Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church *Third Sunday of Advent*

10:00 AM Worship Service • December 14, 2025 ACS Setting 12



A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Welcome members and guests to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex. Please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information.

The nursery is available, however since there are no attendants at this time, feel free to use it as needed.



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607 (757) 245-7861 — http://trinitylutheran-nn.com Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

REV. TINA TOBUREN — Pastor (tina.melusky@gmail.com)
GEOFFREY BELL — Director of Music Ministries (music@trinitynn.org)
SHARON MATHISON — Administrative Assistant (admin@trinitynn.org)
CAROL BESSOM — Treasurer (cbessom@trinitynn.com)
THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN — Ministers of the Word
FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS: http://facebook.com/TrinityNN
TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE: http://trinitynn.org

PASTOR TOBUREN'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday 9-10:30am, 11:30am-12:15pm. Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm **Pastor's Cell:** (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center,
LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.
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We are a Reconciling in Christ community.

CARILLON CALL TO WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

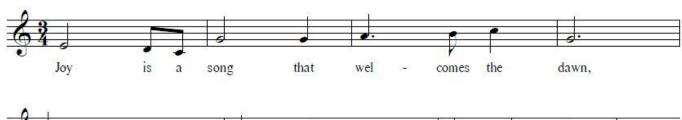
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Trinity Ringers arr. Michael Helman

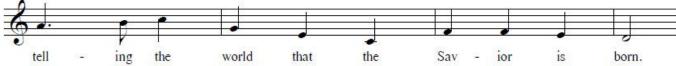
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The LeForge Family

RESPONSE

Hope Is a Star (v.3)









WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985 MUSIC: Jean Collier Fogg, 1987 © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

GATHERING

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves

for the peace and security only you can provide.

We reach for swords and spears,

reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.

We become impatient while waiting

and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance,

and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.

Increase our trust in God's timing,

and awaken us to your advent among us,

that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve,

but according to God's own righteousness.

→ You are freed and forgiven,

saved by grace,

and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn REJOICE, REJOICE

ELW 242

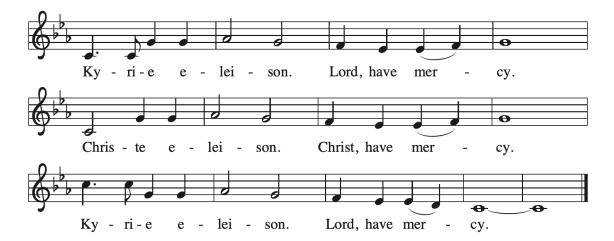
The congregation turns to face the processing cross.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. Your God will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. Your God will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool

A highway shall be there,

and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;

and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146:5-10 (all sing the response before the reading and when directed.)



Psalm 146:8

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Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.

The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous. R

The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING: James 5: 7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



I am sending my messen- | ger before you, who will prepare your | way before you.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for

another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S CHAT Pastor Tina Toburen

SERMON Pastor Tina Toburen

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Light Dawns on a Weary World

TEMPLE OF PEACE

ELW 726

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven.

he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace, hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My Heart Shall Sing R Christine Gundayao, violin

Rory Cooney/Karen Marrolli

(Please join in singing Canticle of the Turning where denoted in bold.)

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near and the world is about to turn.

The loud shall fall silent, the silent shall speak, the weak be made mighty, the mighty made weak.

When tyrants shake with wrath, O lift us, meek and mild, to walk the peaceful path to the Holy Child.

The unseen shall be seen; the unheard shall be heard!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

The wealthy, you humble. The hungry, you fill. The prideful, you scatter. The anxious, you still.

When darkness holds all sway, and the world falls into night, O lead us into day, to the Child of Light.

Disrupt our world! Disturb our souls!

Let those in comfort feel affliction!

Unsettle all who have ever dwelt secure!

Secure the frail in firm conviction!

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.

Our hearts cry for healing, our souls thirst for song.

Our hands crave true labor to vanquish all wrong.

When Creation burns with scorn, when we hear the drums of hate, remind us love is born in the child we await.

The unseen shall be seen; the unheard shall be heard.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

The unseen shall be seen. The unheard shall be heard.

OFFERTORY HYMN

We Are Waiting for Jesus JESUS BRINGS PEACE

ACS 905

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Nourishing God,

you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

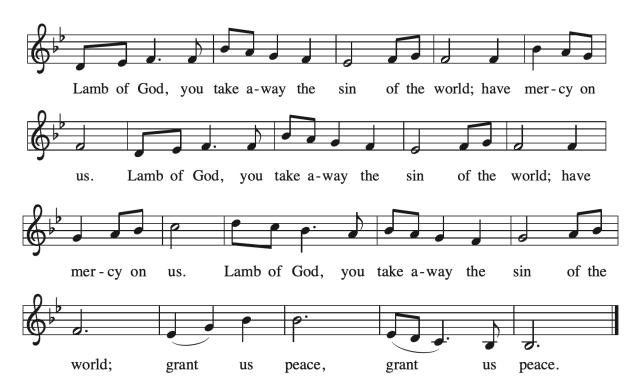
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

AGNUS DEI



COMMUNION

Communion is held around the table. The bread will be handed to you by the pastor. Please take a *clear* cup with wine or a *purple* cup with grape juice from the tray. Recycling baskets for your plastic cups are located outside the doors of the sanctuary. Trinity has an open table – all are welcome to come to the feast.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

O Come, O Come Emmanuel/In the Bleak Midwinter arr. Daniel Light

Wait for the Lord ELW 262

SENDING

TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE Now, Lord ELW 200

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN Joy to the World ELW 267

ANTIOCH

The assembly stands

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Fanfare on "Joy to the World" Paul Fey

The flowers this Sunday are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sudie Wagner by Kenny, Jeanette, and Katie Dail.

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY

CRUCIFER — Elliott Jay
ACOLYTES — Luke & Samantha Harry
LECTOR — Dave Roselius
USHERS/GREETERS — Jacob and Trisha Wessler
CAMERA/LIVESTREAM — Clifford Obara

Today we welcome Christine Gundayao, our guest violinist. Christine is a native of Virginia Beach and is a registered Suzuki violin teacher, teaching at the local Academy of Music. She began studying violin at the age of 9 and went on to earn a B.A. in Music from Florida State University and an M.M. in Violin Performance from the University of Arizona, where she studied with Mark Rush. She has performed in symphonies across the southeast as well as in Utah, Wyoming, and Arizona, and won 3rd place in the 2017 Utah State Fiddling Championship.

A huge thank you to Christine for sharing her gifts in worship with us today!

CHRISTIAN HOPE AND SYMPATHY are extended to the family and friends of Ethel Smith of Hickory, North Carolina, Bill Solomon's Sister, sister in Christ, who passed away on Tuesday December 2, 2025. Please continue to keep family members and friends in your thoughts and prayers. "Thanks be to God who gives us victory over death through Jesus Christ our Lord."

CHRISTIAN HOPE AND SYMPATHY are extended to the family and friends of Susan Hall of Newport News, Virginia, sister in Christ, who passed away on Monday November 24, 2025. Please continue to keep family members and friends in your thoughts and prayers. "Thanks be to God who gives us victory over death through Jesus Christ our Lord."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Time change for Blue Christmas on Monday December 15, 2025 is 6:00 PM.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH: Join us for Greening of the Sanctuary today, Sunday, December 14, 2024, after worship. We are in need of folks who are willing and able to safely climb ladders to help hang greenery and wreaths in and around the windows. Youth will be setting up and decorating the Chrismon trees. This is always a good time for fellowship, and we hope to see you there as we prepare our church sanctuary for Advent and the Christmas season. Thank you!

POINSETTIAS

Last day to order. We are now taking donations for poinsettias up until today. Each 6.5" pot is \$15. A poinsettia form was sent out via Constant Contact email this past week. More forms are available in the narthex. Please note — we ask that you pick up your poinsettia immediately following worship on 1/4. We will be donating them to Simple Sunflowers this year.

RED FOOD BOX

We are looking for food donations, especially items with protein. Thank you so much to all who are so faithfully donating items for the Red Food Box!

2025-2026 MMCS (Mildred McDaniel Concert Series) -Reformation Lutheran Church 13100 Warwick Blvd. Newport News, VA. Please visit: https://mmcsonline.org/2025-2026-mmcs/

4pm Norfolk State University Choir. January 25, 2026

4pm Trio Niche Sunday, February 15, 2026.

4pm I. Sherman Greene Chorale Sunday March 15, 2026.

4pm Jae Sinnett Trio Sunday, April 26, 2026.

4pm Peninsula Concert Band with Ice Cream Social, Saturday, May 16, 2026.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED

We are looking for a 3rd Sunday school teacher for our elementary age class; please see Kathy Stevens if you are interested.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank Rev. Bryan Pearson for filling in for Pastor Tina while she was away.

PRAYER LIST

ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS—Nursing Homes/Assisted Living: Millie Christensen, Barbara Olson; At Home: Tony Flores, Shirley Anderson, and Bonnie Carlson; Jerry Cobb, Williamsburg Landing Rehab; Virginia Hamby, Harmony on Peninsula, Room 121. Bob Sumpter, Tricia Wessler's Stepfather, requested by Tricia Wessler; Jarvis Edwards, recovering from surgery at home.

PRAYER REQUESTS – Family and friends of Guy Self (brother of Bob Self), requested by Dottie Self; Mike Cobb; requested by his mother, Sandy Cobb, Karina Stevens's psychology teacher Jacob Lelesch; requested by Karina Stevens, Mary Cherry Hewett, friend of Tricia Wessler; requested by Tricia Wessler; Lee Owens, Grant's brother, requested by Grant Owens; Tom Lenahan; friend of Sandy's cousin, requested by Don and Sandy Sniady, Easton Young, newborn in NICU; requested by Don and Sandy Sniady, Lauren, Kelly's sister-in-law, requested by Kelly Rummel; Family & Friends of Chelsea Simonsen. requested by Kathy Stevens; Butch Klapperich, requested by Dee Klapperich; Michele and Tom Leonard, requested by Dottie Self; Eddie Bateman & Karen Vodenichar, requested by the Sniady Family; Bonnie Carlson, requested by Pastor Tina; Blaine Pearsall, requested by Lina Valdez; Family and friends of Scott Campbell, requested by Todd Recupero; Stephanie Beauvais, requested by Jarvis Edwards; Larry and Linda Jones, requested by Judy Hunt; Sarah Miller, requested by John and Sandy Lunsford; Wayne Skinner, Carroll Emerson, and Judy Wagner St. Pierre, requested by the Dail family; The family of Carole Knopp, requested by Wendy Mynoymany; Scully, Pastor Tina's dog, requested by Tricia Wessler; Ahlen family, requested by Kathy Stevens. Izzy Perez, requested by Pastor Tina.

THOSE WHO SERVE, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN DUTY—Garrett Mynoymany, Naval Station Great Lakes, LTJG Courtney Duff, USCG, stationed in sector New Orleans; James Fielding, Tokyo, Japan; Tyler Obara, Virginia Air National Guard, LAFB.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2025

Orders for Christmas poinsettias are now being taken for display in the church from December 24 through January 4, 2026. Worship and Music has ordered 6 ½ "poinsettia pots from Anderson's Garden Center. The cost for each poinsettia will be \$15.00. The deadline for orders is December 18, 2025.

This form must be filled out completely and turned in with cash or your check, payable to "Trinity Lutheran Church," with the total number of poinsettias ordered in the memo line of your check. Please do not pay through VANCO since they will charge us varying amounts of fees. Thank you!

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

ame (as you would like it in the bulletin):
To the glory of God and in MEMORY of:
)
)
To the glory of God and in HONOR of:
)
)
Total number of poinsettias ordered.
each)
lethod of payment:
Cash Amount: \$
Check (marked poinsettias) \$Enclosed Offering Envelope #
amtaking home my poinsettia on 1/4
amdonating my poinsettia to Simple Sunflower



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

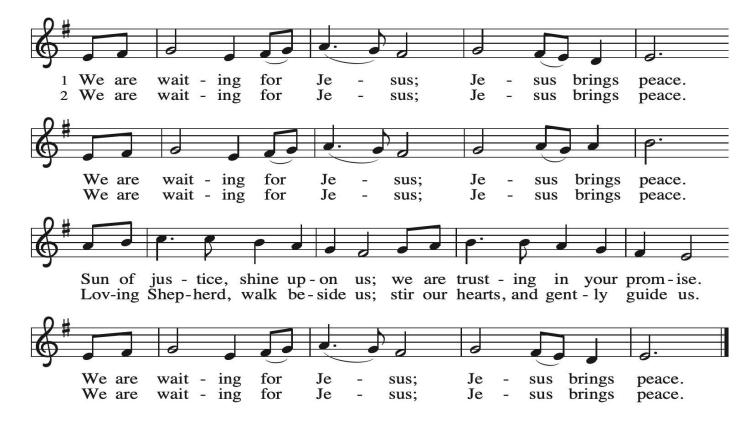
Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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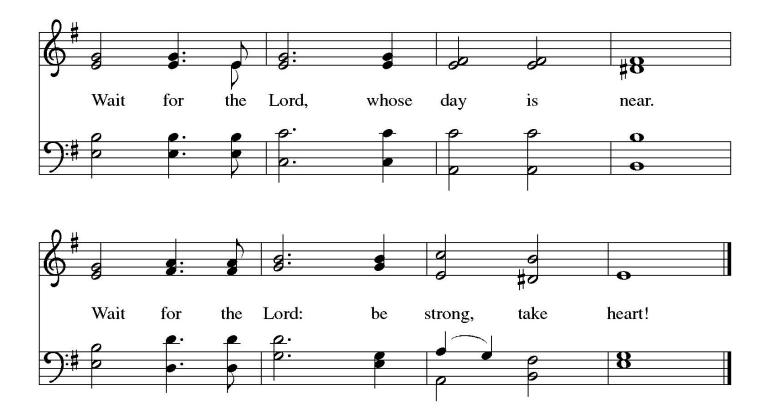


Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

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Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872