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## MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

*The Season of Advent is the four weeks leading to Christmas. During Advent God's Word prepares us to once again welcome the Savior of the Nations at Christmas, and to prepare to welcome him at his Second Coming. This year Grace's Midweek Advent theme is "Advent Amid COVID-19." May God use this Advent meditation to encourage us in our following of him.*

### WELCOME

#### **WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF THE TRIUNE GOD** —*based on Isaiah 40:3*

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Vicar David: A voice cries:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

As we worship tonight, let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst, in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.

Let us worship God.

#### **HYMN:**

"Minuetto"  
*by Jacques Aubert*

#### **WE ARE RENEWED IN REPENTANCE** —*based on Isaiah 40:1,2*

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Vicar David: A call to confession:  
Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Let us make our confession to God:

**All:** **Our prayer of confession:**  
**While we ask, Lord, for a most meaningful Advent season,**  
**we sadly confess having done so little with so much.**  
**Forgive us, Lord,**  
**for not coming to you in prayer,**  
**for not reading your Word,**  
**for not searching our hearts,**  
**for not facing our sins.**

**Gracious Lord, forgive us according to your tender mercy!**

**Grant us a fresh sense of your peace, and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of your glory. Amen.**

Vicar David: The assurance of God's forgiveness:  
"Comfort, comfort my people," says our God.  
Your sins are pardoned.  
The penalty is paid.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN:** "Come, O Precious Ransom, Come"

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

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**MESSAGE THEME:** "Advent Amid COVID-19: We Need a Cure!"  
*based on Ephesians 2:1-8*

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

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### **ADVENT PRAYER**

Vicar David: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and reaffirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**All: We praise You, O Lord, for keeping Your promise and sending Your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

Vicar David: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use Your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**All: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

Vicar David: You sent Your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this Good News be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**All: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

Vicar David: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**All: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in Your grace, in Your power and in Your glory. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**HYMN:** "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

**BLESSING**

## Come, O Precious Ransom, Come

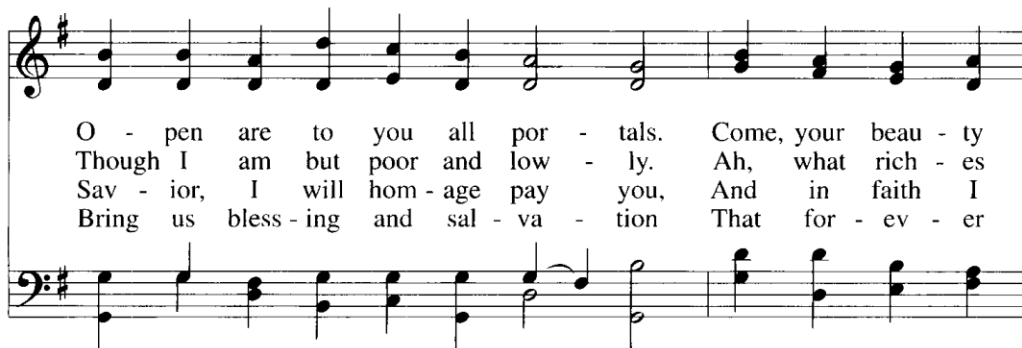
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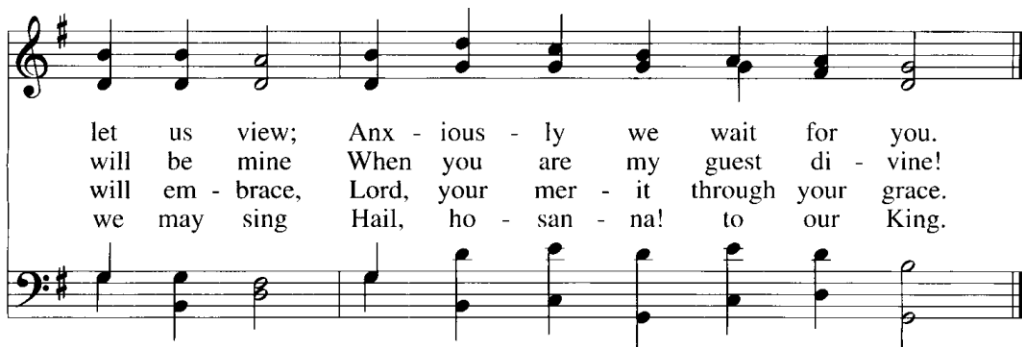
1 Come, O pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly Hope for  
 2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and  
 3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -  
 4 Hail, ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Help, Lord; hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!  
 Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,  
 ceive, I pray you. Ev - er - more, as best I can,  
 sup - pli - ca - tion! Let your king - dom, scep - ter, crown



O - pen are to you all por - tals. Come, your beau - ty  
 Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es  
 Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay you, And in faith I  
 Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion That for - ev - er



let us view; Anx - ious - ly we wait for you.  
 will be mine When you are my guest di - vine!  
 will em - brace, Lord, your mer - it through your grace.  
 we may sing Hail, ho - san - na! to our King.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.  
 Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1699, alt.

MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT  
 78 78 77

# 28 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has  
 2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, What the  
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's  
 4 Wel - come, O my Sav - ior, now! Joy - ful,

tru - ly kept his word And at last to  
 proph - ets' heart in - spired, What they longed for  
 help - er, Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold  
 Lord, to you I bow. Come in - to my

us did send Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
 man - y a year Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
 race be - hold— Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
 heart, I pray; Oh, pre - pare your - self a way.

5 Crush for me the serpent's head  
 That, set free from doubt and dread,  
 I may cling to you in faith,  
 Safely kept through life and death,

6 And, when you shall come again  
 As a glorious king to reign,  
 I with joy may see your face,  
 Freely ransomed by your grace.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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