand - 'ring in - to paths of per - fect peace.
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

***Benediction**

***Postlude – Cindy Siemens**

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night – Joseph Parry

*Please stand if you are able

CHURCH CALENDAR

Dec. 10	6:00 p.m.	Children's/Youth Christmas Program Practice
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Bells practice
Dec. 14	10:30 a.m.	Children's/Youth Christmas Program
	6:00 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups
	6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The rose on the organ is in honor of Jim Loflin's 90th birthday on Monday, Dec. 8. Happy Birthday Jim!

Merry Christmas from the Nurture Ministry! Advent Bible reading plan bookmarks were placed in your church mailbox last week. There are extras on the back table if you need more or would like to share one with a friend. This is a change of pace from the Advent emails sent during the last several years. We hope they are a meaningful way to help prepare your hearts for the best gift of all, Jesus!

Our church will host the bloodmobile on December 8 from noon – 6 p.m. at the Catholic Parish Center. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can help work a shift or provide some cookies.

The children and youth of the church will perform a Christmas Program, and the Joyful Noise instrumental group will play next Sunday, Dec. 14, during the worship service. Join us as the young people in the church lead us in worship.

Eden Mennonite Church invites you to their production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson. In this hilarious Christmas play, a couple struggling to put on a Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids- probably the most inventively awful kids in history. Admission is free for this funny and heart-warming telling of the Christmas Story on Saturday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) and Sunday, December 14, at 2:00 p.m. (doors open at 1:30 p.m.). Eden Mennonite Church is located at 401 18th Ave. Moundridge.

Bethel College Updates: Sun., Dec. 7 – 40th annual Lighting of the Green, 8 p.m. on the Bethel College campus.

Camp Mennoscah Announcement: Progress on the retreat center at Camp Mennoscah continues to be made thanks to your support! With the drains, ladders, and grates addressed in the basement egress pits, we are moving on to inside painting, exterior concrete pads, and ceiling grids getting hung for the suspended ceiling in the basement, all of which we expect to have done within the next two weeks. This work is possible only through a combination of your on-going support, and funds from our financial

reserves which were utilized to get the project started. Any organization's financial reserves are vital to long-term health of a non-profit, so if you are in a position to help us re-build those reserves with your year-end giving, please text "RESERVES" to 6207552583 to discuss your giving options with our Director of Development.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Western District Conference: Give thanks for musicians, artists, poets, prophets, pastors and preachers whose gifts enrich WDC congregations' worship and witness during the Advent season.
- Mennonite Mission Network: Joseph and Rachel Givens and their two sons, who are serving with Mennonite Mission Network, are on the front lines of ministry to people fleeing persecution and death. Pray that the Givens will receive the spiritual and financial resources they need to continue sharing Christ's love through food and shelter at the Maria Skobtsova House, in Calais, France.

SUNDAY INFORMATION

NURSERY TODAY	Kaitlen Ortman, Tia Regier, Emmit Jacob
PIANIST/ORGANIST	Cindy Siemens
OFFERING LAST SUNDAY	
Birthday	\$37.07
Church Budget	2,050.00
MCC Christmas Tree	867.25
ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY	89
OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY	Mutual Aid Fund
NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY	No nursery due to Children's Christmas Program