Welcome to

Sunriver Christian Fellowship

An Ecumenical Ministry Sponsored by the Episcopal and Lutheran Churches



The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

10 a.m.

Order of Service

Rev. Dr. Kally Elliott, *Celebrant & Preacher* Jenny Long, *Reader*

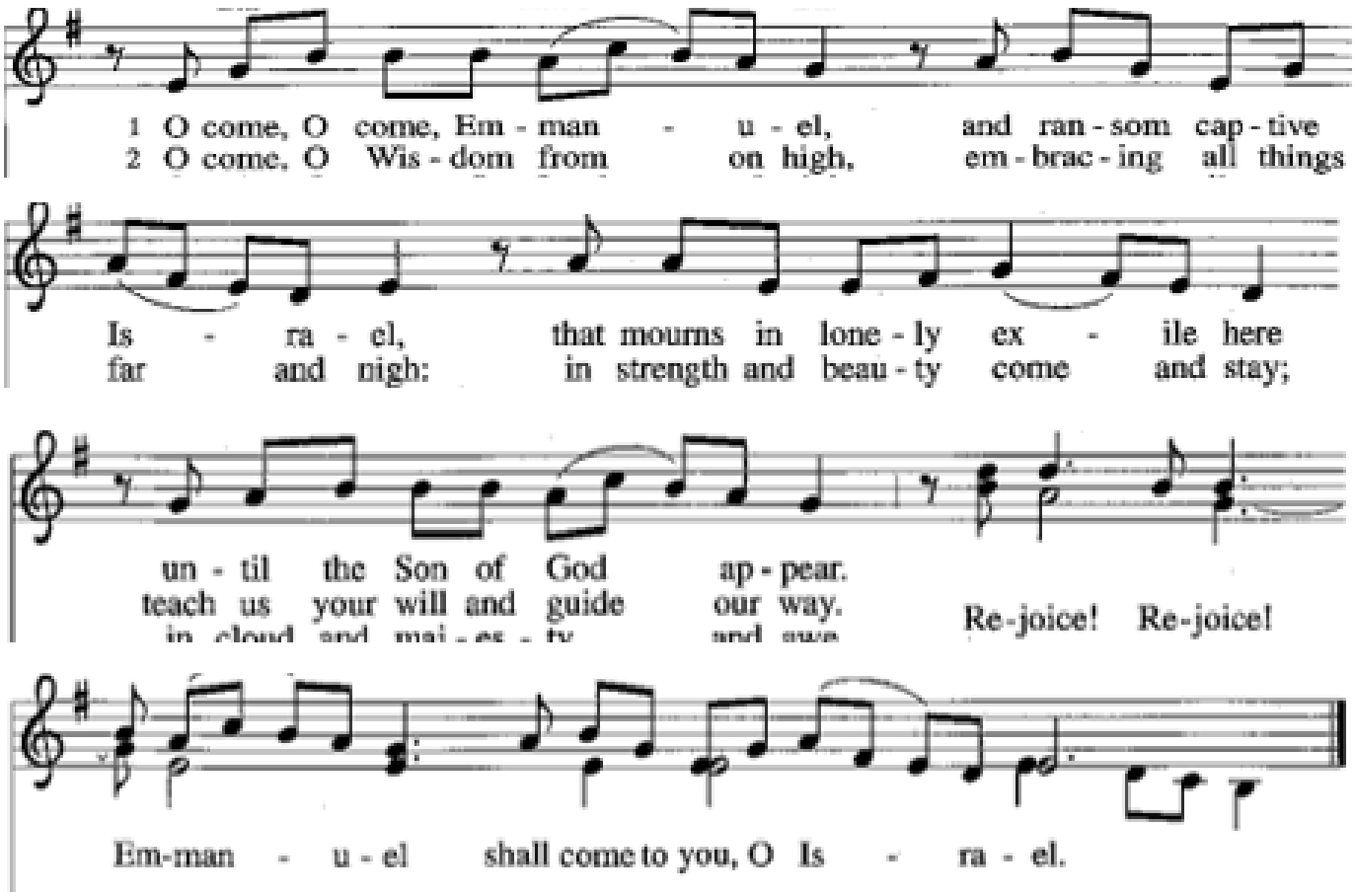
Meagan Iverson, *Pianist;* Don Udlock, *Song Leader*

Please silence all cell phones.

Bells *The ringing of the bells calls us to worship and quiets our minds and voices.*

Gathering Song *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ELW #5257, One License

Please remain seated.



Welcome & Announcements Pastor Kally

Call to Worship

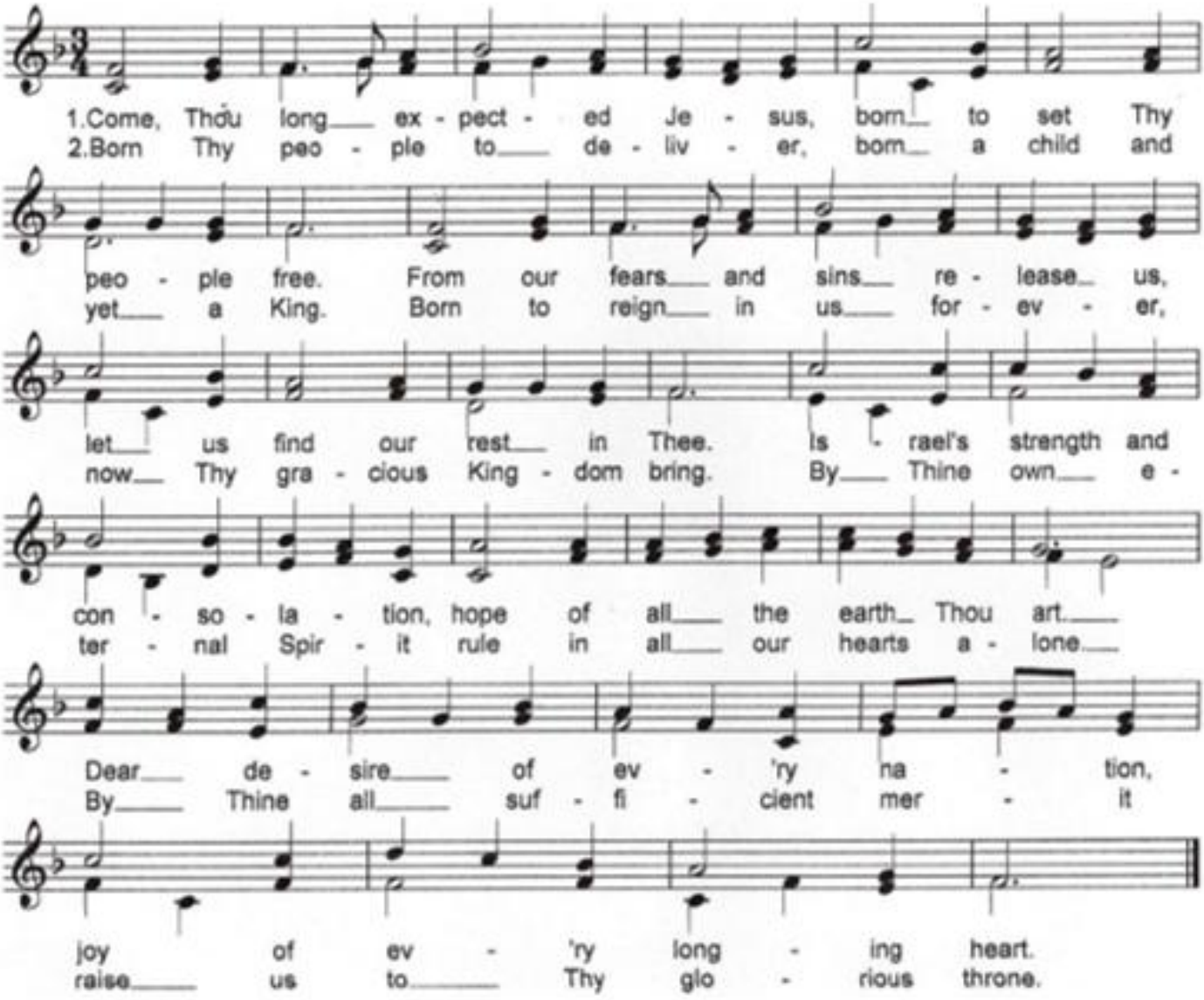
Celebrant: In God's house,
All: **We are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.**
Celebrant: In God's house,
All: **We may come exactly as we are.**
Celebrant: In God's house,
All: **We dare to hope. We dream new dreams. We cry out. We call upon God.**
Celebrant: In God's house,
All: **All are welcome and all are heard.**
Celebrant: So come and worship.
All: **God is here. God is listening. Let us worship our with us God.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader: When the nights are long and the roads are hard,
All: **we turn our eyes to the stars.**
Reader: When the work is demanding and injustice unending,
All: **we stand together, arm in arm.**
Reader: When fear looms large and grief weighs heavy,
All: **we cry out to God without holding back.**
Reader: And when the dawn of tomorrow feels far away,
All: **we gather together to light the candle of hope.**
(Light candle.)
Reader: Like the stars above, may this light shine bright. May it guide our path. May it inspire deeper hope. Until God's promised day, may it be so. Amen.

Opening Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

FOG #168, in Public Domain



Call to Confession

Celebrant: In scripture, we see people cry out to God with honesty and authenticity. The Psalmists pray, "How long, O God?" They beg, "Come and save us," and "Let your face shine upon us." From their raw honesty, we know that we can go to God with just as much honesty about the truth of our lives.

So, join me in the Prayer of Confession. Join me in this moment of truth-telling. Just as the Psalmists did, let us go to God in prayer. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

All: **Holy God,**
we have been known—
to bite our tongues, to work through a broken heart, to don our favorite rose-colored glasses.
We have been known—
to look for the bright side, to sweep the pain under the rug, to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss.
We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves. Forgive us for filtering our honesty. Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament. Forgive us for not turning to you first. Remind us that you are a God who listens and you are a God who restores. With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Celebrant: Whether you pray like the Psalmists—raw and unfiltered— or you can't remember the last time you were honest with God, God loves you. God sees you. And God longs to be in relationship. So, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: There is nothing we could do or say that will keep God's love at bay. We are seen, forgiven, and invited—into deeper honesty and deeper relationship.

All: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Passing of the Peace *Please stand in body or spirit.*

Celebrant: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

Scripture Readings Jenny

A reading from Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn[a] of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

A Reading from Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.
The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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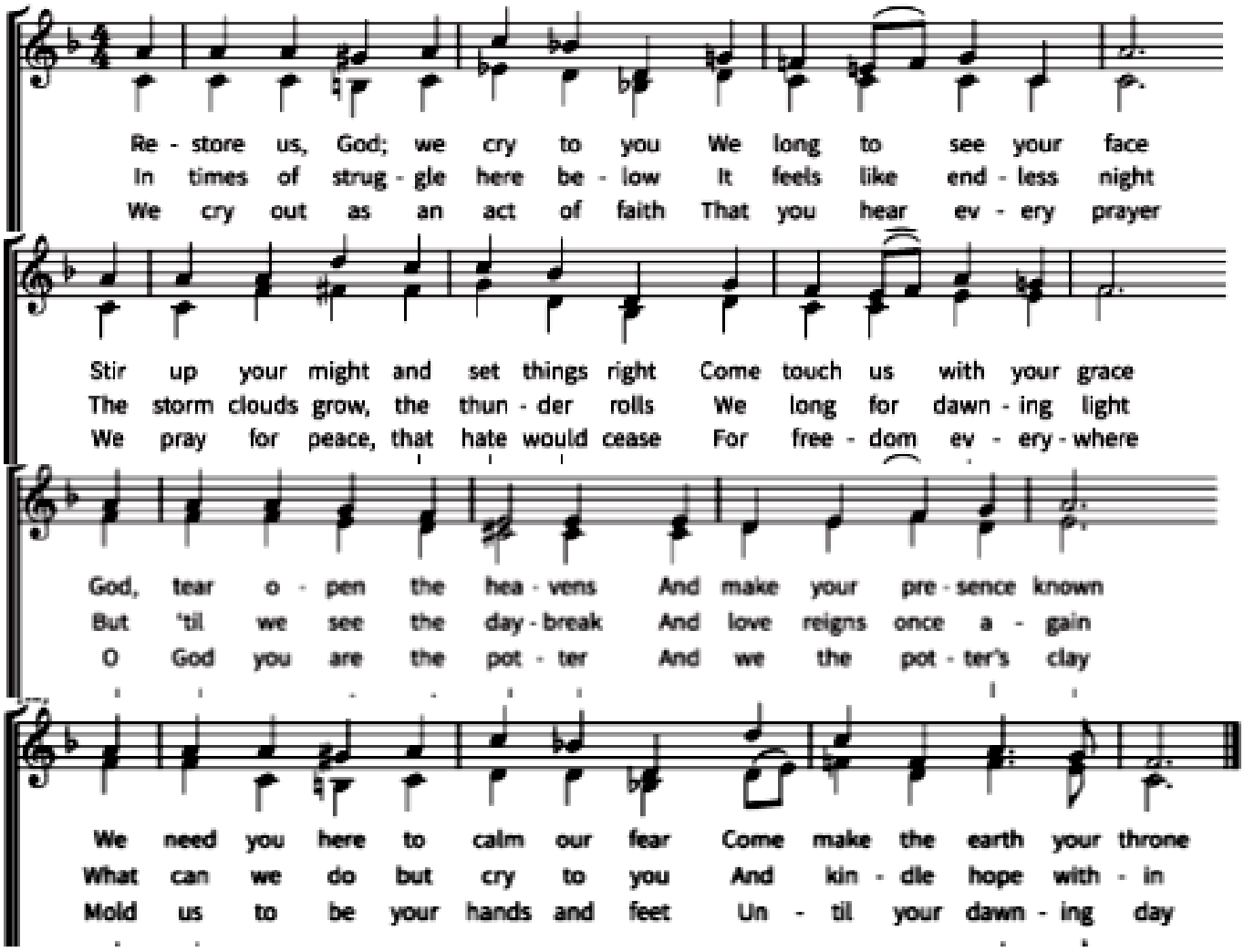
Musical Reflection ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*** Vocal Choir
By John Neale, arr. by Austin
Kathy Bullock, Director

Sermon Pastor Kally

Response Hymn ***Restore Us, God***

Anna Strickland, Commissioned by A Sanctified Art

Please stand in body or spirit.



Affirmation of Faith

We believe even on the longest nights—
when our steps are unclear and fear takes hold—
that the sun is still rising.
We believe in that sunrise like we believe in God's promised day.
So instead of giving in to the great unknown,
we move, in spirit, toward that light.
We summon our courage. We carry each other. We dance under the stars.
We listen for the angels.
And we believe the good news of the gospel, which says that God loves God's creation so fiercely that God took on flesh to be with us.
This is the truth that sustains our journey.
In this, we believe.

Prayers of the People

Reader: God, some of us have been praying for the same person for so long that we hardly know what to ask for anymore. You know who we're thinking of. Be near to the people we love when we can't be there ourselves. Be near, too, to people whose names we may never know, whose children are growing up through war, or who are wondering where they'll sleep tonight. Give those who have the power to help a sense of how long people have already been waiting. Show us where someone is waiting for us.

God, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: Who or what would you like us to pray for with you this morning? You're welcome to share something you're thankful for, too. If you'd like the microphone, just raise your hand.

Pause

Reader: God, some of us are missing someone today. Some of us are waiting for news. Be near to us in what we've said out loud and in what we're holding quietly. Help us remember the people we've prayed for when we go home. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Reader: We'll keep praying for one another through the week. Our offering is another way we care for people together. It helps us keep this place open for prayer and companionship, and it helps us respond when our neighbors need something we can give. Let's receive the offering.

Offertory

Offertory Response: *Please stand in body or spirit.*

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Praise God, in Jesus fully known;
Creator, Word, and Spirit One. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

Celebrant: Advent is a season of waiting. We wait for the birth of the Messiah. We wait for God's promised day. We wait for the sun to rise on a morning when swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears will be turned into pruning hooks.

But our waiting is not passive. While we wait, we will gather at this Table. While we wait, we will break bread, tell stories, and remember who we are and who we belong to.

So, come to this table. Come and be nourished for the journey ahead. For just as surely as the sun will rise, God will always meet us here.

All are welcome.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: God of every tomorrow, God of the stars above us, God of the sunrise before us, we gather at your Table today.

We gather here, hungry for a better tomorrow. We gather here, hungry for your promised day. We gather here, hungry for a glimpse of your Spirit.

So today we pray, meet us in this holy moment. Meet us in this ordinary bread and cup. Meet us as we sing, and pray, and feed one another. Meet us here, that we might be fueled for the journey ahead, for we know that there is work yet to do. We know there is joy to seize, courage to summon, words to speak, songs to sing, and people to love.

So until the dawn rises, until your holy tomorrow, we will gather at your Table to fuel ourselves for this holy work of Advent.

As we do, we will continue to thank you for the stars that guide us, for the community that surrounds us, for the dreams that sustain us, for the Spirit that holds us, and for the bread and cup that nourish us.

What a gift it is to gather at your Table! We will hold onto this gratitude, we will foster our hope, and we will pray the prayer your son taught us to pray…

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

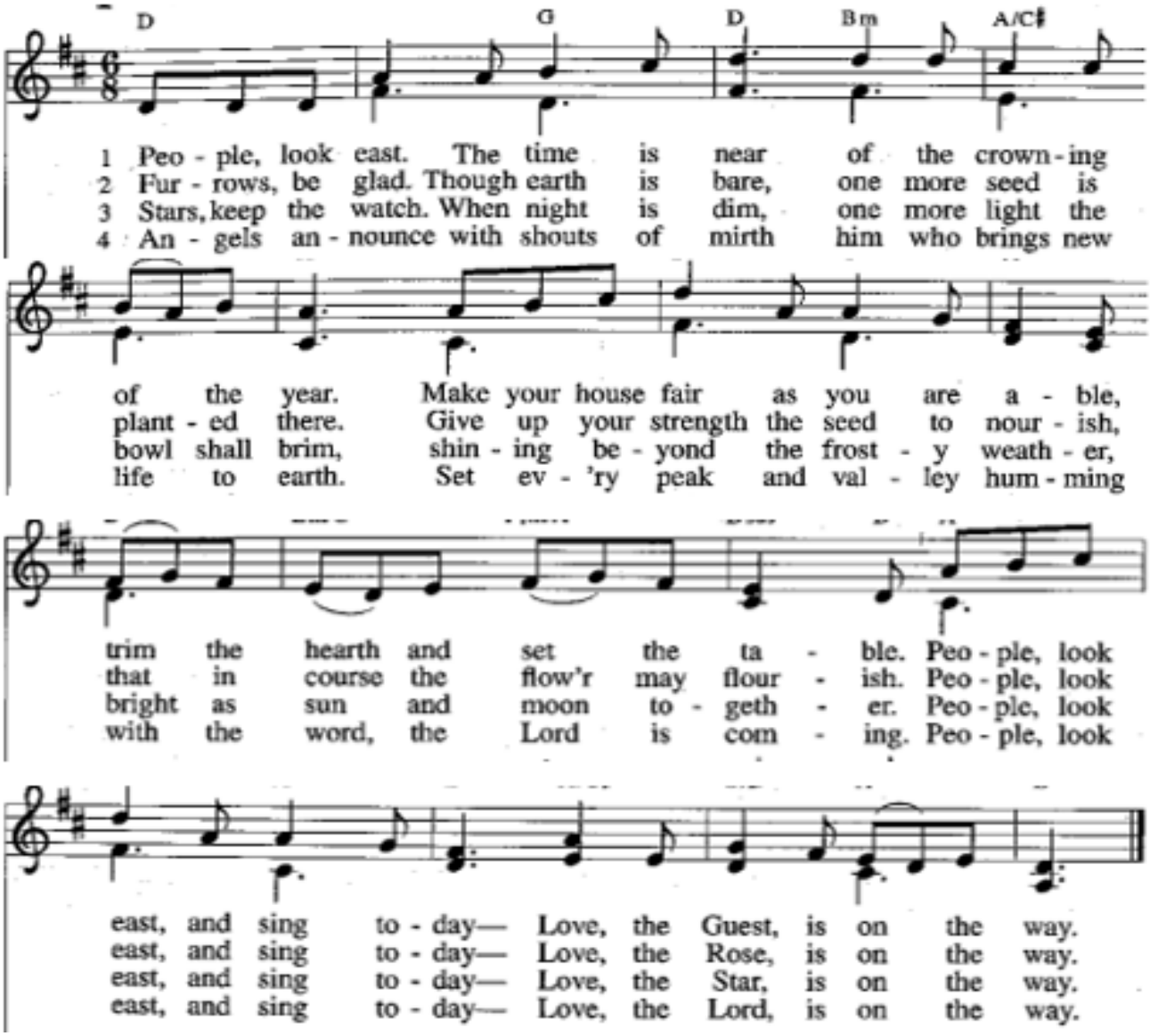
We serve communion by intinction. You are invited to take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, and receive the elements together. Gluten-free and individual sterile options are available.

Prayer after Communion

All: **Holy One, until the dawn, until your promised day, until the sun rises on a world that finally knows peace and harmony, until all people know their love and worth, until that day, until that dawn, until that holy tomorrow, we will gather at this Table. We will break bread, and we will remember what it looks like for all to be fed. Thank you, loving God, for meeting us here once more. Amen.**

Closing Hymn

People, Look East FLW #248



Benediction

Choral Benediction

Coffee is served today by Sally Heise

Next Sunday—Celebrant & Preacher: Pastor Kally Elliott

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER NEEDS: Please keep these people in your prayers: Craig K., Bonnie S., Betsy M., Kelly B., Peter R., Melodee M., Jeanette B., Joan F., Lori, Sandy G., Bob C., Whitney M., Nancy J., Lloyd S., Cliff R., Gina T., Jett A., Rachel, Sharon B., Rich D., Dianne, Curtis S., Melissa J., Sheree, Karin B., Scott J., Lauren B., Carol F., Jennie F., Erik E., Amber F., and Olivia L.

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS AT SCF

November 29 10 a.m. Worship Service, 1st Sunday of Advent, Pastor Kally
December 2 6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m., Room to Breathe music (see article)
December 6 10 a.m. Worship Service, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Pastor Kally
December 10 6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m., Room to Breathe music (see article)
December 13 10 a.m. Worship Service, 3rd Sunday of Advent, Pastor Kally
December 15 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Managing Board Meeting
December 15 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Memory Café
December 16 6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m., Service of Comfort and Hope, Pastor Kally
December 20 10 a.m. Worship Service, 4th Sunday of Advent, Pastor Kally
December 23 6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m., Room to Breathe music (see article)
December 24 3:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Family Service
December 24 5:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Evening Service, Pastor Kally
December 27 10 a.m. Worship Service, Pastor Kally

GUEST BOOK: We would love it if our guests would sign the guest book with your full mailing address. It is located in the lobby on the counter by the coffee bar.

NEW OUR DAILY BREAD: Copies of Our Daily Bread for December, January, and February, are now available in the rack on the wall and on the counter at the end of the coffee bar by the front door.

TODAY'S FLOWERS

Flowers this morning are given in honor of the marriage of Syndey Boutz and Gabriel Tambellini, by Nancy and Roy Green

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service will be held for Andy Elsbree on Friday December 4th, at 2 PM at Trinity Episcopal Church in Bend.

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY · AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MARK
Bring your lunch and join the Rev. Dr. Jeff Bullock, an Episcopal priest and familiar face at SCF, for a five-week introduction to the Gospel of Mark, the Gospel we'll hear most often in worship this lectionary year. We'll meet on Wednesdays from noon to about 1 p.m., **January 6 through February 3.**

Jeff will hand out a study guide at the first meeting. Please bring an NRSV Bible, ideally one you feel comfortable writing in. There'll be plenty of room for questions and absolutely no grades. Come for the conversation and a chance to explore what Mark has to say to us today.

Please sign up on the clipboard in the coffee area or call the church office and let Joan know you will be attending. **We need at least five people who can commit to the five-week study. Please check the dates before signing up and make attending each week a priority**. If bad weather makes travel difficult, we'll reschedule that week's meeting.

SNOW REMOVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! Some shoveling required, snowblower also available. Call Steve Warner 509-760-3714

ROOM TO BREATHE: ADVENT EVENINGS OF MUSIC AND REFLECTION
December fills up fast. Take a quiet break with 45 minutes of peaceful, improvised piano music with Meagan Iverson. Bring your knitting or journal, or simply come to settle in for a pause in the season. **Dec. 2, 10, and 23 · 6:15–7:15**

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE
If the holidays feel tender this year, join us for a quiet Advent service with room for grief and hope. **Wednesday, Dec. 16 · 6:15–7:15 p.m.**

SUNRIVER COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SHARING PROGRAM
How To Help: Pick up a bag on or behind the coffee bar counter by the window. Fill the bag with items listed on the sheet. Return the bag. They will be picked up twice a week through December 11. Donate cash or checks. See the poster on our Community Bulletin Board for more information.

TREE OF GRATITUDE: Continuing throughout November, we invite you to embrace the spirit of Thanksgiving by reflecting on the many blessings in your life. Visit our **Tree of Gratitude** in the lobby, write something you are thankful for on a leaf, and add it to the tree. Together, let's watch our tree grow with gratitude and abundance!

MANAGING BOARD:
The Managing Board will be meeting on different days and a different time because of the Thanksgiving Holiday and Christmas. The December Managing Board Meeting will be **December 15th at 10am** in Fellowship Hall. All are Welcome.

SCAN TO DONATE to SCF: Simply scan the code and it will take you directly to the SCF donation page.