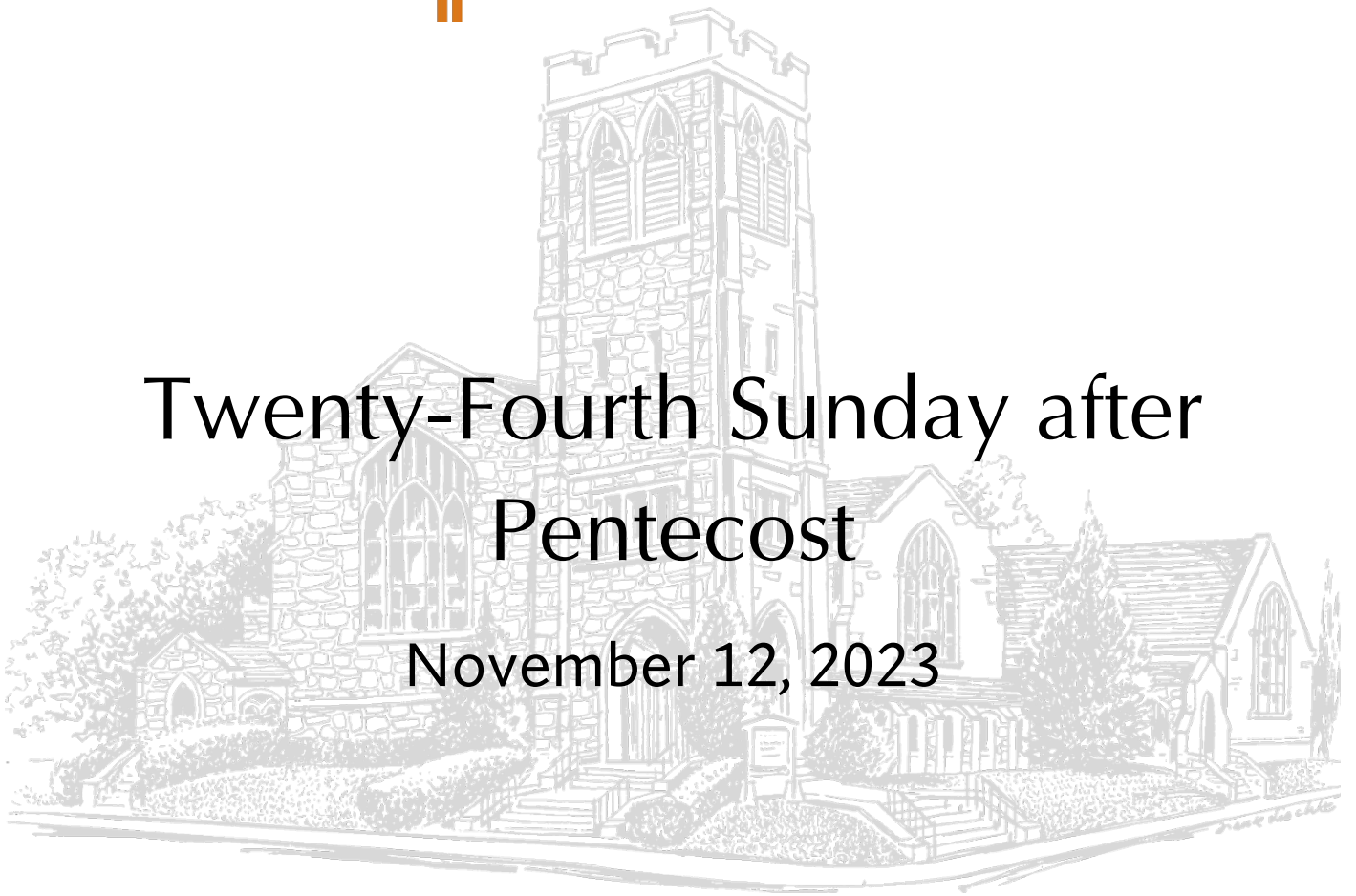




WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2023



Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome, in Christ's name, to all who worship here or join us in fellowship. Our church family seeks to embody God's boundless love by embracing, liberating and empowering people – whoever they are and wherever they may be on their faith journeys – to realize the transforming power of Christ in our congregation, community, and the world beyond.



A Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
A Matthew 25 Church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

TODAY AT WESTMINSTER

8:45 – 12:15 p.m. **Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers in Preschool Suite D

9:00 – 9:55 a.m. **Worship** in the Sanctuary

Time with Our Children (approximately 9:15 a.m.)

The young and young-at-heart are invited to join the worship leader at the front of the sanctuary. Following the TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN, young ones through grade 5 may be escorted to Children's Programming or they are welcome to remain in worship.

Children's Programming (9:20 – 10:00 a.m.)

- Preschool Sunday School: Ages 3 and 4 in the Preschool Suite Room C
- Joyful Noise Choir: Kindergarten–Grade 5 in the Youth Music Room

10:00 – 10:45 a.m. **Holy Toast Café** in Walton Community Hall

Enjoy free coffee, tea, and fellowship. Breakfast items are available for one dollar.

10:10 – 11:00 a.m. **Children and Youth Programming**

- Nursery Care: Age 4 and under in Preschool Suite D
- Kids Zone Sunday School: Kindergarten–Grade 5 in Classroom 1
- Middle School Zone: Grades 6–8 in Classroom 3
- High School: Grades 9–12
 - Confirmation Class in Classroom 7
 - Small Groups in the Library (for already confirmed youth)

Adult Education:

- Preparing for the End of Life: Dealing with the Emotions in Classroom 6 (see page 6)
- Forgiveness: Finding Peace through Letting Go (Session 4) in Classroom 5 (see page 6)

11:15 – 12:00 p.m. **Living Mosaics worship** in Rodney Chapel

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. **180° Youth Group** in Walton Community Hall and Classroom 6 and 7

For descriptions of our programs for children and youth, visit wpc.org/children-youth.

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FAITH!



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The Music: The Westminster Choir is preparing for a Christmas concert on Sunday, December 10, at 3 p.m. For more information or to participate, email TonyThurman@wpc.org or speak with him after the service.

The sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of their son, Matthew Hammond Mah, whom they dearly miss, by Dennie and Marsha Mah. “We are all made of stardust.” Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event. Please contact Linda Watson at (302) 571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com.

The rosebud this morning is to celebrate the birth of Samuel Jarrett Way on October 27. Samuel is the son of Jarrett and Leighanne Way.

Westminster's Prayer Team prays for the needs of our community. Submit your prayer request to wpcprayerlist@gmail.com or online at wpc.org/care-support.

You can make a contribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website at wpc.org and clicking the “Donate” button or scan this QR code on your smart phone. → We accept donations by bank withdrawal, credit card, and debit card.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

~ Passages in **bold** print may be spoken by all. At the asterisk (*) please stand in body or rise in spirit. ~

TOWER CHIME

Sara Gavenonis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

Sleepers, Wake!

J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lift your hearts! Lift your eyes! Lift your voices!

The living, moving Spirit of God calls us together.

What will happen to us if we open our lives to God's Spirit?

We will be alert for the surprises of God.

*HYMN NO. 401

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, restore our eyesight and awaken our insight.

We are in the presence of holiness,

but we fail to discern it.

We stand in the midst of your dynamic Spirit,

yet we do not perceive it.

We walk on the road of newness,

but we see only the dust and signs of the old.

Help us to see your activity in the ordinary as well as the extraordinary,

so that we may be aware of your power and work.

We pray in the name of the one who

opens our blind eyes,

heals our wounded souls,

and commissions us to spread your love. Amen.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN (See "Today at Westminster" on page 2 for more information)

Sudie Niesen Thompson

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO CONFIRMANDS

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25:1-13

New Testament, page 24

SERMON

Gregory Knox Jones

*HYMN NO. 350

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us

Philipp Nicolai/Bach

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us,
the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
Midnight's peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken:
"The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up, and give us light;
the Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there,
that you the wedding feast may share."

Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;
let saints and angels sing before you,
as harps and cymbals swell the sound.
Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:
through them we stream to join th' immortals
as we with joy your throne surround.
No eye has known the sight,
no ear heard such delight: Alleluia!
Therefore we sing to greet our King;
for ever let our praises ring.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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;
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.**

*HYMN NO. 362

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Promenade in G Major

McNeil Robinson

New to Westminster? Welcome! We're so glad you're here. If you are joining us for the first time, please introduce yourself via our contact form on the [I'm New](#) page of our website or scan this QR code to get there from your mobile device. We look forward to getting to know you.



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"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us, Carl P. Daw Jr.
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Promenade in G Major, McNeil Robinson.
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2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Pledge by November 19!



- Stephen Ministers provided more than 1,000 hours of valuable caregiving to members in need in a single year.
- Installation of our solar panel system provides about 35% of the church's electricity.
- More than 150 Zoom classes with more than 75 outside speakers (and counting!) have been hosted by the Peace and Justice Work Group.

These "God inspired" facts are but several examples of how vital we see our mission to our Westminster family and our local and global friends. And it takes YOUR pledge to support each of them. We are so grateful to those who have already pledged! If you haven't, please make today the day you do!

Pledge online using our secure system at wpc.org/donate (scroll down and click the "Pledge Online" button) or return the pledge card that you received in the mail. Extra pledge cards and a drop-off box are located on the small table in the main hallway at church. If you would like weekly offering envelopes, please contact Colleen Falasco at cfalasco@wpc.org or (302) 654-5214 ext. 131.

ADULT EDUCATION

TODAY, NOVEMBER 12

Preparing for the End of Life: Dealing with the Emotions

Presented by the Rev. Jill Getty and Stephen Ministry Leader Jerry Spilecki

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom

Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom

Losing a loved one is a many layered experience and often brings unexpected emotions at unexpected times. Knowing ahead of time what a roller coaster ride grief can be allows you to better navigate this path we will all tread one day. Jill Getty and Jerry Spilecki bring their wisdom from leading grief groups, as well as their own experiences, to share the many layers and often unexpected emotions that follow losing a loved one.

Forgiveness: Finding Peace through Letting Go (Session 4)

Video series by Adam Hamilton

Facilitator: WPC member

Margo Reign

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 5

Whether or not you attended the first three sessions, you are welcome to participate in Session 4!

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19



Preparing for the End of Life: Legal and Financial Aspects

Presented by Attorney Daniel P. McCollom

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom

Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom

In the third session of our End of Life series, Dan McCollom, a local estate planning attorney, will address the legal and financial aspects of planning for the disposition of your estate following death through wills, trusts, and other planning devices.

Feeling Good Again: The Benefits of a Gratitude Practice

Facilitated by Janet Steinwedel, Ph.D.

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 5

Developing resources and tools for when the going gets tough is critical to our overall wellbeing. Prayer, meditation, and breath work are all useful modalities in our efforts to feel good. Join us for a healthy conversation about developing a robust gratitude practice!

ONGOING/WEEKLY

Online Bible Studies

Midweek Manna Bible Study

Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Zoom

Facilitator: The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

Contact: sniesenthompson@wpc.org

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Thursdays | 6–7 p.m. | Zoom

Facilitators: Randy Williamson and Mary Anne Peters

Contact: randywilliamson1@comcast.net

Peace and Justice Thursday Evening Education Event

Let's Talk About It: White Privilege?

Facilitated by Sue Linderman

November 16 | 7 p.m. | Zoom

Zoom link: bit.ly/peace-justice-zoom

We'll consider questions and share perspectives in this meaningful dialogue. Hosted by our Peace & Justice Work Group.

zoom.us/join | Meeting ID: 860 2752 1655

For full descriptions of our programs and more adult education and small group opportunities, visit WPC.ORG/ADULTS or check our events calendar at WPC.ORG/EVENTS. Select adult education programs are available as a livestream/recording on our [YouTube channel](#).

UNMET NEEDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

How is Meaningful Change Possible?

Saturday, November 18 | 5–6 p.m. | Sanctuary



**HOUSING
ALLIANCE
DELAWARE**

Westminster's Peace & Justice Work Group invite you to this informative event, part of Faith & Justice Housing Weekend (Nov 17–19). Learn how enhanced affordable housing opportunities can be created and the impact they have in producing safe and inclusive communities.

New Jersey Fair Share Housing Center Deputy Director Eric Dobson will share his experiences in making additional affordable mixed income housing possible and the successful communities that result. Housing Alliance Delaware Policy Director Sonya Starr will describe the current situation in Delaware.

Bring a friend or a group and enjoy dinner at a downtown restaurant afterward!

New Life Furnishings

OUR CURRENT WISHLIST AND A THANK YOU



New Life Furnishings (NLF) is a Westminster program that provides household goods and furniture to help those moving from homelessness to independent living. NLF currently needs new or gently used bed pillows (for sleeping), small dressers, and twin or full mattresses, box springs, and metal frames. Please leave a message on NLF phone **(302) 654-5214 ext. 313** and we will contact you. Thanks to all our past donors for your generous contributions of furniture and housewares. Our clients are extremely grateful, and you can feel good that you are helping people get a fresh start in life.

***Many thanks to Marsha and Dennie Mah who have retired from NLF after two years of tireless work!
If you are interested in volunteering at NLF, please leave a message at (302) 654-5214 ext. 313.***

PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant

MUSIC STAFF

Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, Director of Music/Organist
Rebecca Hughes; Margaret Mezzacappa; Teddy Austin; Jerry Polman, Section Leaders
Emily Haas, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Cole Walker, Choral Assistant for Children and Youth

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Tanner Freeman (lead videographer), Rich Albert, Drew Holmes, Chip Pfleegor,
Roger Reinicker, Aaron Wemhoff and Sophia Wolff

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Dan Weintraub and Jenn Barrington

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES STAFF

Kathleen Kennan, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry
Sydney Walker, Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Stephanie Burris-White, Director of Preschool Ministries and Beatrice Taylor, Nursery

SUPPORT STAFF

Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor
Mary Clark, Administrative Assistant
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations
Doug Gerdt, Manager of Accounting and Reporting
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant
Robert King; Daniel Steele; Joan Truitt; John Young, Sextons

SESSION

Taryn Albert, Adam Blackford, Michelle Butler, Clark Collins, Bob Cox, Sara Dubberly, Rob Gooderham,
Laura Holmes, Dick Jolly, Carla Krupanski, KC Morrison, Dave McBride,
Susan McPheeters, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleegor, Todd Piercy, Carrie Saathoff, Laura Scanlan,
Kent Smith, Janet Steinwedel, Karissa Thacker, Gill Timon, Dan Weintraub

BOARD OF DEACONS

Liz Bacon, Lisa Bianchi, Jennifer Blackford, Heather Brooks, Russ Butler, Kyle Carrick,
Beatty Chadwick, Diane Chandler, Jack Coleman, Joe Daley, Tammy Daley, Kendra Gallagher,
Sara Gavenonis, Jamie Hickey, Drew Holmes, Barbara Jobe, Sheran Kegerise, Elaine Lunardi, Blair McConnel,
Sarah Mentzer, Robert Moore, Gathoni Murugi-Jenkins, Dan McAllister, Debbie McCullough, Lynne Perkins,
Emily Pfaff, Paula Piercy, Rachel Psaros, Patti Ridout, Robin Rosser, Evie Saathoff, Carol Tatnall,
Lois Underhill, Ginger Ward, Sandie Reinicker, Sue Weissinger, Sandra Wermus, Kathy Wissner

TRUSTEES

Rich Albert, Tom Brooks, Nancy Fleming, John Gavenonis, Lou Hering,
Bobbe Hoy, Brock Jobe, Sue Linderman, Robert Love, Tom Preston, Kris Qualls, Stan Stevenson

PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

DR Congo – PC(USA) Mission Co-workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd, Larry and Inge Sthreshley;
Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon – PC(USA) Mission Co-worker the Rev. Dr. Elmarie Parker
Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches,
Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band
Guatemala - CEDEPCA, AJPU, the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development,
PC(USA) Mission Co-workers Betsey and Eric Moe

Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

350 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



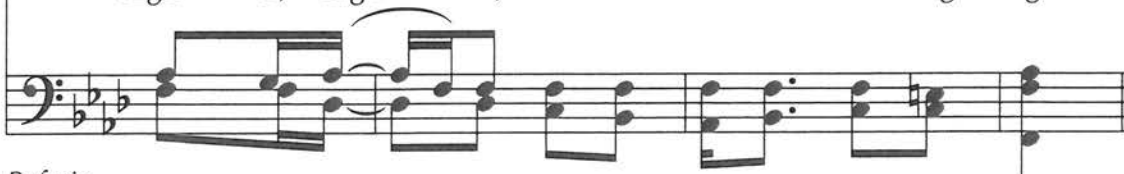
1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing; keep your
 2 It's our faith makes us hap - py; it's our
 3 We are climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der; we are
 4 Ev - ery round goes high - er, high - er; ev - ery



lamps trimmed and burn - ing; keep your lamps
 faith makes us hap - py; it's our faith
 climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der; we are climb - ing
 round goes high - er, high - er; ev - ery round goes



trimmed and burn - ing, for the time is draw - ing nigh.
 makes us hap - py, for the time is draw - ing nigh.
 Ja - cob's lad - der, for the time is draw - ing nigh.
 high - er, high - er, for the time is draw - ing nigh.

*Refrain*

Sis - ters, don't grow wea - ry; broth - ers, don't grow wea - ry;



This African American spiritual has a biblical basis in the parable of the ten maidens (Matthew 25:1-13), but the text actually sung could vary greatly. Such variation can be seen here in the annexing of an often freestanding spiritual based on Jacob's vision (Genesis 28:10-17).

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT

chil - dren, don't grow wea - ry, for the time is draw - ing nigh.

The musical score is written for a vocal part and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is E-flat major (three flats: B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The vocal line is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "chil - dren, don't grow wea - ry, for the time is draw - ing nigh." The music consists of two staves. The vocal staff has a melody that starts on a half note, followed by quarter notes, and ends with a half note. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines in the left hand.

362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice! Re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen-ish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere!



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon he will draw nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, watch with ex - pec - ta - tion; at mid - night comes the cry.
 a - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!



The Latin original of this text based on the parable of the wise and foolish maidens (Matthew 25:1-13) consisted of ten stanzas, but this briefer version is more appropriate for its message of urgency. It is set to a spirited minor Welsh tune named for a Pembrokeshire village.