Until the Dawn

CRY OUT

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
ARLINGTON, VA

Rev. Caitlin Culp, **Pastor**
Kent Hamaker, **Director of Christian Formation and Outreach**
Melissa McMahan, **Music Director**

Church of the Covenant
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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

November 29th, 2026 **1st Sunday of Advent** **11:00 am**

(*) You're invited to stand as you are able.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Caitlin Culp

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)*

One: In God's house,

All: we are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.

One: In God's house,

All: we may come exactly as we are.

One: In God's house,

All: we dare to hope. We dream new dreams. We cry out. We call upon God.

One: In God's house,

All: all are welcome and all are heard.

One: So come and worship.

All: God is here. God is listening. Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN** #105 *People, Look East*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Responsive)*

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. *Silent prayer…*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***RESPONSE** #113 (excerpt) *Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

One: May the love and peace of Christ be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

ANTHEM

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Leader: The word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

TIME WITH CHILDREN Caitlin Culp

SECOND SCRIPTURE Isaiah 64:1-9 Caitlin Culp

SERMON Caitlin Culp

***HYMN** *Restore Us, God*
(to the tune of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" - see insert)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(Unison)*
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 & THE LORD'S PRAYER
Prayer requests are listed in the bulletin. You're invited to share prayer requests aloud.

EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

You may write a check, place cash in the offering plate, or give online with the QR code.

***DOXOLOGY #607** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** *Until the Dawn* (see insert)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Thank you for sharing in this time of worship with us. Today's Usher is Lourdes Gonzalez. The liturgist is Mary Margaret Whipple. Coffee Hour is hosted by Mary Margaret Whipple & the Worship Team. The worship service is recorded and available on YouTube and the church's website. "Until the Dawn" Advent worship materials are from A Sanctified Art LLC: https://sanctifiedart.org/.

Large print hymn books, individual seat cushions, and children's activity packets are available from the usher at the entrance. Children of all ages are welcome to stay in the sanctuary for all parts of the worship service.

Bathrooms are located outside of the sanctuary to the right, through the narthex, and up the small set of stairs in the foyer. A diaper changing station is in the Sunday School Room, which is off the front of the sanctuary. An ADA-accessible bathroom is located in the fellowship hall. To access the fellowship hall, drive around to the parking lot and enter through the double doors.

PRAYER LIST

Teres Debbie **Travel mercies** **Dick & Dolores**

Victims of shootings & executions **Diane** **Greg**

Victims of hurricanes & other disasters **Othow and his ministry in South Sudan**

Those with new diagnoses. Those in the midst of transitions. Our country's leaders.

Peace in the Middle East; for **cessation of hostilities between Israel, Iran, & USA.**

**If you have prayer requests you'd like added to this list, email covenantpastorpcusa@gmail.com. Prayers remain on this list for two weeks unless we hear otherwise.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesdays, 10:00am - **Bible Study via Zoom**

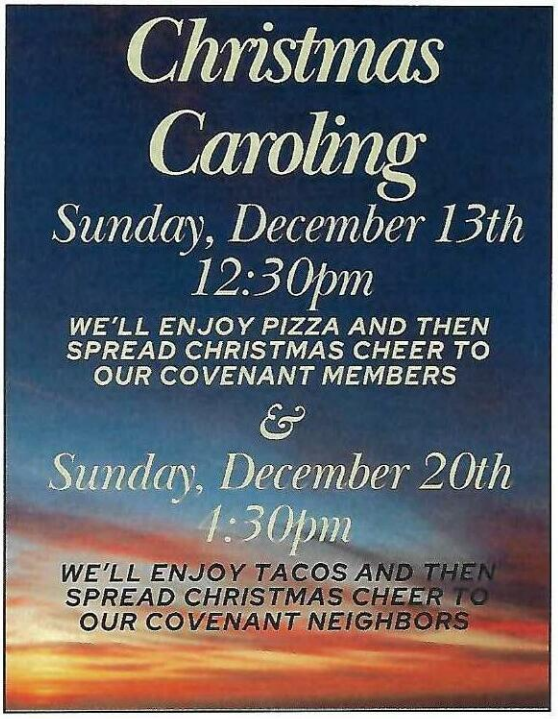
Featuring Visio Divina for Advent

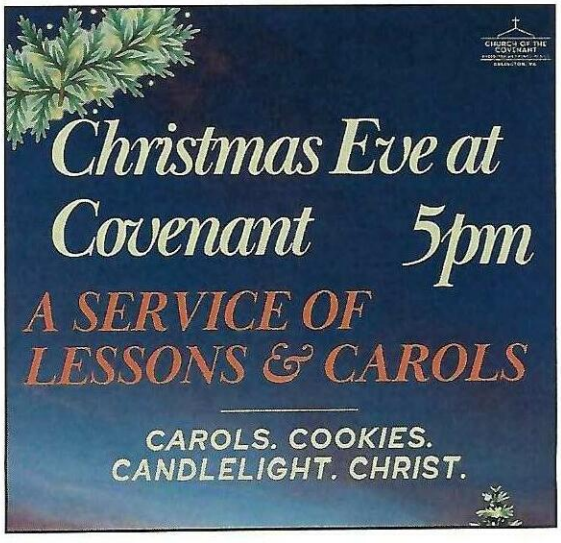
Some of us are familiar with the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina, or "sacred reading"—Visio Divina is a similar practice with art or nature, something you experience through your eyes. This Advent season, Tuesday Morning Bible Study will be making use of both practices to dive deeply into the scriptures for Advent.

Wednesdays, 10:30am - **Choir Rehearsal,** Sanctuary

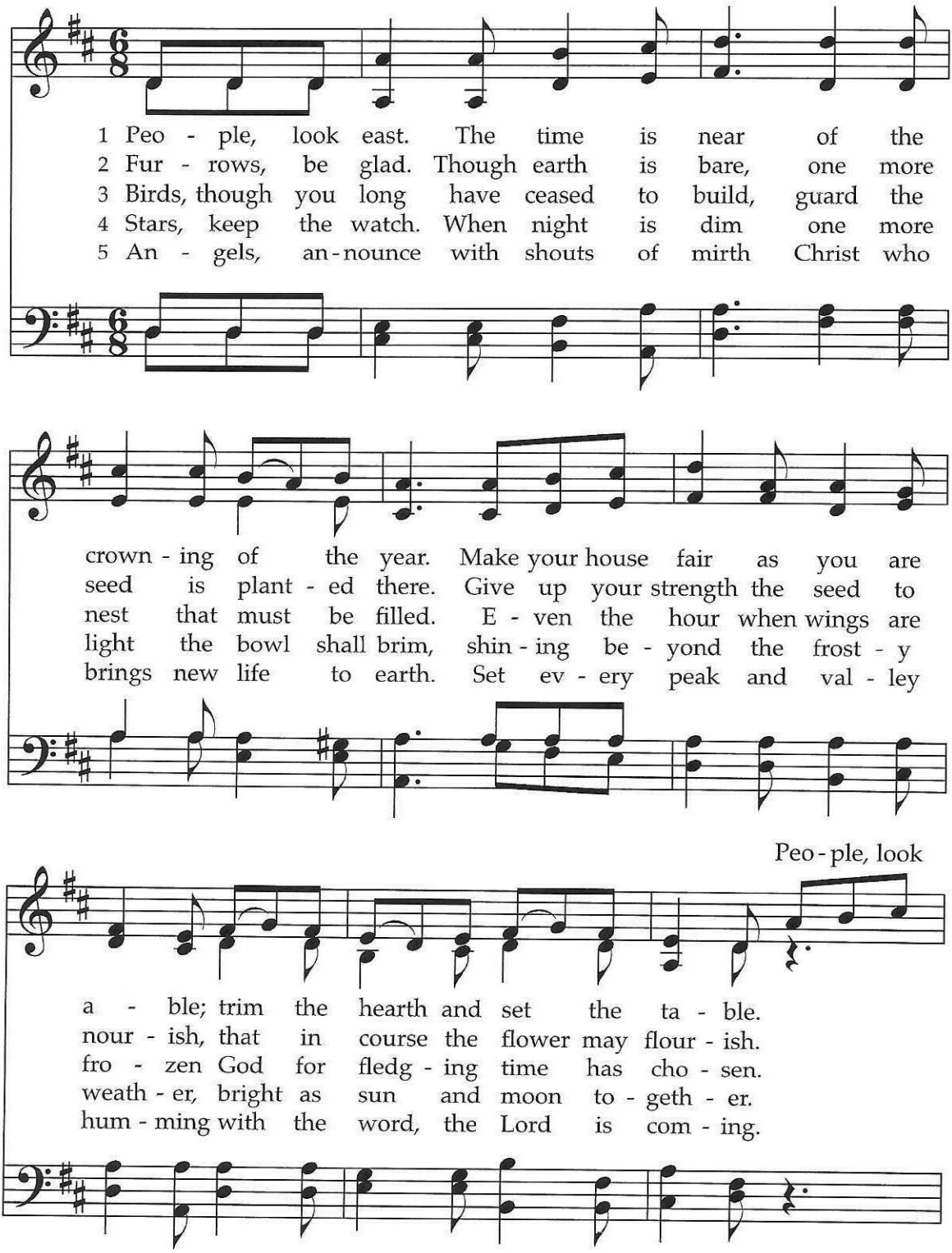
Thursdays, 12:00pm - **Devotional Time,** via Zoom







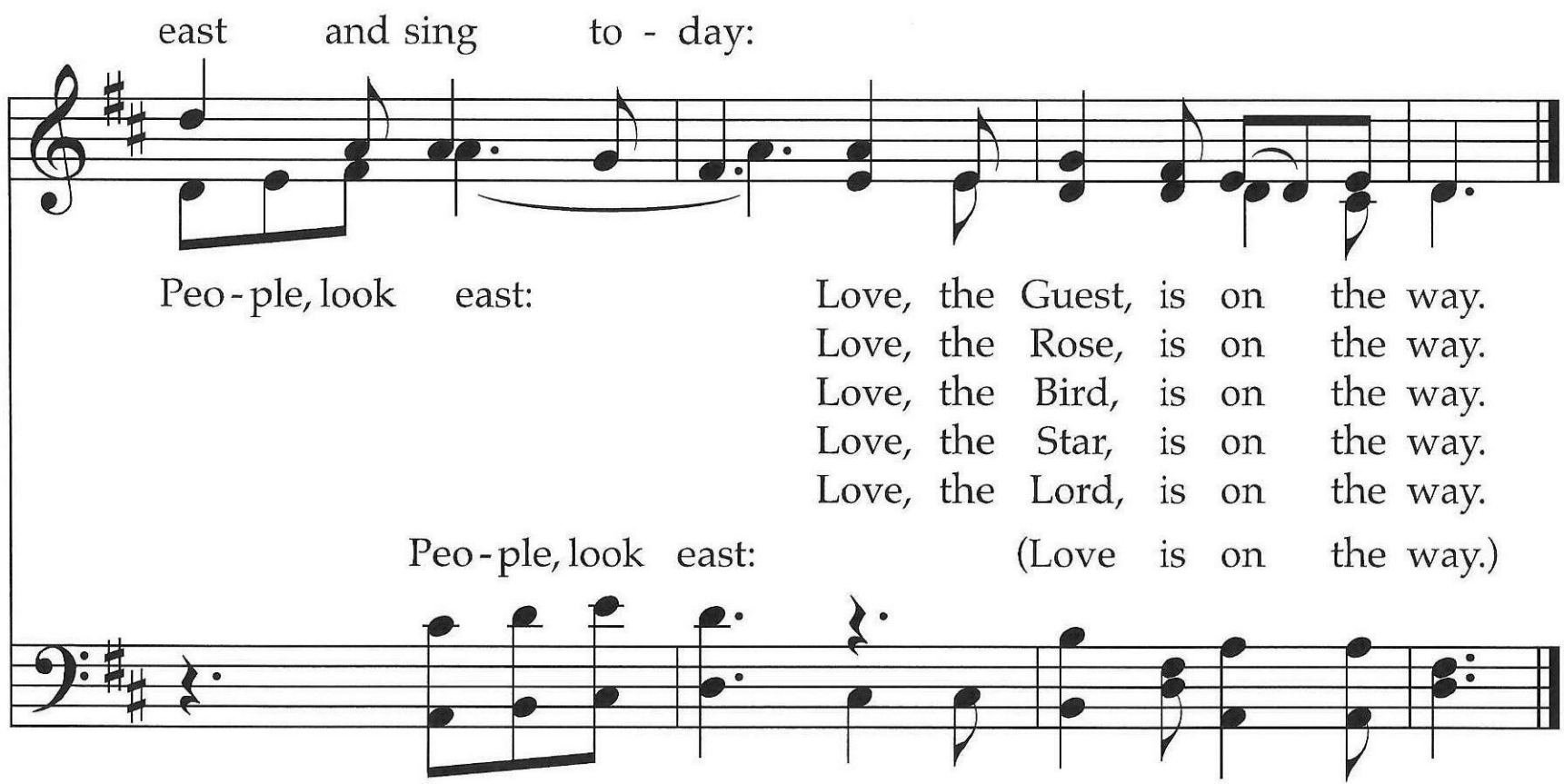
105 People, Look East



This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

TEXT: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928, alt.
MUSIC: French folk melody; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928
Text © 1960 David Higham Associates, Ltd.
Music Harm. © 1928 Oxford University Press

BESANÇON
8.7.9.8.8.7

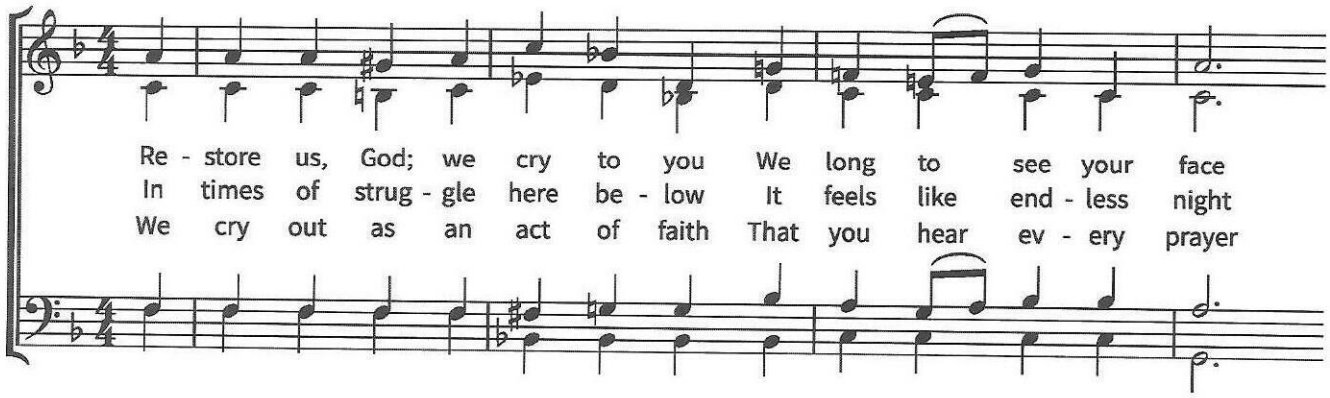

east and sing to - day:
Peo - ple, look east:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
Love, the Bird, is on the way.
Love, the Star, is on the way.
Love, the Lord, is on the way.
Peo - ple, look east:
(Love is on the way.)

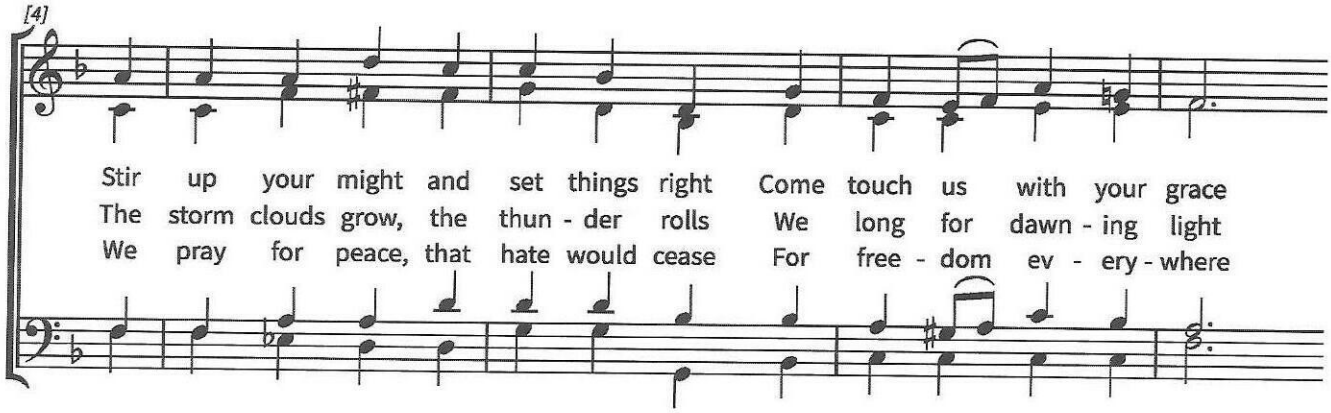
Restore Us, God

ST. LOUIS 8.6.7.6 D

Words: Anna Strickland (2026)

Music: Lewis H. Redner (1868)







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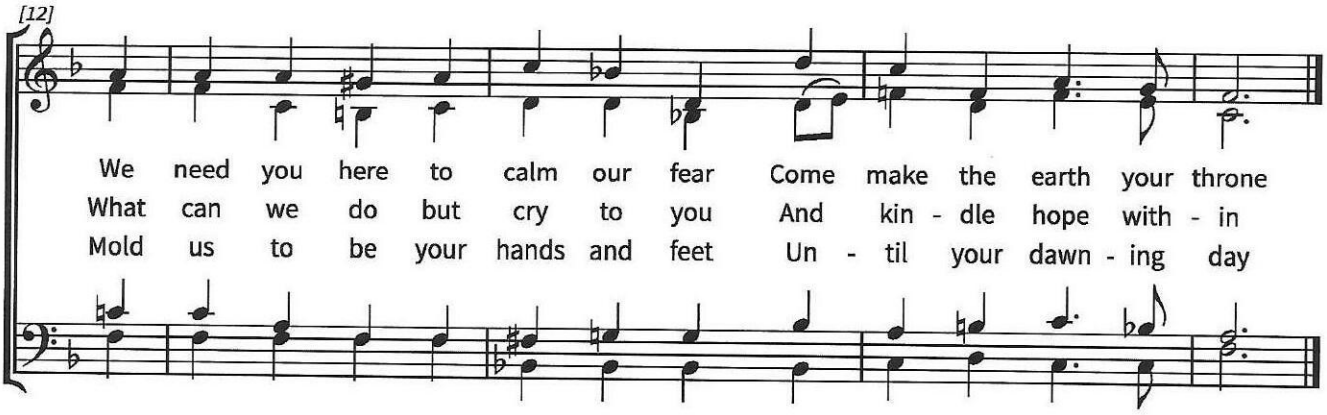

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Until the Dawn

ACTIONS FOR THE WORK OF ADVENT

Until the Dawn
ADVENT THEME SONG
Lyrics & music by Sam Allen

Verse 1:

There's a time to be still and a time we should move
There's a time we should fight even when we might lose
There's a moment for silence and a moment to cry
Though the world may be dying still our faith is alive

Chorus:

We will walk* till the dawn
Yeah we'll follow the stars in the sky and we'll keep pressing on
While there's strength in our bones and there's breath in our lungs
We will live like we know that your kingdom will come because
Our hope's not gone we will walk until the dawn

Verse 2:

On the brink of despair but we will not fall in
Cause our Savior's been there and we're following him
Till the work has been finished and the sun starts to rise
We will carry this good news to the lost and despised

Bridge:

Yeah we will keep on praying
Keep on hoping
Keep on walking
And we'll be here when the sun comes up again
We'll keep on praising
Keep on singing
Keep on walking
And we'll be here when the sun comes up again

Bridge 2:

We'll keep on praying
Keep on hoping
Keep on walking
And we'll be here when the sun comes up again
We'll keep on singing
Keep on praising
Keep on walking
And we'll be here when the sun comes up again

Outro:

When the sun comes up again
When the sun comes up again

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* You are welcome to substitute the word "walk" in the chorus for alternatives such as, "move," "work," "pray," "sing," or "hope," in order to honor the many ways we can join God in the work of Advent.

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