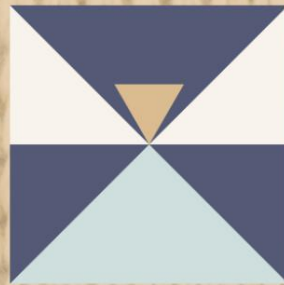




FOR THE BEGINNING

— YOU ARE A BLESSING —



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2024
10:30AM WORSHIP**



First Presbyterian
Church of Albany

Welcome!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or have grown up here at FPC,
we are glad you are worshipping here this morning!

The Gathering

**indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

Prelude on 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'

Adolphus Hailstork

Welcome & Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

David & Roseline

Takor

One: How does a weary world practice peace?

**All: By listening before we speak and saying
sorry when we need to.**

One: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor.

By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

**All: By choosing grace over hate and opening
the door for each other.**

One: There are a million ways to practice peace.

So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and charge.

All: With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

Choral Introit

To a Virgin, Meek and Mild

David N. Johnson

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

To a virgin meek and mild came an angel holy,
greeting her, the undefiled, in her chamber lowly;
"Hail to thee, thou blessed one, chosen mother of God's son.
Through a wondrous birth he shall come to earth,
and shall reign as a King forever." Jesus, blessed savior.

***Call to Worship**

One: God says,

All: "Do not be afraid."

One: God says,

All: "I have called you by name"

One: God says,

All: "I will be with you."

One: God says,

All: "You are precious and honored in my sight."

One: At the beginning of this season,

All: at the start of the week,

One: at the top of this hour,

All: may we wrap ourselves in these words. May we begin again.

One: Let us worship our Holy God!

***Hymn No. 88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(verses 1, 2, 6 & 7 only)

VENI EMMANUEL

***Prayer of Confession**

Affirming God, your first words to creation were words of love.

You spoke affirmations through the prophets.

You spoke blessings over Mary.

You spoke belonging through Christ.

**At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing,
made in your image, held in your love.**

Forgive us for forgetting this truth.

**Forgive us for measuring our worth by societies measuring stick instead of
yours.**

We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray,

Silent prayers of personal confession may be offered.

***Kyrie Eleison**

Lord, Have Mercy

TRADITIONAL



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

***The Welcome and Peace**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

The congregation greets one another with words and signs of peace.

***Gloria Patri No. 582** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD (VASILE)



1. Glo - ry to God, _____ whose good - ness shines on me, and to the
2. World with - out end, _____ with - out end. A - men. World with-out



Son, _____ whose grace has set me free, and to the Spir-it, _____ whose love has
end, _____ with - out end. A - men. World with-out end, _____ with - out



set me free. As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be. A - men.
end. A - men.

The Word

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 43 1-7 (O.T., p.672)

Chas Kite

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Dixit Maria

Hans Leo Hassler

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Dixit Maria ad angelum/Mary said to the Angel:

Ecce ancilla Domini/Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord

fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum/let it be done to me, according to your word.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:26-38 (N.T., pp. 56-57)

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Our Response

*Hymn No. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Prayers of the People

John Myers

*There is a “Prayers of the People” book on the table in the back of the sanctuary. We encourage the congregation to write their concerns and thanksgivings in the book before the service so they can be included in the Prayers of the People. Several petitions are offered, each concluding with: O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Ushers will pass the offering plates to each pew. There are also offering receptacles located in the back of the sanctuary. You may place your offering in one on the way into worship or as you leave. You may also donate online at <https://firstpresalbany.org/give/> or scan the QR code to the right.



Offertory

The Day Draws on With Golden Light

Edward Bairstow

The day draws on with golden light, glad songs go echoing through the height,
the broad earth lifts an answering cheer, the deep makes moan with wailing fear.

For lo, he comes, the mighty King, to take from death his power and sting,
to trample down his gloomy reign and break the weary prisoner’s chain.
Maker of all, to thee we pray, fulfil in us thy joy today;
when death assaults, grant, Lord, that we may share thy paschal mystery.

*Doxology (sung in unison)



Praise God, from whom all bless- ings flow; Praise Christ, all peo- ple here be - low; Praise



Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more; Praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Eucharist (Thanksgiving)

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

All those, including children, who seek the way of Christ and desire fellowship in the church are invited to the Lord's Table to share in our common meal of Thanksgiving.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(prayer continues)

One: ...Hear us now as together we pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

The congregation is served at the front of the sanctuary, coming forward by the center aisle and returning by the side aisles. Communion is by intinction – take a piece of bread from the loaf or a piece of pita from the plate, dip it into the cup of juice, and eat. When served, you may respond by saying “Amen,” “Thanks be to God,” or another response. You may choose a sealed prepackaged communion element from one of the baskets – the ones with “GF” are gluten-free. If you prefer to receive communion in the pew, you may remain in your seat and signal an usher. Servers will bring you the elements.

Communion Music

Prepare the Way

Margareta Jalkeus

Fiona McKinney, *alto*

Prepare the way, O Zion; ye awful deeps rise high;
sink low ye lofty mountains; the Lord is drawing nigh;
the righteous King of glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is he that came in God the Father's name.
O Zion, he approaches, your Lord and King for aye;
strew palms where he advances, spread garment in his way.
God's promise faileth never; Hosanna sound forever.
O blest is he that came in God the Father's name.

Prayer after Communion

**All: Nourishing God, sometimes we tell ourselves
that too much has taken place to begin again.**

We think the world is too far gone.

We think we have made too many mistakes.

We tell ourselves that we can't possibly begin again.

But then we come to this table, and we get a glimpse of your kingdom.

We come to this table, and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed.

And just like that, we have hope.

Just like that, we begin again.

Thank you for the gift of this fresh start.

**Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us
that it's never too late to build your kingdom here.**

We are grateful.

We are so grateful.

Amen

The Sending

***Hymn No. 106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

***Charge and Blessing**

***Response by the People (in unison) Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.**

***Responsive Hymn No. 92**

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING (CASON)

While we are wait - ing, come; _____ while we are wait - ing, come. _____

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, while we are wait - ing, come. _____

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with blank lines for the end of phrases.

Postlude

Postlude on 'Prepare the Way, O Zion'

Paul Manz

You may be seated if you wish to listen to the postlude.

Please come to Assembly Hall for Fellowship Time.

For your convenience and as an aid to your worship experience, large print hymnals and Bibles are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

The music is reprinted under CCLI License #2853455 and OneLicense #A-716938.

Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed of A Sanctified Art LLC sanctifiedart.org

Serving you on Sunday, December 1

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Jeff Durgee, Ellen Kemp, Rachel Smith, and Roseline Takor

Online Worship Assistant: Jeff & Meddy Jacques

Scripture Reader: Chas Kite

Prayer Reader: John Myers

Communion Servers: David Takor & Betsy Hadden

Offering Counters: John Myers & Yousaf Mathias

Audio Visual Specialist: Kevin Fuscus

Serving you on Sunday, December 8

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: FPC Youth, Molly Dowell, and Lillie McLaughlin

Online Worship Assistant: Mary Rogers

Scripture Reader: FPC Youth

Prayer Reader: Molly Dowell

Communion Servers: Kathie Keck & Lillie McLaughlin

Offering Counters: Leslie Cheu & Marc Boucher

All are Welcome in this Place!

New faces and voices are always welcome and add to the spirit of our worship, education, mission and fellowship. Let us know you worshipped with us by either filling in the yellow card in the pew in front of you or by scanning the QR code. Pastors Miriam & Glenn use email addresses to share congregational email and important announcements about the life of the church.



First Presbyterian Church

is a community for all people where apprentices of Jesus seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

We are called by God to envision and work toward eradicating systemic poverty, eliminating structural racism and sharing the experience of the good news of God's love, peace and joy.

We welcome children to our worship services. Nursery care for children ages birth through kindergarten is provided on the second floor of the Christian Education Building. Nursery care is available from 8:45am to 12:15pm and is staffed by experienced childcare providers Morgan Odom and Mary Margaret Cabuhat.

Parking is available on Sunday mornings in Washington Park. There is also a parking lot on Washington Avenue just west of Lark Street available during church services on Sunday mornings. The church parking lot on Sunday mornings is reserved for visitors and for those who, for physical reasons, need close access to the church. Please note the spaces reserved for those with disabilities, and please do not block other cars.

We continue to livestream our Sunday worship services on Facebook.

Christian Education on Sunday mornings

9:15-10:15 Education Classes in the Education Building

Godly Play in the Preschool Class on 2nd floor (age 3 thru kindergarten)

Godly Play in The Upper Rooms on 3rd floor (Grades 1-5)

Youth Education in the Youth Room on 2nd floor (Grades 6-12)

Adult Education is the Rose Room

Announcements

Today's **Adult Education Class** looked at the texts and meaning for the first Sunday in Advent. **Next week** the class will look at the message of the second Sunday in Advent.



Aging With Pride
Monthly Potluck
Today, December 1,

1:00pm - 3:00pm First Pres Church. This is a wonderful opportunity for LGBTQ+ seniors to come together in a welcoming, supportive environment to share food, stories, and laughter.

The **paraments** (the cloth on the pulpit, lectern, and communion table) and the **pastors' stoles** (the cloth around their necks) are blue, one of the liturgical colors for the season of Advent (the four Sundays before Christmas Day). Blue is the color associated with Mary the mother of Jesus. As she prepared for his birth, so do we.

Advent Prayer Pause

- Tuesday, December 3, 10, and 17
- 12pm-12:10pm

Join New Breath Spirituality Center for a short time of prayer during lunch time on the 3 Tuesdays before Christmas! We will be praying together via Instagram Live— follow us @newbreathsc and come for a 10-minute prayer pause on December 3, 10, and 17.

Would you like to sponsor a **poinsettia plant** to decorate the sanctuary in Advent and Christmas this year? You may do so in honor or memory of a loved one, and that dedication will be noted in the worship bulletin beginning December 22. There are three ways to make your dedication. 1) By emailing the church office (info@firstpresalbany.org) a note that spells out the dedication as well as the name of the dedicator. Then visit the website (firstpresalbany.org/give/), scroll down to the bottom of the page and make your payment online (\$16 per poinsettia) OR 2) Fill out one of the forms that is located in the pews in the sanctuary and put that and your check in the offering plate or offering box OR 3) Mail a check to the church for \$16 per poinsettia, along with a note that spells out the dedication as well as name of the dedicator.
Deadline is December 15.

The Youth of First Pres are hosting a Giving Tree for the Northern Rivers Holiday Giving Campaign. Please visit the Giving Tree in the Assembly Hall. It is laden with gift tags from Northern Rivers' Teen Wish List for youth ages 13-19 served by Northern Rivers agencies. **Simply take** a gift tag from the Giving Tree, purchase the gift, and **return both the tag and gift to the church by Sunday, December 15.** Please return all gifts unwrapped.

Festival Celebration Choir (which rehearses at FPC) and the Capital Community Voices will present **“A Season for Song” on Sunday, December 15, at 3pm at Emmanuel Reformed Church in Castleton.** Both choirs are directed by Julie Panke and will resound with holiday celebration. The concert will explore seasonal repertoire accompanied by harp, flute, piano, percussion and bass, in various combinations. The concert will include the music of G.F. Handel, John Rutter, and others, as well as popular selections and a carol sing with audience participation. Tickets are \$15. Children 12 and under are free. For further information contact: Meg Meehan at: publicity@festivalcelebrationchoir.org or <https://festivalcelebrationchoir.org>.

Calling all bakers and cooks: Whether it's a dozen cookies, a pan of brownies, a bottle of seltzer, dip & chips, or crudité, please contribute to First Friday Festive Snack Table - contact Pastor Miriam to let her know what you'll be bringing.

Each month the **FOCUS Food Pantry** requests items from its member churches. FPC's December donation is shampoo. All items must be new and unopened. The **FOCUS Food Pantry** is also requesting one-pound bags of rice, as they are unable to get these from suppliers, as well as cake mix and frosting for the Christmas baskets to be collected by **December 8.** Please leave donations in the box in Assembly Hall. Questions? Call Susan Sneeringer at 518-496-4793.

First Fridays at First Presbyterian

An Experience of Visual and Musical Art

Friday, December 6, 2024

Johann Sebastian Bach

Magnificat

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir,
Soloists, and Chamber Orchestra

Michael Lister, director

Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organ

Songs of the Virgin

First Presbyterian Octet



In the Gallery:

Holiday Artisan Marketplace

Concert begins at 6:00 pm

Art Gallery hours: 5:30 ~ 8:00 pm

362 State Street (1 block off of Lark Street)



FOR THE **BEGINNING**

REMINDERS FOR NEW SEASONS



YOU ARE A BLESSING



WE CAN'T GO ALONE



DO THE GOOD THAT IS YOURS TO DO



DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH



HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK



THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT



LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME

Come explore these words with us each Sunday during Advent and Christmas

10:30am worship service in the sanctuary and online (Facebook and YouTube)

11:45am Fellowship Time



for more info



FOR THE **BEGINNING**

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PRES

Join us for special events

Friday, December 6 – First Friday at First Pres

5:30–8:00pm Holiday Artisan Marketplace

6:00pm Concert – *Songs of the Virgin*

First Presbyterian Octet

6:45pm Concert – *Bach's Magnificat*

with Chancel Choir, Orchestra and Soloists

Saturday, December 14 - Potluck and Carol Sing

5:00 –7:00pm ALL AGES welcome!

Dinner and carol singing in Assembly Hall

Thursday, December 19 – Labyrinth open to the public

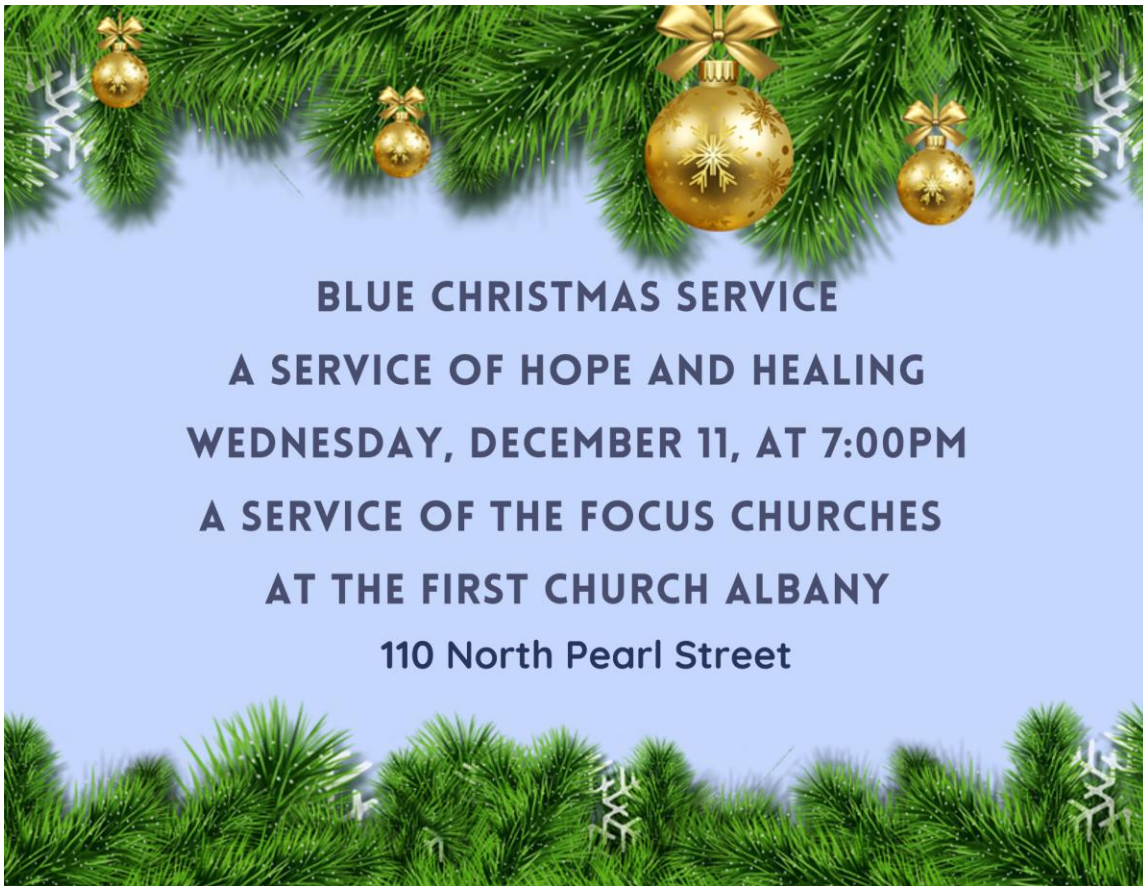
11:00am–2:00pm and 5:00 –7:00pm

Come walk the labyrinth

Guides on hand to answer questions

Sunday, December 22 - Cookie Exchange

11:45am during Fellowship Time



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
A SERVICE OF HOPE AND HEALING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, AT 7:00PM
A SERVICE OF THE FOCUS CHURCHES
AT THE FIRST CHURCH ALBANY
110 North Pearl Street



Potluck and Carol Sing
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
5:00 - 7:00pm
First Presbyterian Church's Assembly Hall
Contact the church to let us know if you're coming.
Bring a dish to share, if able.
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!
362 State Street • 518-449-7332
info@firstpresalbany.org

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

- Sunday, 12/01 11:45 am Fellowship Time
12:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
1:00 pm Aging with Pride Monthly Potluck
- Monday, 12/02 7:00pm FCC Rehearsal
- Tuesday, 12/03 5:45pm Outreach and Missions Committee Meeting
- Thursday, 12/05 7:00 am Men's Bible Study
6:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Friday, 12/06 5:30 pm First Friday Gallery
6:00 pm First Friday Concert
- Saturday, 12/07 9:30 am Officer Training

Next Sunday, 12/08

- 9:15 am Adult Education
9:15 am Children's Education (1st through 5th grade)
9:15 am Preschool Education
9:15 am Youth Education
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Worship Service in the sanctuary and livestreaming on
Facebook
11:45 am Fellowship Time
12:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal



First Presbyterian
Church of Albany

362 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 • Phone: 518.449.7332
Fax: 518.472.0449 • info@firstpresalbany.com
firstpresalbany.org

*Glenn D. Leupold, Co-Pastor • Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co-Pastor • Michael C. Lister, Director of Music
Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist • Molly Dowell, Youth Director • Steven Minchin, Office Administrator*

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

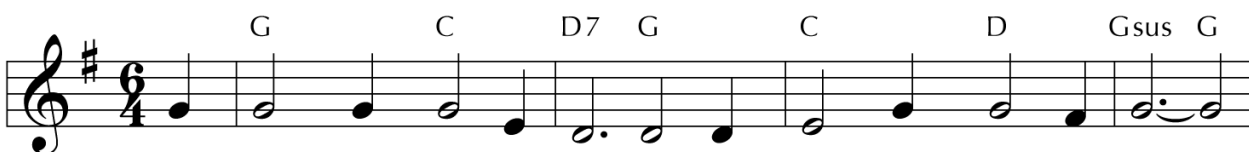
from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.
 MUSIC: *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain