



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 12, 2021

Preparation for Worship

*O God, whose will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted,
let your herald's urgent voice pierce our hardened hearts
and announce the dawn of your kingdom.
Before the Advent of the one who baptizes with the fire of the Holy Spirit,
let our complacency give way to conversion, oppression to justice,
and conflict to acceptance of one another in Christ.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on REJOICE, REJOICE

Aaron David Miller
(b. 1972)

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Handbell Introit

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
arr. Derek Hakes, 2007

✦ Opening Sentences

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Let us sing praises to the Lord,
for God has done glorious things.
Let us shout aloud and sing for joy,
for great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel.
Come, let us worship God.

✦ Hymn 107 [\(see page 10\)](#)

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

✠ Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that,
 in the midst of your glorious creation,
 we have neglected our role in its care.
 We ignore the cries of the hurting and the lonely,
 those on the margins and those who are oppressed.
 We focus on our own desires,
 while forgetting the needs of our neighbors.
 We have not prepared a way for the Lord,
 through either our words or our deeds,
 neither through our actions nor our thoughts.
 Grant us your mercy in forgiveness;
 and lead us to act with compassion and justice,
 guided by your glorious light.

silent prayer

✠ Response

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

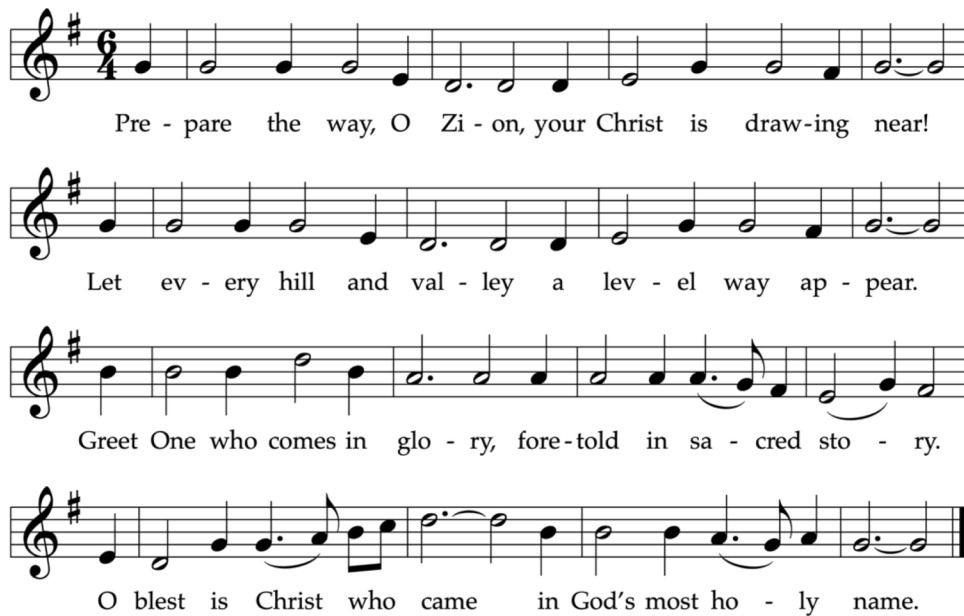
TEXT Ref. Taizé Community, 1984
 MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
 Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

WAIT FOR THE LORD
 8.8

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the good news! **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

✦ Response



Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; translated by Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapted by Charles P. Price, 1980, alt. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company
 MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7.6.6

✦ The Peace

Peace be with you. **Peace be with all.**

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

N.T. pg. 198

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Rejoice in the Lord Always

anonymous
 (16th century)

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice.
 Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand.
 Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,
 let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
 And the peace of God which passeth all understanding,
 keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

— Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:7-18

N.T. pg. 60

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Omar Rouchon

✦ Hymn 96 [\(see page 11\)](#)

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

✦ Affirmation of Faith

from *The Confession of 1967*

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.
His faith and obedience were the response
of the perfect child of God.
He was the fulfillment
of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.
He gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be his servant
for the reconciliation of the world.

Anthem

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes

Mark Sirett
(b. 1952)

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
not by any din of drums,
nor his manners, nor his airs,
nor by anything he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
not by his crown or by his gown,
but his coming known shall be
by the holy harmony
which his coming makes in thee.

Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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.

Offering

Offertory

People, Look East

BESANÇON
arr. Jason Krug, 2015

✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal God, as you lead your people in ages past, you direct our journey into the future.

We give you thanks that you came to us in Jesus Christ,

and we eagerly await his coming again

that his rule may be complete and your righteousness reign over all the world.

By your Spirit, open our eyes to the generosity of your hand,

and nurture our souls in all spiritual gifts.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our hope and our salvation. Amen.

✦ Hymn 360 [\(see page 12\)](#)

Christ Is Coming

UNSER HERRSCHER

Charge and Blessing

Please be seated in silence for the closing voluntary, or kindly depart quietly.

Voluntary

Nun freut euch, lieben Christen g'mein
(Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice) BWV 734

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

SERVING TODAY

Liturgists

Keatan King

Musicians

Bell Canto | Jane Malczewskyj — handbell conductor

Julia Fox, Emily Jenkins, Thomas O'Neill, Nicholas Rathgeb and Kirby Traylor — choral ensemble

Matthew Dirst — organist | Randall Swanson — music director

FLOWERS

The flowers are given today by Bonnie Moore to the glory of God and in honor of her St. Philip family.

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Zephaniah 3:14–20 — *Rejoice and sing; God will redeem you and restore your fortunes.*
- Isaiah 12:2–6 — *Surely God is my salvation; trust in the Lord and give thanks.*
- Philippians 4:4–7 — *Rejoice in the Lord, who is near; pray and receive God's peace.*
- Luke 3:7–18 — *John warns of God's wrath and proclaims the good news.*

Pledge cards can be turned in or mailed to the Church Office. Or you can make your pledge in MyStPhilip.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Micah Meyers.

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MUSIC NOTES

Organ Music

Today's **opening voluntary** on REJOICE, REJOICE takes the tune of our opening hymn (No. 107) on a highly rhythmic and colorful ride. Its composer, American organist and composer Aaron David Miller, is also one of the finest improvisers of his generation. Written for the 2016 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists here in Houston, this piece was subsequently published in the *Bayoubüchlein*, a collection of hymn-based organ works commissioned for that event.

Bach's sprightly setting of the chorale *Nun freut euch, lieben Christen g'mein* ("Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice") gets to the heart of this seasonal hymn text, which encourages the faithful to celebrate Christ's incarnation, birth, and ministry on earth. Cast as a trio, with the chorale melody in long notes in the tenor register (as played by the feet), the outer lines supply a busy obbligato in the right hand and a classic "walking bass" in the left.

Handbell Music

With roots reaching as far back as the fourteenth century, the hymn tune BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN is based on a Scandanavian folk melody. The hymn, a verse of which we sing as one of our responses this morning, is by Finnish poet and priest Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847), and draws much of its inspiration from Isaiah 40. Structured as one long crescendo, today's **handbell introit** is a 2007 setting by Derek Hakes of *Prepare the Way, O Zion* that enhances the strength and vitality of this original tune, contrasting between sections of flowing eighth note treble accompaniment and chordal writing.

Music during this morning's **offertory** features a setting for handbells of the lively French Advent carol BESANÇON. Jason Krug's 2015 arrangement of *People, Look East* makes use of the original carol's repeated-note figures and swinging 6/8 meter in a framework of joyful Advent expectation.

Choral Music

Today's anonymous 16th-century **anthem** *Rejoice in the Lord Alway* (formerly attributed to John Redford) is a beloved choral setting of words from this morning's first reading. The only known source for this anthem is in the Mulliner Book, a historically important manuscript compiled between about 1545 and 1570, and now held in the British Museum. The lively music of *Rejoice in the Lord Alway* typifies the concise, syllabic style of the earliest English anthems, and its text is taken from the Great Bible of 1540, prepared by Myles Coverdale and authorized by King Henry VIII.

This morning's **second anthem** is a beautiful work for unaccompanied SATB voices by Canadian composer Mark Sirett, who is a conductor, organist, pianist, and founding Artistic Director (since 1996) of the award-winning Cantabile Choirs of Kingston, Ontario. Sirett is also the former organist and music director of St. George's Cathedral (Anglican Church of Canada) in Kingston. *Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes* was written for the cathedral choir in 2002, and it remains the most widely-sung setting of this moving anonymous text.

— Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson

IN OUR PRAYERS

Congratulations to Edward Atkinson on his marriage to Ana Cristina Alonso Soria in San Luis Potosi on December 4th.

St. Philippians and their families – Jo Helland; Beth Flowers; Lee Larkin; Janet Davis; Susan Huffman; Joyce Fugit; Dorothy Murphey; Bill Slick; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; James Graham McGall - cousin of Mickey McGall Meyers; Dale McAllen – brother of Orlean Anderson; Alma Fonseca – mother of Angelina Fonseca; Bill Polk – brother-in-law of Sharon Webb; Darryl Cazes – brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine; Douglas Everhart – brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Gretchen Everhart – niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick – sister of Stephen Paine; John Anderson – brother of Tom Anderson; Mac & Beverly Wilson – parents of Butch Wilson; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Dottie Laas and family – cousin of Sam Fisher; Shirley Boggus – grandmother of Omi Ford; Dona Rowe – mother of William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio – granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

Homebound – Walter Baker; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Marion Takehara; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philippians – Auden McCarty – friend of Mary McGuire; Ted & Susan Hirtz – friends of Jacqueline and Bill Taylor; Paul English; Matt Scalapino and Laura Chilton – friends of Stephen Paine; Shirley Stubblefield – friend of Barbara Runge; Paul Ratliff – friend of Jo Helland; Lavon Thomas – friend of Curt and Sharon Webb; Clayton Amacker – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III – friend of Robin and Gary Willis.

We also pray for health care workers, first responders, and caregivers; for those who are sick; and for those watch and wait.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email:

deacons@saintphilip.net

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It is the time to adorn our chancel with poinsettias. Beginning right away you have the opportunity to make a donation to assist with this. You can go to the website, saintphilip.net, and click on the Christmas Poinsettia Icon on top of page. Follow the instructions to help. Choose *Flowers/Holiday*. In the optional memo put "Point". Email your honor/memorial designations to Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net. Otherwise, you will receive an email, within a few days asking for names of people you want to honor/remember. Questions? Call Church Office at 713-622-4807.



Christmas Poinsettias

Donations of any amount accepted

(circle one) **I / we** would like to make a donation to purchase poinsettias to adorn our chancel during this Christmas season .

(circle one) **in honor of / memory of**

Donor - Your Name(s) (Please print legibly)

Please place envelope in the offering plate or return it with your **payment** to the church office by Monday, **December 13**. Use additional space below if needed.

I have included a check, _____ cash or will pay online.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—9:40 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. by Zoom—**December 19** - *Family Film Study “Soul”* - What makes life meaningful? We are human because, like the movie “Soul”, we ask this question. And that just might make this pandemic film for everyone, because the answer, in part, is to make, watch, and discuss movies like this one, to explore what makes life worthwhile. “Soul” explores the nature of humanity and what it means to be yourself. As *Rolling Stone* noted, “There are many elaborate lessons on life and how to live it in “Soul”, though its best may ironically be its simplest: Look. Listen. Learn. Enjoy.” Presented by Kate Burkart- leading film/media studies at St. Philip since 2002. Email Mickey Meyers at churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net if you would like to join any of the classes.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS is meeting again each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in Room 204 of the Education Building. We will resume our study of the last ten Psalms with Dr. Robert Alter’s *The Book of Psalms* (2007) and then return to the Kingdom of Israel at I Kings 2.13 with Dr. Alter’s *Ancient Israel, The Former Prophets* (2013). Join us for more discoveries in Dr. Alter’s translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN’S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP—Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. The Men’s Weekly Fellowship meets in person each Friday in the Dining Room from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We are currently studying the book *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. Also, while there is an in person meeting, that meeting is carried live via Zoom for those who want to join the meeting but are either out of town or prefer to meet from a distance. Please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com if you would like to be a part of this interesting group.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP will have its next meeting tonight, Tuesday, **January 11**, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The study book is *Race in America; Christians respond to the crisis*, edited by David Maxwell and Laura Cheifetz. It is available from Amazon or from the PC(USA) bookstore. Persons interested in joining the group can send an email to welcomes@saintphilip.net and type PSJ Study Group in the subject line.

WOMEN’S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. At our next meeting on **January 13** at 7:00 p.m., we will discuss *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah, watch your email for details of where we will be meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

LENT CLASSES—The Education Committee will offer a five-week class during Lent called “Experiencing God,” an opportunity to see how the Holy Spirit connects with people in unique and personal ways in their daily life. Two or three church members will informally share one of their spiritual practices for 10-15 minutes. There will be also time for individuals to try these different ways to encounter God. The goal is to encourage and learn from one another on our journeys of faith. If you feel God might be calling you to share in this way, please contact Betsy Boston at ehbluzerne@aol.com or Omar Rouchon at omar@saintphilip.net.

ATTENTION STOCK DONORS!

St. Philip’s broker services are with **Frost Bank** in the beginning of 2021. We ask you to call: Yvette Webb at Frost Bank - 713-388-1231 for transaction information. Our new account number is #037-293183. Please let the bookkeeper, know you are making a stock donation. You may email bookkeeper@saintphilip.net. If you have any questions, you may always contact Ada Fuller, treasurer at 713-306-8267 or amariepoet@gmail.com.

PW RETREAT

The Presbyterian Women’s retreat will be held on **January 21-23, 2022** at Journey Conference and Retreat Center. The program, *Epiphany: Gifts of Wise Women*, will be led by Keatan King and Anne Wilson. There will be plenty of time for fellowship, crafts, music and s’mores. The Center is a short drive on the south side of town, but feels rural and far from the city. Deadline to register is **December 19**, and registration forms will be available at the PW Christmas luncheon on **December 12** and in the Gathering Area before and after the 11 a.m. worship service on **December 19**. You can also register through MyStPhilip under the events tab. The cost is \$170.00 which includes lodging for 2 nights and 5 meals; if you do not wish to spend the night, you can attend Saturday only and receive 3 meals for \$40. Payment can be made via check, through the event registration, or on the St. Philip website, using the “Presbyterian Women” option in the pull-down menu on the contribution page. Scholarships are available. Please contact Jan Meyer (jsmeyer9990@gmail.com), Judith Hiott (Judith.hiott@outlook.com) or call the church (713-622-4807) for any questions.



Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

We are glad you are here! Please scan the QR Code to access our digital guest-book. We invite you to sign in and let us know you are worshipping with us.

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST,

**we seek to be an inclusive,
grace-filled community,
engaging the world with open minds,
willing hands and generous hearts.**

WE LONG

**for deeper faith,
vibrant hope
and boundless love
for everyone, every day, everywhere.**

Thank you for joining us today! We hope that you find our worship together to be joyous, meaningful, and thought-provoking. **Children of all ages** are welcome to worship with their families. Activity bags containing worship aids for children are available in the narthex on the way into the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available throughout the morning from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery in Room 106 of the Education Building along the Sunday School Classroom hallway on the first floor. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

A Hearing Loop is installed within the sanctuary. If you have a hearing aid equipped with a telecoil, please activate your "T switch" to hear the worship service most clearly. If you need assistance with hearing the service clearly and do not have a t-coil equipped hearing aid, please ask an usher for wireless headphones. **LARGE PRINT COPIES OF TODAY'S HYMNS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.**

Connect with St. Philip through saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00 worship service in Room 100 for the purpose of receiving new members.**

Worship with us, whenever, wherever. Our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service is live-streamed at saintphilip.net. We also live-stream a midweek prayer on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Services can be viewed live or later in our video archives.

Contributions, pledge payments, communion gifts and other donations to support the Church can be made anytime through our website, text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

Advent and Christmas Worship

- ✦ **December 15 and 22** – Midweek Advent Services of Scripture and Song at 11 am in-person and online.
- ✦ **December 19** – The Fourth Sunday of Advent. Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. with John Wurster preaching.
- ✦ **December 24** – Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. A Whimsical Telling of the Birth of Jesus at 5:30 p.m.
Communion Service with the St. Philip Choir at 8 p.m. with John Wurster preaching.
- ✦ **December 26** – First Sunday of Christmas. One service at 11 a.m. **(no 9 a.m. service)** with Keatan King preaching.
- ✦ **January 2** – Second Sunday of Christmas Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The first communion of 2022 with John Wurster preaching.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH JOHN WURSTER—A look via Zoom at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday has returned with Zoom sessions Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Email John for details and to get on the list - john@saintphilip.net.

Hymn 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn-ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
 el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
 world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
 win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
 near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
 free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
 light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
 bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
 forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
 love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
 raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/ Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.

TEXT: Marty Haugen, 1983, alt.
 MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1983
 Text and Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

REJOICE, REJOICE
 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9

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Hymn 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

TEXT: Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.
 MUSIC: *Musikalisches Handbuch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk, 1847, alt.

WINCHESTER NEW
 LM

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Hymn 360

Christ Is Coming!

UNSER HERRSCHER

1 Christ is com - ing! Let cre - a - tion from its groans and
 2 Earth can now but tell the sto - ry of your bit - ter
 3 With that bless - ed hope be - fore us, flutes are tuned and
 4 Long your ex - iles have been pin - ing for your prom - ised

la - bor cease; let the glo - rious proc - la - ma - tion
 cross and pain; we shall yet be - hold your glo - ry,
 harps are strung; let the might - y ad - vent cho - rus
 rest and home, but in heaven - ly glo - ry shin - ing,

hope re - store and faith in - crease: Christ is com - ing!
 Lord, when you re - turn to reign: Christ is com - ing!
 on - ward roll from tongue to tongue: Christ is com - ing!
 soon the ris - en Christ shall come. Christ is com - ing!

Christ is com - ing! Come, O bless - ed Prince of peace.
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the strain.
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the song.
 Christ is com - ing! Joy - ful, shout the vic - tory psalm.

This hymn by a 19th-century Scottish pastor is specifically based on Revelation 1:7 and 22:20, with allusions to several other New Testament passages. Unlike medieval hymns that focused on judgment, this text understands the Second Coming as an occasion of triumph and joy.

TEXT: John Ross Macduff, 1853, alt.
 MUSIC: Joachim Neander, 1680

UNSER HERRSCHER
 8.7.8.7.8.7

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