This Vespers service heralds the Advent coming of Christ, both celebrating Jesus’ incarnate birth and awaiting his second coming in majesty. Through Scripture and music, we will hear the promises of God echoing down the ages through the biblical prophets. These promises are fulfilled in Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us.
Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, eternal creator of
day and night. Now, as darkness is falling, hear the prayer of your
faithful people. Wash away our transgressions, cleanse us by your
refining fire, and make us temples of your Holy Spirit.

May we live in watchfulness as we wait for the coming of your Son
Jesus Christ, who shall judge the world and all its works.

Rouse us then from the sleep of sin, and make us ready to enter your
kingdom where songs of praise forever sound.

For you are the true light, who lightens everyone, and the new heavens
and the new earth join to sing your praise now and for evermore. Amen.

—The Promise of His Glory (Archbishop’s Council)

*HYMN
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest all things might - i - ly;
3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Si - nai's height
4. O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny.
5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid come, and o - pen wide our heaven - ly home;
6. O come, thou Day spring from on high, and cheers us by they draw - ing nigh;
7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the hearts of all man - kind;

that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
to us the path of know - ledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
in an - cient times didst give the law, in cloud and ma - jes - ty and awe.
that trust thy might - y power to save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y,
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad ow put to flight.
bid thou our sad di - vi - sions cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Bidding Prayer (presiding minister only)

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear in Holy Scripture how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would come among and redeem the Lord’s waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all who believe in him into the glory of God’s eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of the Gospel, or who do not believe; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words that Christ himself taught us.

*The Lord’s Prayer (in unison)

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, for ever. Amen.

First Lesson—Isaiah 40:1–8

To God’s people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news: God is returning and bringing the exiles home.

Anthem

This Is the Truth Sent From Above arr. R. Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

This is the truth sent from above, 
The truth of God the God of love; 
Therefore don’t turn me from your door, 
But hearken well both rich and poor.

The first thing that I will relate, 
That God at first did man create; 
The next thing which to you I’ll tell 
Woman was made with him to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes 
Till God the Lord did interpose; 
And so a promise soon did run: 
That he’d redeem us by his Son.
And at this season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear;
And here did live, and here did preach,
And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

—Traditional English

SECOND LESSON—Jeremiah 23:5–6

*The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch in the line of David, a just King who is yet to come.*

ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

Michael Praetorius
(1571–1621)
arr. Jan Sandström

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night.

—German, 15th cent., trans. Theodore Baker

THIRD LESSON—Zechariah 9:9–10

*Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem is prophesied, heralding God’s coming reign of justice and peace.*

*HYMN (please see the back cover of the bulletin)*

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

MERTON

FOURTH LESSON—Isaiah 9:2–5

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: Jesus, who has come to break the powers of sin, evil, and death.*
ANTHEM

Remember, O Thou Man

Remember O thou man,
O thou man, O thou man
Remember O thou man
Thy time is spent,
Remember O thou man,
How thou cam’st to me then,
And I did what I can,
Therefore repent.

Remember God’s goodness,
O thou man, O thou man,
Remember God’s goodness,
And promise made.
Remember God’s goodness
How his only Son he sent,
Our sins for to redress,
Be not afraid.

The angels all did sing,
O thou man, O thou man,
The angels all did sing
On Sion hill,
The angels all did sing
Praises to our heav’nly king,
And peace to man living
With right good will.

To Bethlem did they go,
O thou man, O thou man
To Bethlem did they go,
This thing to see,
The Bethlem did they go,
To see whether it were so,
Whether Christ was born or no
To set us free.

In Bethlem was he born,
O thou man, O thou man,
In Bethlem was he born,
For mankind dear,
In Bethlem he was born
For us that were forlorn,
And therefore took no scorn,
Our sins to bear.

Give thanks to God always,
O thou man, O thou man,
Give thanks to God always,
Give thanks to God always,
Upon this blessed day,
With hearts most jolly.
Let all men sing and say,
Holy, holy.

—Thomas Ravenscroft

FIFTH LESSON—Isaiah 35:1–6

The vengeance and salvation of the Lord are declared,
as the earth and God’s people are redeemed.

*HYMN 196 (found in the hymnals located in the pew racks)
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus


The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she
will give birth to a ruler whose reign shall never end.
Rejoice, O Virgin Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with thee:
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
For thou hast born the Saviour of our souls.

SEVENTH LESSON—Mark 1:1–15

*John the Baptist proclaims the coming of Jesus, who is anointed by his Father to bring the good news of the Gospel.*

ANTHEM

People, Look East

*French Traditional arr. Martin Shaw*
*ADVENT PRAYER (in unison)*

Merciful Father,
you sent your messengers the prophets
to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation.
Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,
that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity,
and may await with joy
the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*BENEDICTION*

*CLOSING HYMN 718*

Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending HELMSLEY

ORGAN POSTLUDE

*All who are able may stand.*

You are welcome to stay for the organ postlude.
Should you need to leave, please do so quietly and respectfully.

Choral Vespers will return on Thursday, January 11, 2018.

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MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Presiding Minister</td>
<td>The Rev. Bruce Puckett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectors</td>
<td>Ms. Júlia Agudogo</td>
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<td>Ms. Keegan Cheleden</td>
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<td>Ms. Krista Kowalczyk</td>
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<td>Ms. Yekaterina Kozachuk</td>
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<td>Mr. Tony Purvis</td>
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<td>Mr. John Saunders</td>
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<td>Mr. Ryan Ware</td>
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<td>Choir</td>
<td>Duke Vespers Ensemble</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choir Director</td>
<td>Dr. Philip Cave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Mr. Christopher Jacobson</td>
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Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is
darkness we arise; Christ, our sun, all near,"
Father and the Son, with the ever-

2 Star-tled at the solemn warning, from the
Fa-ther and the Son, with the ev - er-
ill dispersing, shines upon the morn - ing skies.

3 See, the Lamb so long ex - pect ed comes with
par-don down from heaven. Let us haste, with
works of darkness, all you children of the day!

4 so when next he comes in glo-ry and the
world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us
* tears of sor-row, one and all, to be for - given;

5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, do-min - ion to the
Hav - er and the Son, with the ev - er-
* living Spirit while e - ter - nal ages run.

Text: Latin, c. 6th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient
and Modern, 1861, alt.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1850; desc. Psalter
Hymnal, 1987

87 87
MERTON
www.hymnary.org/text/hark_a_thrilling_voice_is_sounding

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