

# *The Third Sunday of Advent*

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December 11, 2022

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Strengthen your hearts,  
for the coming of the Lord is near.

James 5:8

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**Sunday, December 11, 2022**

Third Sunday of Advent

The Candle of Joy



Tolling of the Bell

Prelude

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting

**God of Joy, strengthen our conviction and make firm our confidence. Speak to our fearful hearts. As the crocus blossoms before the snow melts, we rejoice and revel, even though the journey is not over, and our transformation has only begun.**

*Isaiah 35, Psalm 146*

Sung Response *Softly Tenderly, Jesus is Calling (chorus)*

The Peace of Christ

Psalm 146:5-10

Blessing

Children's Time

Sermon

Choir Anthem

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

*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.*

*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, the power, and the glory, Amen.*

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Transformation Moment

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Doxology            *Each week, we sing and sign an inclusive Doxology (ASL).*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God all creatures here below.*

*Praise God for all that love has done.*

*Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.*

Closing Hymn            *Good Christians Friends, Rejoice*

Benediction

Postlude

*Following the Benediction, the congregation is encouraged to enjoy the entire Postlude.*



Today's Chancel Flowers are given by Roberta Kwiatkowski,  
in joyful celebration of this season of Advent.



## Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Luke 2:8-14

St. 1, Johann Rist, 1641  
 Transl. John Troutbeck, c. 1885; alt.  
 St. 2, Fred Pratt Green, 1986



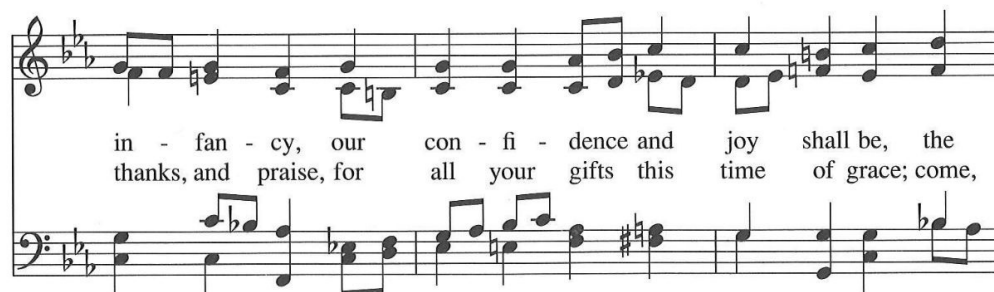
1 Break forth, O beau-teous heaven - ly light, and ush - er in the  
 2 Come, dear - est child, in - to our hearts, and leave your crib be -



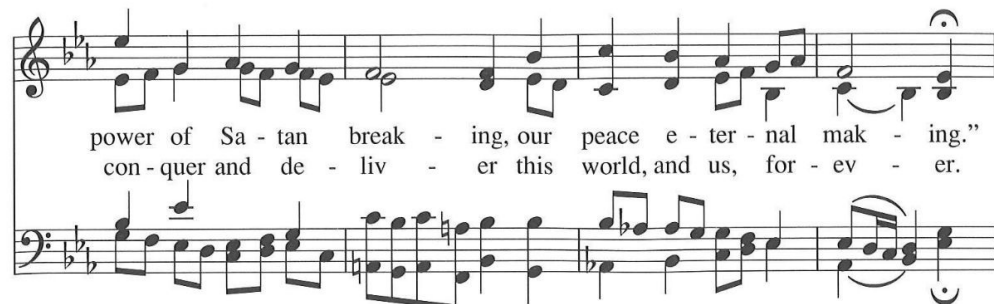
morn - ing; O shep - herds, shud - der not in fright, but  
 hind you! Let this be where the new life starts for



hear the an - gel's warn - ing. "This child, now weak in  
 all who seek and find you. To you the hon - or,



in - fan - cy, our con - fi - dence and joy shall be, the  
 thanks, and praise, for all your gifts this time of grace; come,



power of Sa - tan break - ing, our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing."  
 con - quer and de - liv - er this world, and us, for - ev - er.

# 418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*

watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

# 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

# Bulletin Reminders for December 11, 2022

## WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

### Through December 18

New or gently-used winter indoor and outdoor clothes are needed for middle and high school students in Framingham. Jeans, corduroys, sweaters, vests, long-sleeve knit shirts, jackets, coats, hats, and gloves. All sizes are needed and welcome. *(Please, no small sizes or designs. Medium to larger sizes are probably best.)* Please label your donations and leave them in the playpen/bin in the Parish Hall foyer. The collection runs through Sunday, **December 18**. If you have any questions about high school donations, please contact Todd Witherow, at [witherowt@gmail.com](mailto:witherowt@gmail.com) or call/text him at 508.561.1994. For middle school donation questions, call/text Mattie Schadt, at 774.217.3477.

## FRAMINGHAM TOGETHER

Framingham Together consists of organizations that stand in solidarity against racism and discrimination of any kind and look to create and to foster an inclusive community for all. Launched in 2020, Framingham Together is a coalition of over 40 nonprofit and community partners, committed to ensuring the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion is honored and celebrated in our community. Check out their website and, especially, the extended PSA on the Community page.



*On Saturday, December 3, church members Carole Blackman, Don Copson, Dawn Geiser, and Sue Bliss, raised the Plymouth Church Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary. Thank you, elves!*

## WAYFARER: A MONTHLY EXPLORATION

A wayfarer is a person who travels, a pilgrim on a journey. A wayfinder is a sign or marker that helps orient travelers on the road. This course invites you to consider becoming both: one who journeys and one who guides others. Each month, there are three offerings.

**Self-study:** a video to watch, an article to read, with guiding questions; something you can do on your own.

**Class Discussion:** a large gathering of all participants on Zoom, to discuss and react to that month's topic.

**Small Group:** participants will be assigned to a smaller group for more intimate story sharing and reflection.

Use your *Realm Connect* app to sign up! Or, email Greg at [revmorisse@gmail.com](mailto:revmorisse@gmail.com).

# ADVENT 2022

## THE PLYMOUTH CHURCH IN FRAMINGHAM

87 Edgell Road | Framingham, MA | [plymouthchurchframingham.org](http://plymouthchurchframingham.org)

### POTLUCK & TOY DRIVE

December 4

Bring a toy and a dish to share!

### ONLINE AUCTION

December 4-10

Gifts for everyone in every price range.

### PAGEANT

December 18, 10am

Taking center stage Sunday morning, step into the story of Jesus' birth.

### LONGEST NIGHT

December 21, 7pm

We gather on the longest night of the year in anticipation of the hope to come.

### CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 5pm

At 4:45pm, a string quartet plays carols. At 5pm, we worship and adore in song and in candlelight.

ON CHRISTMAS DAY 12/25 & NEW YEAR'S DAY 1/1,  
WORSHIP WILL BE VIRTUAL-ONLY, ON YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK.