

Link for Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/94327921872?pwd=a05walRGK1MxcTRab0pLWC9DeFViQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 2792 1872

Password: 023012

To connect by phone, call (646)558-8656

When attempting to join our Sunday morning worship on Zoom, participants enter a “Waiting Room” and are allowed entrance only when recognized by a member of the UUC Tech Team. This means your Zoom login must have your name or some identifying information that we can recognize. “Zoom User” will not work!

Those joining us for worship on Zoom can present their tithes and offerings online through our [website](#) or by downloading the [Tithe.ly App](#) for your iPhone or Android device. You may also give using Venmo. Our Venmo “handle” is @UUCAlfred, but you can find us by searching for the name of the church, or you can scan this QR code to donate to UUC on Venmo:



UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS
WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

PRELUDE Blessed Assurance

***INTROIT #219** Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Speaker 1: Today is the first Sunday in the season of Advent. Advent means “coming,” and in this season we prepare for the coming of Christ. We light the candle on the Advent wreath to remind us of the blessings that Christ brings to the world.

Speaker 2: The Advent wreath includes many symbols. The wreath is in the circle, with no beginning and no ending. This reminds us that there is no beginning and no ending to God, and that God’s love and caring for us never ends. The green branches are a sign of ever new life. The candles tell us of the light shining into the world with Jesus Christ. The colors of the Advent candles remind us of our need for God’s help to be the people we should be. The white candle, which we light on Christmas Eve, signifies the birth of Jesus.

Speaker 1: Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope.
(Speakers light the first Advent candle)

Speaker 2: The prophet Jeremiah spoke words of hope to Israel. He talked about the promise of Shalom and of a new beginning. We hope and pray for a world of peace and harmony.

Speaker 1: Hope is like a flame that warms and comforts us. As we light this candle, we celebrate the hope of the prophets and the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Both Speakers: We continue to hope in God's promise that Christ will continue to fill our lives and the life of the world with love and joy and peace.

Prayer: Thank you, God for the flame of hope. As we prepare for Christ's coming, help us to share our hope with others.

*** HYMN OF THE MONTH #212 Comfort, Comfort, O My People**

PRAYER CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER – LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

*** HYMN #238** **Wisdom from on High**

GIFT OF MUSIC "Want" by *Birdtalker* Amie Acton & Erin Law

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY Be Thou My Vision

*** DOXOLOGY #71A & BLESSING**

Praise God, the source of life and birth.

Praise God, the Word who came to earth.

Praise God the Spirit, holy Flame.

All glory, honor to God's name. Amen

SCRIPTURE Genesis 38:1-20 *(pew Bible p.33)* Matthew 1:3 *(pew Bible, p.835)*

ORGAN MEDITATION For the Beauty of the Earth

SERMON From Brokenness to Hope *Rev Roberto Che Espinoza, PhD*

*** COMMUNION HYMN #461 Come to the Table of Grace**

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

This month we celebrate communion in the "chalice" tradition. Please come forward when the usher invites you. Take and eat the bread. We offer both gluten free vegan crackers and regular bread. After eating the bread, move to the right or to the left, take a cup of juice and drink it. After you drink the juice, place the empty cup in the tray provided on the left or right. Once you have placed your empty cup in the tray, return to your pew using the outside aisles. If you cannot come forward, indicate to the usher that you would like communion brought to you by an Elder. Our church practices open communion. Anyone who wishes to partake in the Lord's Supper is invited to do so.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, We come before you, aware of the hidden threads that bind us to you and to one another, yet we confess that we often neglect the roots of our joy. We have failed to nurture the deep connections that sustain our spirits, choosing instead the shallow pursuits of fleeting happiness.

Forgive us, Lord, for when we have isolated ourselves, cutting off the flow of your love and grace that moves through our lives like mycelium beneath the earth. We have turned away from the quiet places where your joy grows, seeking satisfaction in what is temporary and superficial.

We confess that in our struggles, we have allowed despair to take root, forgetting that joy can thrive even in the darkest soil. We have resisted the resilience of joy, choosing to remain in our brokenness rather than trusting in your power to transform and renew us.

Help us, O God, to return to the source of all joy, to reconnect with you and with one another. Cultivate in us a spirit of gratitude and contentment, that we may find joy in every season. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain us with your Spirit.

In the silence of this moment, we bring before you the places in our lives where we need your healing, your forgiveness, and your joy...

[Silence]

Thank you, God, for your mercy that renews us and your joy that strengthens us. We trust in your forgiveness and in the power of your love to weave us back into the fabric of your grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S TABLE TOGETHER

*** CLOSING HYMN# 223 Bless'd Be the God of Israel**

*** BENEDICTION**

*** BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

(congregation left leads, congregation right responds)

Congregation left: Soli deo gloria

Congregation right: Soli deo gloria

Congregation left: To God alone all glory be

Congregation right: To God alone all glory be

All: Amen, amen, amen.

POSTLUDE

Unclouded Day

***Please stand as you are able.**

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Church Center following worship.

Serving Today

Lay LeaderAnna McHale
Communion.....Cathy Rees (EOM) & Heather Meacham
Greeter(s) Bob Heineman
Coffee Hour Regina Burke
Piano Peter O'Connor
SoloistsAmie Acton, Erin Law
Usher.....Deb Stephens
Zoom Hosts Jim Ninos

Looking Ahead

December 8, Second Sunday of Advent

Lay Leader Larry Casey
Greeter(s)MaryBeth McDonough
Coffee Hour MaryBeth McDonough
OrganLaurel Buckwalter
Piano Peter O'Connor
UsherDave Porter
Zoom Hosts..... John Buckwalter & Jim Ninos

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Cookies for Christmas Boxes: Due Dec. 7

Christmas Cookies for the Food Pantry: These cookies can be left in the church kitchen until December 18.

UUC Potluck Dinner & Christmas Party: You're invited to the UUC Christmas Party on **Sunday, December 8th, at 5 PM** in the King David Room of the Church Center! The Youth will host a festive evening of inspiration, Christmas carols, and a magical mystery 'White Elephant' activity. As part of the event, they are inviting you to share a story about a time you were gifted something (tangible or not) and how it impacted you. If you'd like to contribute, please ensure you're comfortable with your story being shared during the program. Submit your story via this form: (<https://forms.gle/EFZ4Qrmf5qKwQz1v5>).

Dish-to-pass dinner items needed: salads, veggies, fruit, side dishes, main dishes, bread & rolls, desserts, wish cakes. Please contact Cindy Tucker with items you can bring. ckaytucker@gmail.com or 607.368.6431

The Christmas Eve choir needs singers! Luanne and Laurel will be directing a community choir. Rehearsals will be on Sunday nights, December 15 and December 22, at 7 PM in the sanctuary. Laurel is hoping that church members will be able to provide special music on Sunday morning December 22, doing one of the songs we will learn on the 15th.

212 Comfort, Comfort, O My People

GENEVA 42 (FREU DICH SEHR) 8.7.8.7.7.7.8.8

F Dm Bb F C F

1 Com - fort, com - fort, O my peo - ple, speak of peace, now says our God.
 2 Hark, the voice of one who's cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 O make straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain.

Dm Bb F C F

Com - fort those who sit in shad - ows, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.
 bid - ding all to full re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits a ho - ly reign.

C F Bb C

Speak un - to Jer - u - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them.
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
 For the glo - ry of our God now o'er earth is shed a - broad.

F Gm Dm F Bb F Bb C F

Tell of all the sins I cov - er, and that war - fare now is o - ver.
 Val - leys, rise in ex - al - ta - tion; hills, bow down in ad - o - ra - tion.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

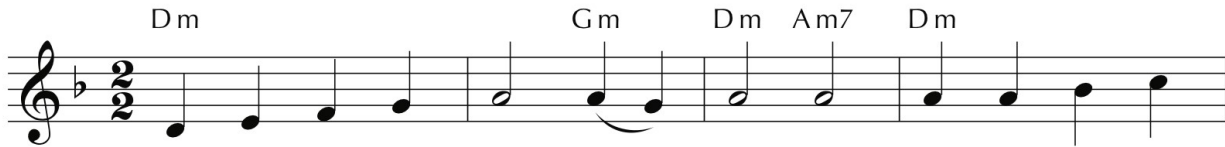
Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

Text: based on Isaiah 40:1-5; Johannes Olearius (present-day Germany), "Tröstet, tröstet, meine Lieben," *Geistliche Singe-Kunst*, 1671; trans. Catherine Winkworth (England), *Chorale Book for England*, 1863, alt.

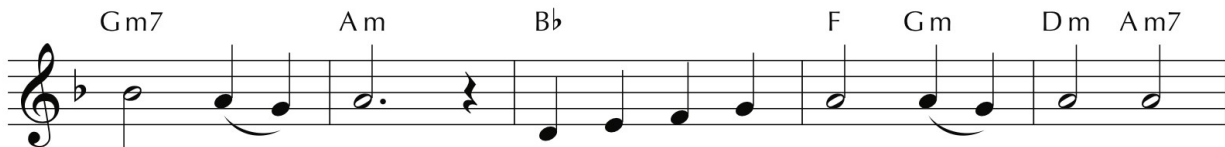
Music: Louis Bourgeois (present-day France), *Genevan Psalter, Octante Trois Pseaumes de David*, 1551; harm. adapt. from Claude Goudimel (present-day France), *150 Pseaumes de David*, 1564

238 Wisdom from on High Is Dawning

PICARDY Irregular



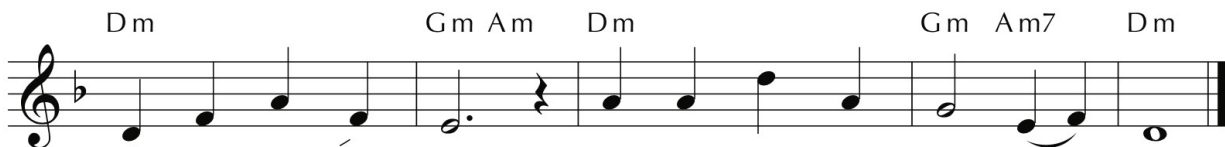
1 Wis - dom from on high is dawn - ing. E - ven now a
 2 In her heart the joy of heav - en, in her hands the
 3 All cre - a - tion stands in won - der as her glo - ry



gold - en ray shines in - to a world of shad - ows
 poor of earth, on her back all hu - man sor - row,
 fills the sky. Down in ad - o - ra - tion fall - ing,



from the realms of end - less day. Hid - den womb who birthed the
 in her laugh all hu - man mirth. God most hu - man, God most
 we her chil - dren raise the cry: She who is and was and



heav - ens in the womb now hides a - way.
 ho - ly, God in - car - nate comes to birth.
 ev - er - more shall be, al - le - lu - ia! God most high!

For an alternate chord progression, see "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" (#432).

Text: Adam Michael Wood (USA), rev. 2017, © 2010 Adam Michael Wood
 Music: French traditional, *Chansons populaires des provinces de France*, 1860



461 Come to the Table of Grace

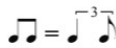
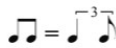
Swing:  = 

TABLE OF GRACE 7.7.10.7

Capo 3:(D) F (A) C (Bm) Dm (D7/A) F7/C (G) Bb

Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) C (D) F (A) C (D) F (Em) Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/F#) F/A (G) Bb (D/A) F/C (A7) C7 (D) F (G) Bb (D) F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace . . .
- 3 Come to the table of love . . .
- 4 Come to the table of hope . . .
- 5 Come to the table of joy . . .

Text: Barbara Hamm (USA)
 Music: Barbara Hamm
 © 2008 Hope Publishing Company



223 Bless'd Be the God of Israel

WEBB 7.6.7.6 D

Capo 1: (A) B \flat (D) E \flat (A) B \flat (E) F

1 Bless'd be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
 2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace is giv'n,
 3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,

who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty!
 a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heav'n.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,

The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease,
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.

God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 Oh, bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

(A) B \flat (D) E \flat (A) B \flat (E7) F7 (A) B \flat

(E) F (A) B \flat (D) E \flat (A/E) (E) B \flat /F F