

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Wednesday Advent Worship Series: Hope

December 16, 2020 at 7:30 PM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Quote for Contemplation

Listen to the mustn'ts, child. Listen to the don'ts. Listen to the shouldn'ts, the impossibles, the won'ts. Listen to the never haves, then listen close to me...

Anything can happen, child. Anything can be. – Shel Silverstein

Prelude

Silence

Words of Welcome

Musical Call & Response

Night Has Fallen

Music is at end of order of worship.
words attr. Clement Scott
trans. Tom Calvin

Silence

Litany to Open

Leader: God sends love to us this evening, God holds all that we are.

All: We want to be granted grace as we await the Messiah, we pray that it be so.

Leader: God shapes us day by day, meeting us when we struggle, sharing our joys and concerns.

All: We seek hope this evening, we pray holy compassion is revealed.

Leader: God offers us space this day to re-center around faith.

All: Aiming for grace and seeking hope, we will meet the Christ child this day. Amen.

Interlude

Prayer

Rev. Sara M. Holland

Scripture

Psalm 125

Silence

Reflections

It's About Your Heart

John Anderson

Silence

Hymn

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

NCH (black) #122

All verses, words and music are at the end of the order of worship.

Benediction

Postlude

Special Thanks To

John Anderson for offering a reflection

Eileen Torrey for providing worship leadership

Ashley Paine for offering music

David Williams for his excellent attention to technology details and help with musical selections

What is Advent?

Advent is the beginning of our church year. We ready ourselves for the birth of Jesus and remember the hope, joy, peace, love and faith provided by our faith. Many of our practices in the Christian Church and the United States come from a variety of customs and cultures. We pray that the hope of the Christ child is revealed throughout this season.

Night has fallen

Most Saturday evenings at the conclusion of the Welcome Service in Iona Abbey, the congregation—which is different every Saturday—sings this vesper from Malawi.

In style, it is similar to many songs from central and southern Africa in which a Cantor sings a line which is immediately repeated by the congregation and followed by a chorus.

The song should be sung without accompaniment.

Cantor: Night has fallen.
ALL: NIGHT HAS FALLEN.
GOD OUR MAKER, GUARD US SLEEPING.

Cantor: Darkness now has come...
See your children, Lord...
We are with you, Lord...
Keep us in your love...
Soon we go to rest...
Night has fallen...

Words: attr. Clement Scott; trans. Tom Colvin
Music: DZUWA LAPITA, Malawian trad; adapted Tom Colvin;
arr. John L. Bell

gently but not sentimentally

Cantor: 1. Night has fal - - - len.

ALL: NIGHT HAS FAL LEN.

Cantor: 2. Dark-ness

GOD OUR MA - KER, GUARD US SLEEP - ING.

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

122

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.



1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!
4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;



From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.
Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.



Charles Wesley, the brother of John, was one of the students known as "Methodists" at Oxford University. He wrote hymns for every occasion. This is from his small collection Hymns for the Nativity.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716)
from *Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715*
Alternate tune: IN BABILONE