


# EASY PRINT – Advent Vespers – One – November 26, 2025


## Prelude Music

*The congregation's candles are lit as the priest enters.*

*The priest then lights the Candle of Hope, singing*

Priest: 

Light and hope in Je-sus Christ our Lord!

People: 

Priest: Let us pray. Heavenly Father,

**All: we light this candle to thank you for the light of hope.**

**May we who are surrounded by the darkness of fear, find hope in the messengers you send to join us in the struggle against despair; in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn:** “THE PEOPLE THAT IN DARKNESS ...” (TUNE #136)

The people that in darkness sat – a glorious light have seen;  
the light has shined on them who long in shades of death have been.

To us a Child of hope is born, to us a Son is given,  
And on His shoulder ever rest, all power in earth and heaven.

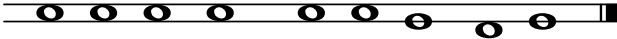
His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor. the God by all adored.

His righteous government and power shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based, his reign shall have no end.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, and make us Thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art and Holy Spirit, one.

# The Blessing of the Light

*Please kneel or be seated*

Priest: 

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: 

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Cantor sings the refrain.. The congregation then repeats.*



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Priest: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness. In this holy season, when the sun's light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of night, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendor of your glory enfleshed and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son.

*All sing the refrain*

Priest: You have ordained the ministries of angels and mortals in one holy communion: grant that as these holy messengers always serve you in heaven so, at your command, they may help and defend us here on earth.

*All sing the refrain*

Priest: Strengthen us in our weakness. Support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will and free our tongues to sing your praise. For to you all honour and blessing are due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*All sing the refrain*

## First Reading:

Genesis 32: 22-32

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel,] for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*(All sing)*

**Hymn:** "COME O THOU TRAVELLER UNKNOWN (TUNE #304)

Come, O thou Traveller unknown,  
whom still I hold, but cannot see!  
My company before is gone, and I am left alone with thee.  
With thee all night I mean to stay,  
and wrestle till the break of day;  
with thee all night I mean to stay,  
and wrestle till the break of day.

Yield to me now, for I am weak,  
but confident in self despair!  
Speak to my heart, in blessing speak,  
be conquered by my instant prayer.  
Speak, or thou never hence shalt move,  
and tell me if thy name is Love.  
Speak, or thou never hence shalt move,

and tell me if thy name is Love.

'Tis Love! 'tis Love! Thou died for thee',  
I hear thy whisper in my heart.

The morning breaks, the shadows flee,  
pure, Universal Love thou art.

To me, to all, thy mercies move;  
thy nature and thy name is Love.

To me, to all, thy mercies move;  
thy nature and thy name is Love.

## Second Reading:

Luke 22: 39-46

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection** - Fr. Daniel Brereton

**Advent Prose**



The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains a melody with eighth and quarter notes, some beamed together. The lyrics "Drop down, ye hea - vens from a - bove," are written below the staff. The word "All sing" is written above the end of the first staff. The second staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It continues the melody with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics "and let the skies pour down right-eous - ness." are written below the staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

*All sing*

Drop down, ye hea - vens from a - bove,

and let the skies pour down right-eous - ness.

Cantor: Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

*All sing the Antiphon*

Cantor: We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind have taken us away; thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

*All sing the Antiphon*

Cantor: Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

*All sing the Antiphon*

Cantor: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee: For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

*All sing the Antiphon*

## **The Prayers**

Priest: Lord it is night. The night is for stillness.

All: **Let us be still in the presence of God.**

Priest: It is night after a long day.

All: **What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.**

Priest: The night is dark.

All: **Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.**

Priest: The night is quiet.

All: **Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.**

Priest: The night heralds the dawn.

All: **Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. Amen.**

## **Act of Faith**

Priest: Dear friends, the coming of the Messiah gave hope to the people of Israel. It was the hope that into this world of darkness, God would send his light as a human being to govern and save them. As we await the coming of this light, we wrestle with the forces of darkness in many forms: anxiety, depression, anger, pain, loneliness, grief. We know however that God sends his angels to strengthen us in our struggles – reminding us of God’s presence in that darkness. I invite you therefore in the name of the Lord to take a moment of silence, to ask the Lord to help you in your own struggles. Then, come forward to the altar and light a candle – a sign of faith that you know you are not alone and a commitment to be a messenger of light for others

**Solo – “Emmanuel is Coming”**

*Sung by Laurel Tubman*

## **Concluding Prayer**

Priest: Emmanuel, God with us, our world waits in darkness longing for your light. In the midst of darkness, enkindle our hope. As we long for lasting peace in the midst of war,

All: **Be with us.**

Priest: As we wrestle with old wounds and grievances, longing for families to be united,

All: **Be with us.**

Priest: As we wrestle with enemies, longing to be reconciled as neighbours and friends,

All: **Be with us.**

Priest: As we wrestle with illness and pain, longing for cures and healings,

All: **Be with us.**

Priest: As we wrestle with division and loneliness, longing for love and community,  
All: **Be with us.**

Priest: Fulfill the deepest longings of your people and dispel the darkness in our hearts  
and in our world.

All: **Let your Word ignite the hope the world needs to bring to life your love  
and justice.**

Priest: We ask this in the name of Our Hope, Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Gathering all our cares into one, let us pray,

All: **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn: #381 - "PRAISE MY SOUL THE KING OF HEAVEN"**

*All sing*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore his praises sing.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows.  
In his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

## Dismissal

Priest: Go with hope, that in your wrestling with the darkness, you may perceive the presence of Light.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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