WELCOME in the NAME OF JESUS
St. Peter's Lischey's UCC
www.lischeysucc.org (717) 225-3932
First Sunday of Advent and Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday, November 29, 2026
10:30 AM (In the Sanctuary & via YouTube)

Welcome and Gathering Songs- *Blaine Breeden*

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Wilson

**Call to Worship:*

Solo Voice: O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.

ALL SING: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

L: It shall come to pass in later days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come and say:

P: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways.

L: For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

ALL SING: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

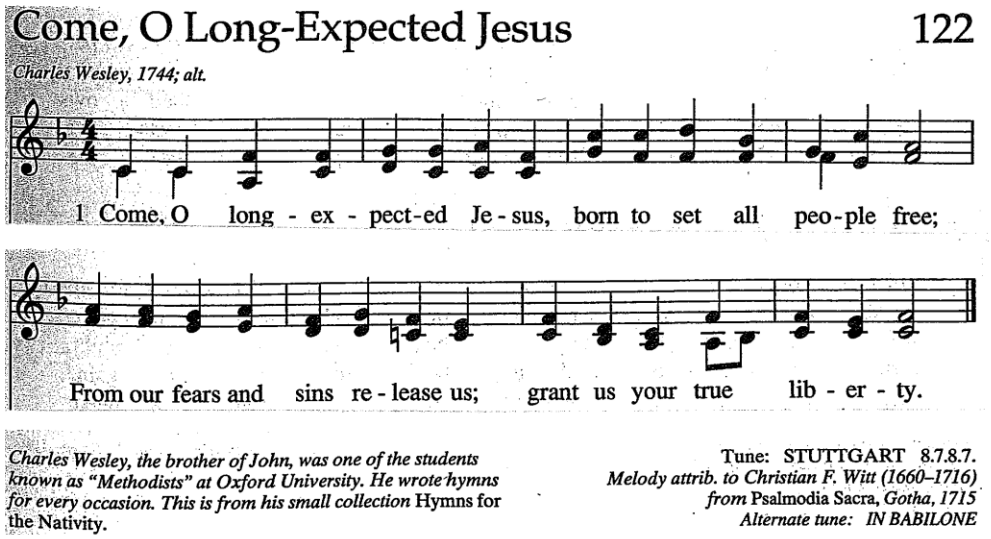
Advent Candle Lighting ~ The Candle of Hope (*Freed Family*)

Reader: In the darkness, a light shines. In the waiting, life stirs. Today we light the *Candle of Hope*, remembering God's promise of renewal.

(Light the first candle.)

ALL: God of life, shine your hope into our hearts. Kindle in us a light that never fades.

ALL SING: "Come O Long Expected Jesus"—NCH #122 (first verse-see below)



** **Hymn:*** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" – Red Hymnal #123 Fettke

Confession:

L: God has made us children of the light, but we have chosen the road of shadows and darkness. Let us make our confession to God.

ALL: God, you have prepared the way for your coming through the words of the prophets, but we have become content, complacent, and indifferent. God, bring forth a new shoot of life from the stumps of our dried-up souls and our desert-like world. Reveal your glory to us again that we may have patience to watch and wait with hope. Amen.

(Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon:

L: "Comfort my people," says our God. "Comfort them! Encourage my people and tell them their sins are forgiven."

P: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

Sanctuary Choir: "A Cradle Awaits" Shafferman

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 *Melissa Altland*
Mark 13:24-37

Message: We Await the Fulfillment of God's Grace *Rev. Susan Emmons*

Hymn: "As with Gladness Men of Old" – Red Hymnal #163 Kocher

Announcements, Joys, and Prayer Concerns

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer:

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift our hearts in prayer.

L: Let us give thanks to God.

P: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

L: Let us pray:

(The following prayer was inspired by "Blessed are you, gracious God…" by William Kervin and Lillian Perigoe in Celebrate God's Presences, page 276. Used with permission.)

ALL: Giver of all life, Source of love that knows no boundaries. Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began; throughout the ages, your song of liberation has impregnated us with your hope for a world where: those considered last and least are first and most; violence is overcome by the power of your ancient love; and, all siblings work together for peace. You bring our longings to birth, and send prophets to awaken us to your approaching Advent among us. We thank you for those who, like Mary, have the strength and courage to give birth to your love in the world; for those who, like the shepherds, dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem; for those who, like the wise ones, actively challenge violent and

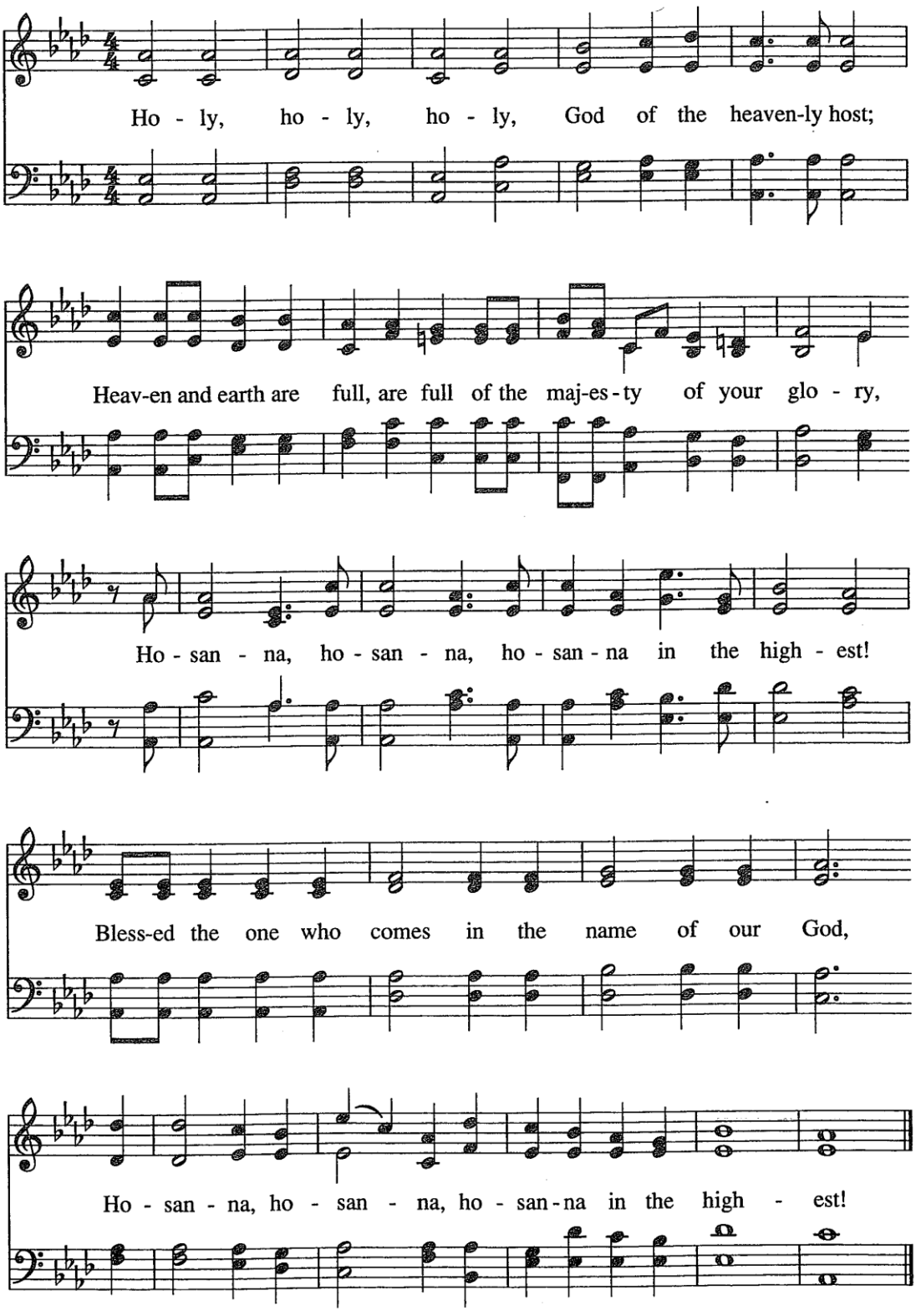
oppressive powers. We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us in womb and tomb, in cradle and cross, in tenderness and compassion. We join in the Advent prayer of all your people, "O come, Emmanuel." And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us, we proclaim your goodness.

Sanctus (Congregation sings "Seraphic Hymn" —NCH #795. See below.)

795

Seraphic Hymn

Music: Alonzo P. Howard (1838–1902)



Words of Institution
Prayer of Consecration
Lord's Prayer (Praise Booklet, p. 4)
Sharing the Bread and Cup

(The Church Council will serve the bread and the cup separately. Please hold each element until everyone has been served. At the pastor's direction, we will partake together, first of the bread and then of the cup.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALL: We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.

(*Communion liturgy resourced from United Church of Canada*)

Invitation to the Offering:

L: When we light the first candle of Advent, we remember that hope is not just a feeling—it is a gift we share. In this season of waiting, God calls us to prepare not only our hearts but also our hands, so that others may glimpse the light of Christ through our generosity. Let us bring our offerings—our resources, our time, our talents—trusting that God will use them to kindle hope in places where shadows linger.

Offertory: "Bethlehem Road" Paxton

(*The ushers will move down the aisles and pass the offering plates along the rows.*)

****Offertory Response (sung)***: **"**We Bring a Sacrifice of Praise" (Praise Booklet, p. 39)

****Prayer of Dedication (unison):***

ALL: Gracious God, You are the source of every good gift and the giver of eternal hope. We dedicate these offerings to Your work in the world— that they may feed the hungry, comfort the lonely, and shine Your light into the darkness. Bless our giving and our living, so that in this Advent season, we may be faithful witnesses to the promise of Christ's coming. In His name we pray, Amen.

****Closing Hymn:*** "People Look East" (Praise Booklet, p. 48) Farjeon/Shaw

****Benediction***

****Postlude:*** "Bethlehem" Wilson

**Members should rise if able.*

Weekly Announcements, Updates, and Concerns
November 29, 2026

Visitors…
Thank you for joining us today. We are happy to have you here. Please sign the guestbook located at the bell tower. Since you may be unfamiliar with us, here are some housekeeping items to help you find your way around:

- Restrooms are located in the overflow room, in the new section by the office, and down the stairs from the new section.
- Brown offering envelopes are located in the pew backs and also on the cart by the bulletins. The offering plates are located on the cart, and at the belltower and middle entrances.

Thank You…
A BIG thank you to everyone who contributed to our **Harvest of Hope Holiday Meal Collection**. Through your generosity and compassion, we collected **87 boxes of stuffing** and **63 boxes of mashed potatoes** to help support local families during the holiday season. Your donations will make a meaningful difference in providing holiday meals for many in our community. Your willingness to share with others is a wonderful reflection of the spirit of the season and the caring heart of our congregation. Thank you for helping make the holidays a little brighter for those in need. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

Thank You…
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped decorate our church this past week in preparation for the Advent and Christmas seasons! The beauty of our worship spaces is made possible by the dedication of volunteers who generously give their time and talents. Without your willingness to step forward and serve, this important work simply would not be possible. Decorating the Sanctuary and the Angel Tree in the atrium is always a special and meaningful tradition. As we hang the personalized ornaments, we are reminded of the many loved ones who have been honored and remembered through this cherished display over the years. We also extend our sincere thanks to **Bill and Karla Waltersdorff** for their continued generosity in time for the stars at the bell tower, and providing the beautiful Christmas trees that grace our church each year. Their gifts have become a treasured part of our Christmas celebration. A special thank you to Bill and Karla as well for the stunning Christmas arrangement adorning the altar vases this year, given in loving memory of Bill's parents, **Norman and Delphine Waltersdorff**, longtime and faithful members of our church family. Their thoughtful remembrance adds beauty and meaning to our Advent worship as we celebrate the season of Christ's coming.

Poinsettia Ordering Information- Orders Needed by TODAY…
Order your Christmas poinsettias for $8 each by **November 29th**. Pick up an order envelope and dedication form from the cart in the overflow room, or call the church office to place your order. Include payment with your order and return it in the offering plate on the cart.

Christmas Gift-A-Way…
December 5th at Mt. Zion UCC, Spring Grove • 1:00-3:00 PM
The Christmas Gift-A-Way will be held on **December 5th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM** at Mt. Zion UCC. We are currently collecting **new and gently used, clean gift items** for both children and adults. Please note that clothing and shoes cannot be accepted. We are seeking gifts that adults can give to children

and gifts that children can give to adults for Christmas. Donations may be brought to the church through November 29th. In addition to gift donations, **volunteers are needed** to help distribute flyers throughout the community, transport collected items to the event, and assist with setup, gift distribution, and other tasks during the Christmas Gift-A-Way. If you are willing to help, **please sign up on the sheet in the overflow room**. Your generosity and service will help make Christmas brighter for many families in our community. Thank you for your support and contributions!

Carols in the Grove…

Celebrate the joy and wonder of the Christmas season with the **Spring Grove Alumni Chorus** as they present **"Carols in the Grove"** on **Sunday, December 6, at 4:00 PM** in the **Spring Grove Area Middle School Auditorium**. This beloved community holiday tradition will feature inspiring Christmas music performed by the Spring Grove Alumni Chorus, joined by the **Alumni Instrumental Ensemble**. Enjoy an afternoon of cherished carols, festive favorites, and the timeless sounds of the season. Come gather with family, friends, and neighbors as we celebrate Christmas through music and support members of our church who participate in the chorus and ensemble. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend this special holiday event filled with music, fellowship, and Christmas cheer. **Admission is free, and all are welcome.** We look forward to sharing this joyful celebration of the season with you!

Save the Date: A Farewell Celebration for Lillia Messersmith…

Family and friends are invited to a special **Farewell Celebration for Lillia Messersmith**, honoring her life and cherishing the many memories she leaves behind, on **Saturday, January 9, 2027**, at 1:00 PM in the church fellowship hall. Hosted by the Messersmith family, this gathering will provide an opportunity to share stories, celebrate Lillia's life, and enjoy fellowship with those whose lives she touched. Please save the date and plan to join the family as they remember and celebrate **Lillia Messersmith**. To help the family plan appropriately**, please RSVP to Royce or the church office by December 13, 2026, so they will know how many guests to prepare for.**

Homewood Auxiliary Membership Drive -Ends Today…

Support Homewood Living Plum Creek residents by joining the Auxiliary during our November membership drive. Membership donations help fund special resident needs. Suggested dues are $3 for individuals or $5 for couples. See Nancy Cherry to join.

Christmas Card Collection for Homewood Living Plum Creek…

Help us spread some Christmas cheer to the residents of Homewood Living Plum Creek! We are collecting Christmas cards to brighten their holiday season. This year, Homewood has requested that cards be submitted **without envelopes** so residents can easily enjoy and display them. Please sign each card on behalf of our church and leave the envelopes at home (or keep them for your own use). We are also collecting **boxes of tissues** and **unscented body lotion** for the residents. Please place your cards and donations at the church **by December 6th**. Thank you for helping us share kindness, comfort, and the joy of the season with our neighbors at Homewood Living Plum Creek.

Sign Christmas Cards for Our Homebound Members & Friends…

Please take a moment to sign the Christmas cards for our homebound members. These cards are a simple but meaningful way to let them know they are remembered and cared for during the holiday season. The cards are available for signing on the table in the overflow room. Please be sure to sign them by **December 13th** so they can be delivered in time for Christmas. Thank you for helping share the warmth and joy of the season with those who are unable to be with us in person.

Christmas Carol Hymn Sing…

Join us on **Sunday, December 27th** for a special **Christmas Carol Hymn Sing!** Help us choose the music by suggesting your favorite Christmas carols from the **red hymnal** or the **Praise Booklet**. Simply write your selections on the slips provided on the table in the overflow room and place them in the offering plate or the church secretary's mailbox. **Please submit your carol suggestions by December 13th.** Come and make a joyful noise as we celebrate the Christmas season through song!

Christmas Carolers Needed!...

Spread the joy of the Christmas season by sharing music and fellowship with our homebound members. We are looking for volunteers to join a group of Christmas carolers on **Sunday, December 20th**, following the worship service and a pizza lunch. Together, we will visit several of our homebound members to sing Christmas carols and bring a little extra holiday cheer to those who are unable to be with us in person during this special season.

Whether you are a seasoned singer or simply enjoy sharing the spirit of Christmas, all are welcome to participate. Please join us as we bring the gift of music, encouragement, and Christ's love to our church family.

2027 Offering Envelopes Ready for Pickup…

Members' 2027 offering envelopes are now available for pickup. They are located on the table in the overflow room. Please stop by and pick up your box at your convenience. If you have any questions or do not see your envelopes, please contact the church office.

Greeters Needed for January-July 2027

As I begin preparing the new Greeters' Schedule for January through July 2027 in the coming weeks, I invite you to consider becoming part of this important ministry. It is a wonderful way to serve your faith community and perhaps even a great New Year's resolution! The qualifications are simple: just bring a friendly smile 😀 and a welcoming spirit. A warm greeting helps our church family feel at home each week and may provide a first-time visitor with their very first impression of our congregation as a caring, welcoming, and loving church. I would love to add a few more volunteers to the schedule. If you are interested in serving, or if you have scheduling restrictions or other concerns, please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity to share Christ's welcome with others! *~Darlene*

Office Administrator Position Available

St. Peter's Lischey's UCC is seeking a part-time Office Administrator to support the church's communication and daily operations. Competitive salary, professional development opportunities, and paid vacation after one year. Interested individuals or referrals should contact the church office. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Thank you to our helpers this week:		**Next week's helpers are:**
Gathering Music	Blaine Breeden	Don Carl
Lay Reader	Melisa Altland	Don Carl
Acolyte	Sage Freed	Grace Mensinger
Children's Message	Open	Rev. Susan Emmons
Greeters	Joy & Larry Spangler	Lois Nelson & Joan Messinger
Money Counters	Darlene Miner, Don Carl, & Pat McKowen	Elvin Myers, Janet Brown, & Jean Weidler

Sound & Streaming	Joy & Larry Spangler	Amanda Godfrey & Pat McKowen

Upcoming Events at Lischey's Church…

Thursday, December 3rd	6:30 PM	Chime Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 6th	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday School
	9:30 AM	SPLATT and Children's Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship Service
Sunday, December 13th	10:30 AM	Sanctuary Choir Christmas Cantata
Monday, December 14th	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 16th	11:50 AM	Jefferson Homemakers- Meet at church to carpool
Sunday, December 20th	12:00 PM	Caroling for Homebound Members
Thursday, December 24th	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service- Family Oriented
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service- Traditional
Sunday, December 27th	10:30 AM	Christmas Carol Hymn Sing

Office Hours…

The office will be open during the hours listed below. Doors will be locked for security; therefore, we ask that you call (717) 225-3932 to let us know you are coming. Staff will be there at the following times:

Nancy Cherry, Minister of Music	Wed/Thur	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Pat McKowen, Secretary	Tue-Thur	8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Upcoming Birthdays (*Designates Over 80)

November 29	Kaleb Hamme	December 04	Jonathan Neiderer

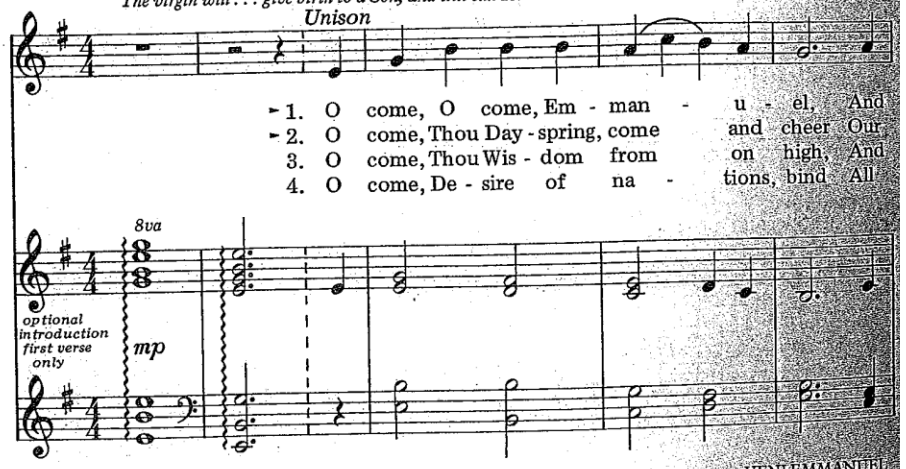
Our Response to God's Love last week was…

Attendance 60: 58 Sanctuary/ 2 YouTube

Current Offering	$1,900.00
Loose Offering	24.00
OCWM	40.00
Good Samaritan Fund	340.00
Harvest of Hope	20.00
Total	**$2,324.00**

123 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The virgin will . . . give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel. Isa. 7:14



VENI EMMANUEL
L.M. with Refrain

TEXT: Latin Hymn, *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum,* 1710; translated by John M. Neale, stanzas 1, 2, altered; Henry S. Coffin, stanzas 3, 4, altered

MUSIC: Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore; arranged by Tom Fettke

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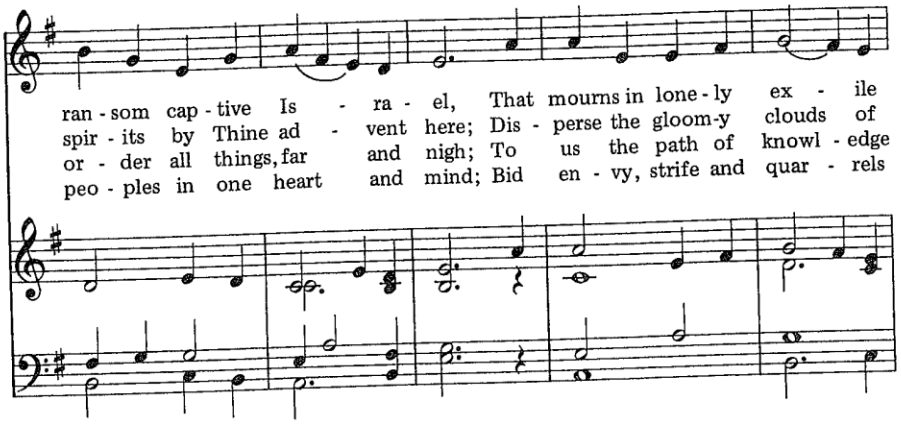
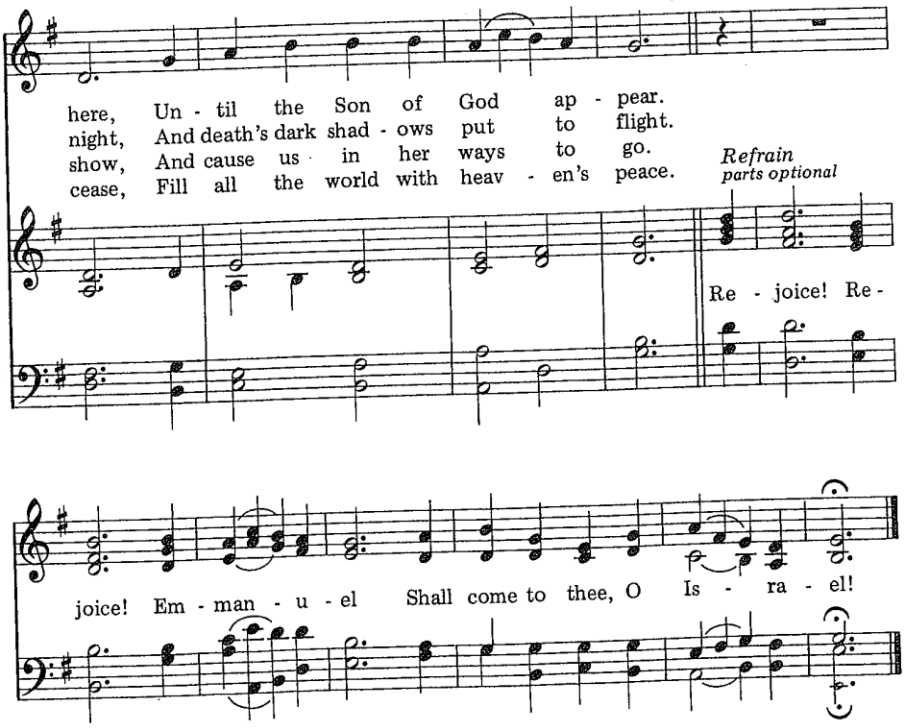
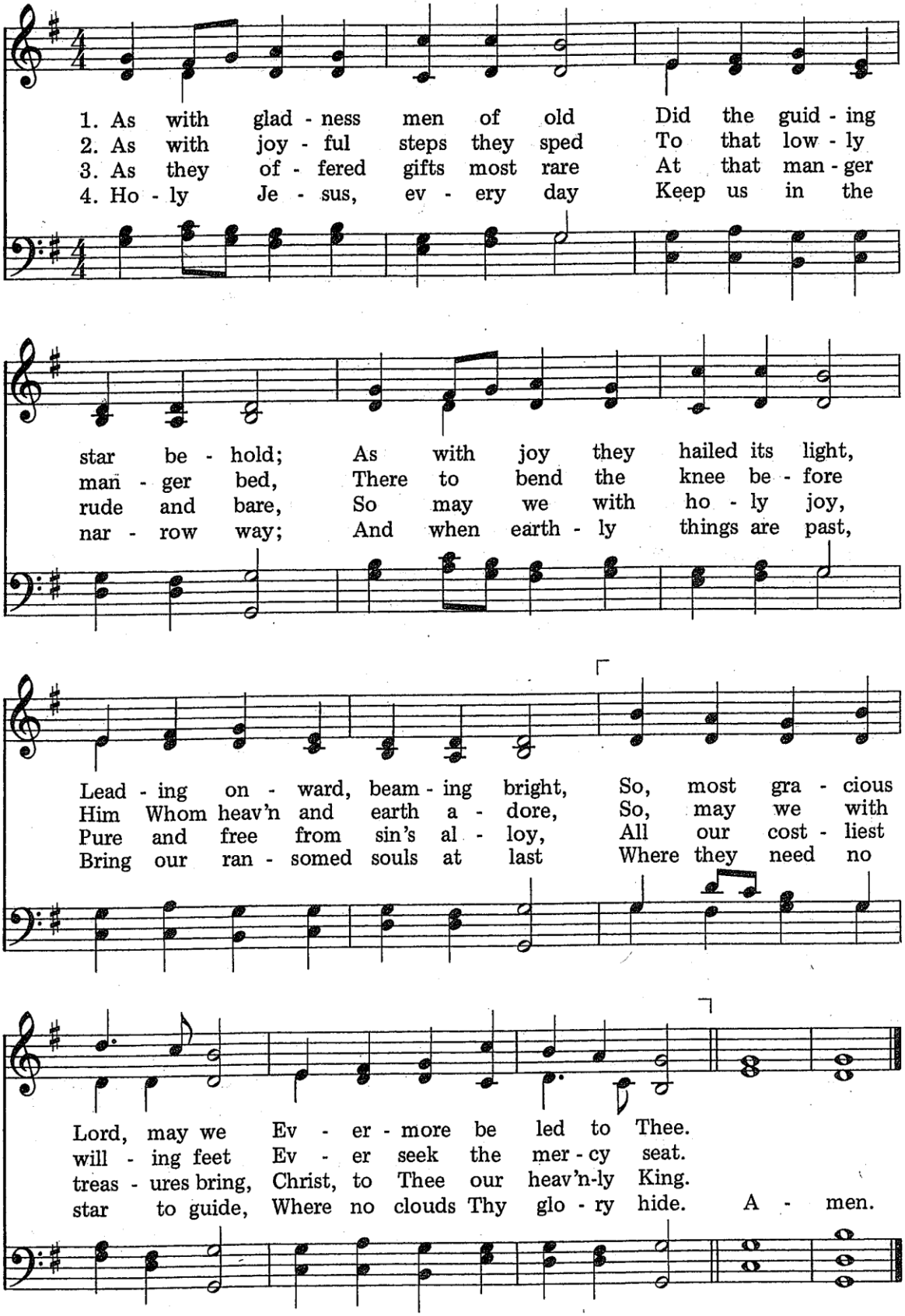




As with Gladness Men of Old 163

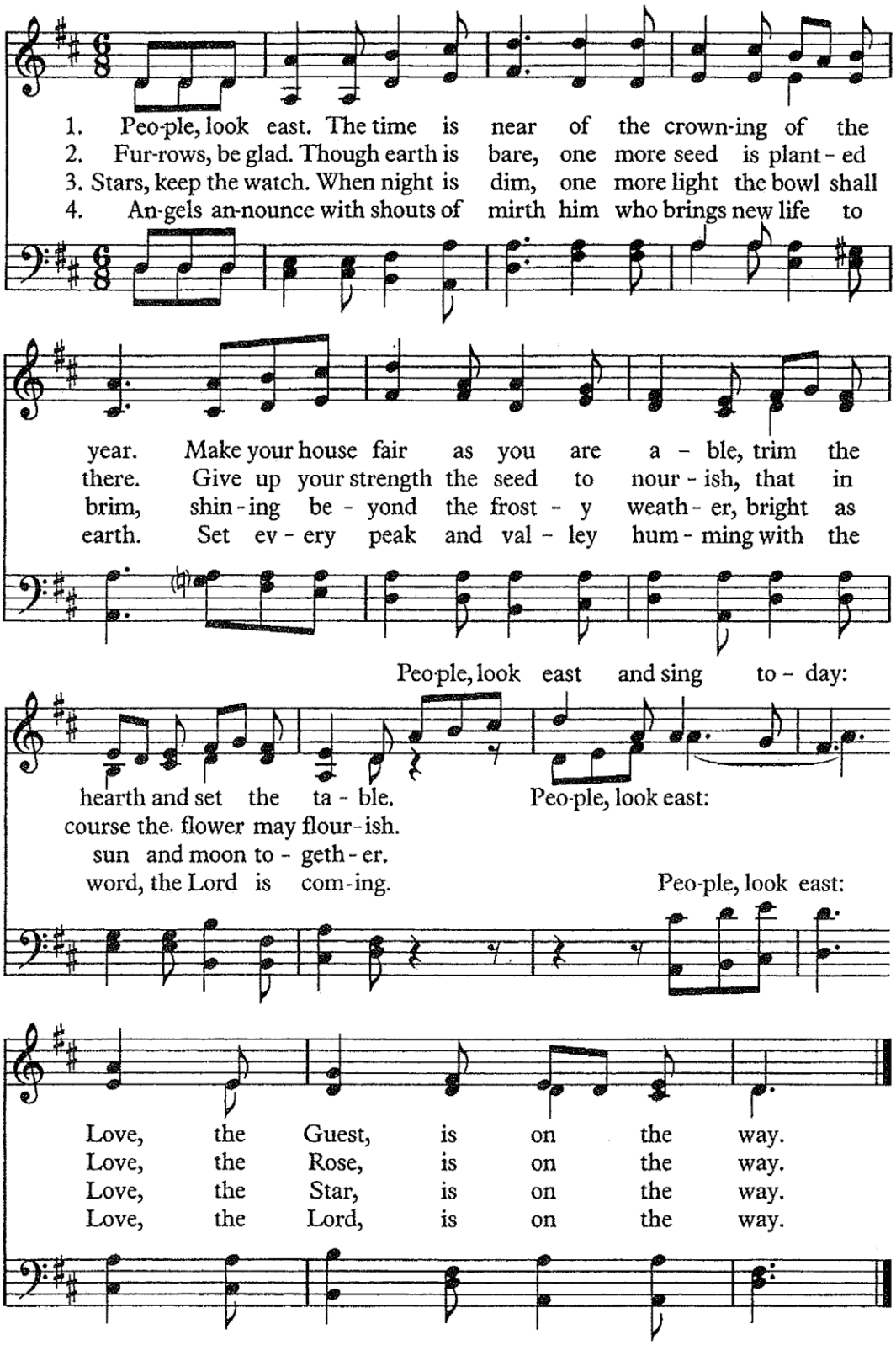
When they saw the star, they were overjoyed . . . and they worshiped Him. Matt. 2:10-11



TEXT: William C. Dix
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher

DIX
7.7.7.7.7.7.

202 People, Look East



WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928
MUSIC: Trad. French carol; harm. by Martin Shaw, 1928

BESANÇON
87.98.87

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