second
REFORMED CHURCH

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT
November 29, 2026-9:45 AM

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE — "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"
James Gilbert

CALL TO WORSHIP — Lighting of the Advent Candle

When the nights are long
and the roads are hard,
we turn our eyes to the stars.

When the work is demanding
and injustice is unending,
we stand together, arm in arm.

When fear looms large
and grief weighs heavy,
we cry out to God without holding back.

And when the dawn of tomorrow
feels far away,
we gather together
to light the candle of hope.

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.**

*SONG OF WORSHIP #154 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,
we have been known
to bite our tongues,
to push through heartbreak,
to never take off our 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 hurts we feel to ourselves.

Led by sanctuary choir:
Kyrie. **Kyrie.** Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
Christe. **Christe.** Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**
Kyrie. **Kyrie.** Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
Kyrie. **Kyrie.** Eleison. **Eleison.**

Please use this period of silence for personal reflection.

Merciful God,
forgive us for filtering our honesty.
Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament.
Forgive us for rushing toward silver linings.
Remind us that you are a God who listens
and you are a God who restores.
Through Christ we pray, amen.

CHORAL ASSURANCE "Another Year of Grace"
Jaroslav J. Vajda & Austin C. Lovelace

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
Congregation, bless your children.
You are God's beloved child. With you, God is well pleased.

*SONG OF PREPARATION #165 "When God is a Child"
vv. 1

SCRIPTURE & SERMON Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Isaiah 64:1-9
"Until the Dawn...Cry Out"

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*SONG OF THANKSGIVING Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, whose image we all bear;
Praise Christ, whose mercy we all share;
Praise Spirit, making justice grow—
One God from whom all blessings flow! Amen.

Tithes/offerings placed in the baskets at the entrance of the sanctuary are brought forward as a sign of our response to God's call on our lives.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

#160 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG "My Friends, May You Grow in Grace"

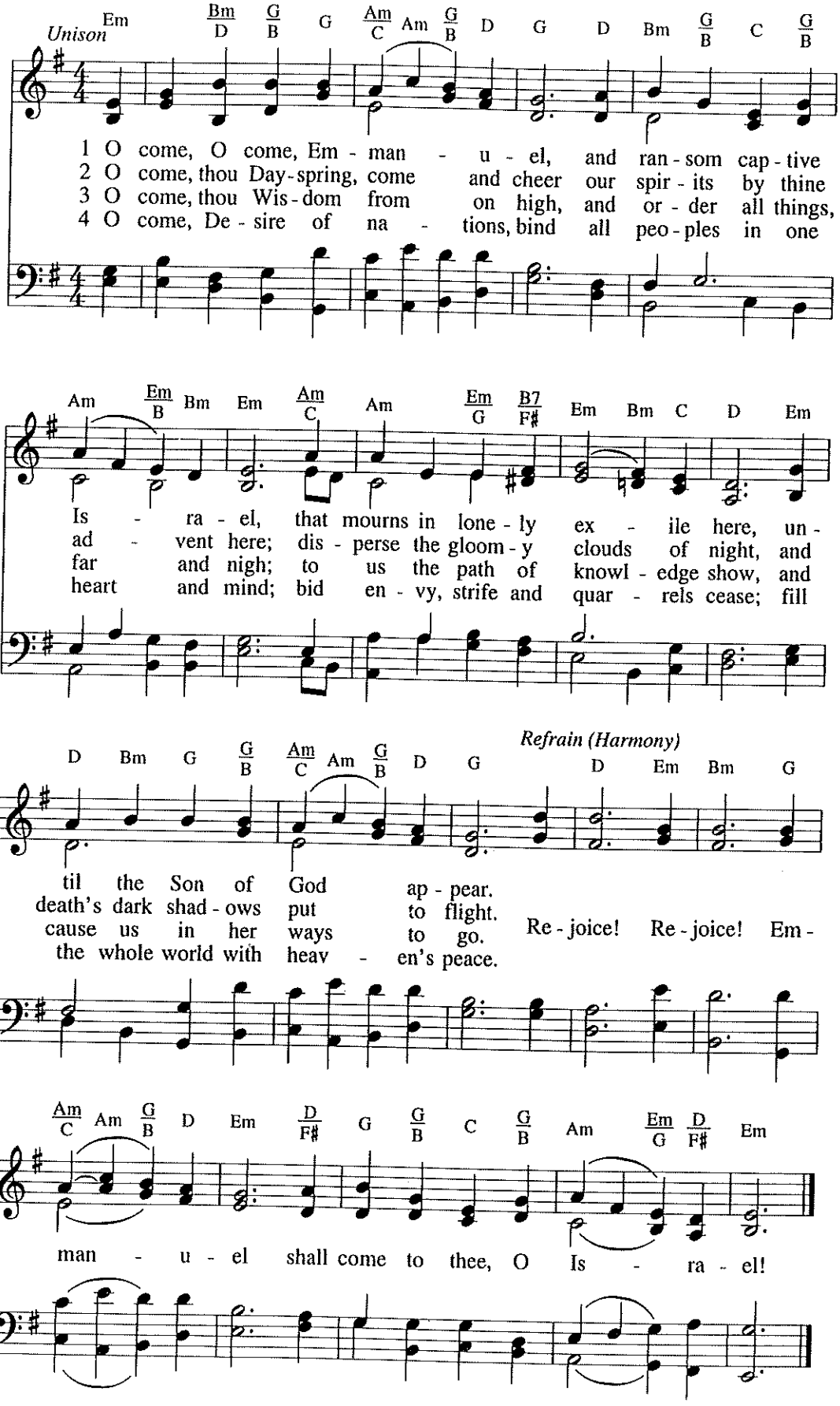
The congregation is invited to stand and turn toward
the center aisle, blessing one another in song.

My friends, may you grow in grace,
and in the knowledge of our Lord, and Savior.
My friends, may you grow in grace,
and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.
To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

*POSTLUDE "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts"
Camille Saint-Saens

CCLI #11312016; One License #742124-A

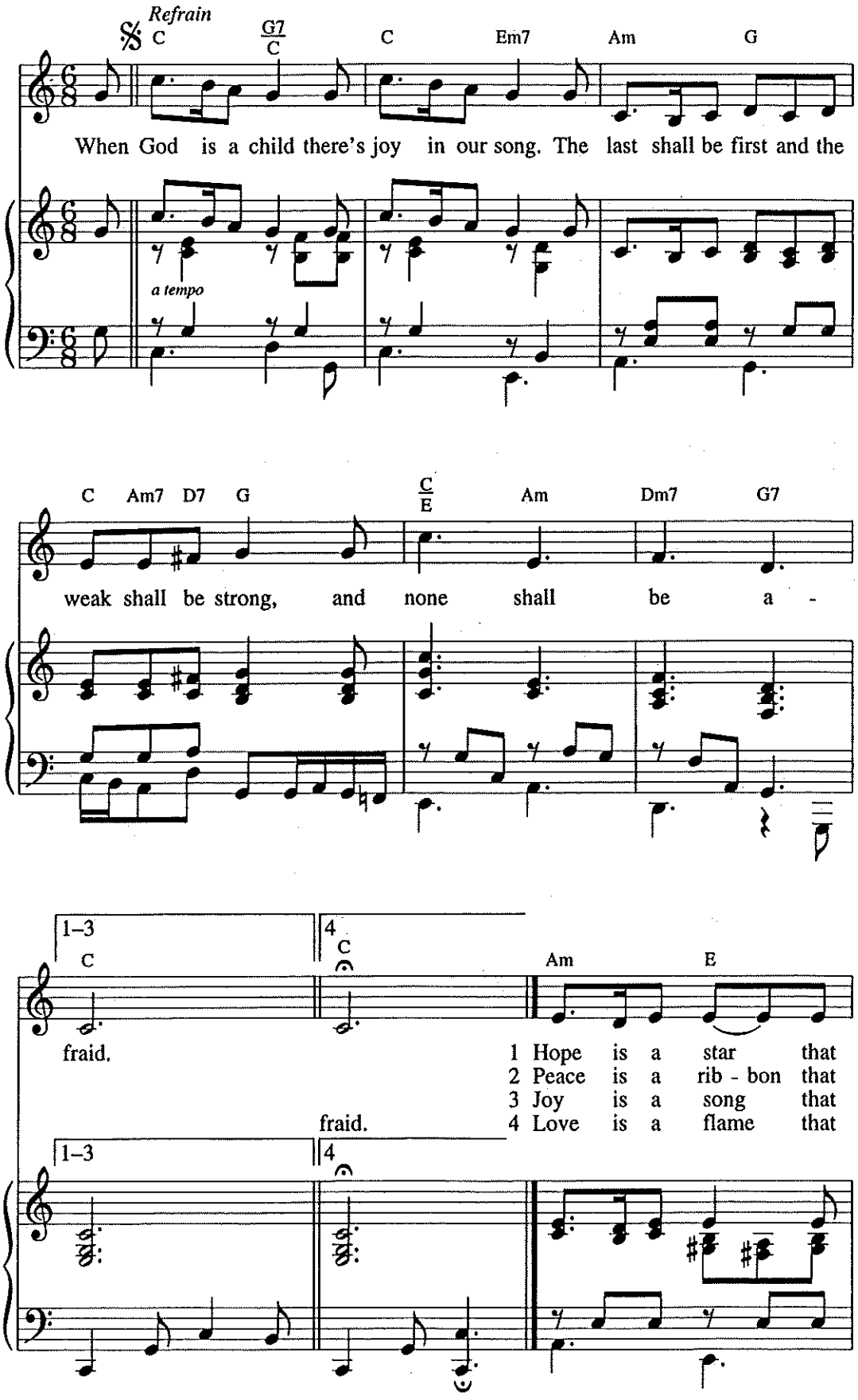
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 154



WORDS: Latin, 9th c.; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866); vss. 3 and 4 tr. Henry S. Coffin (1877-1954)
MUSIC: French melody, 15th c.; harm. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

VENI EMMANUEL
L.M.Ref.

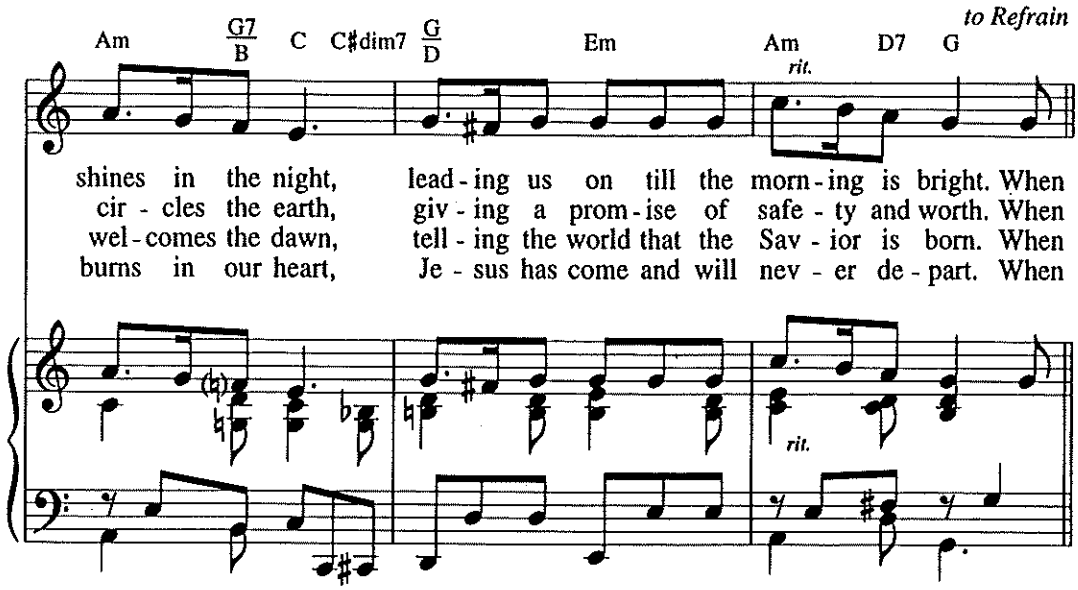
165 When God Is a Child



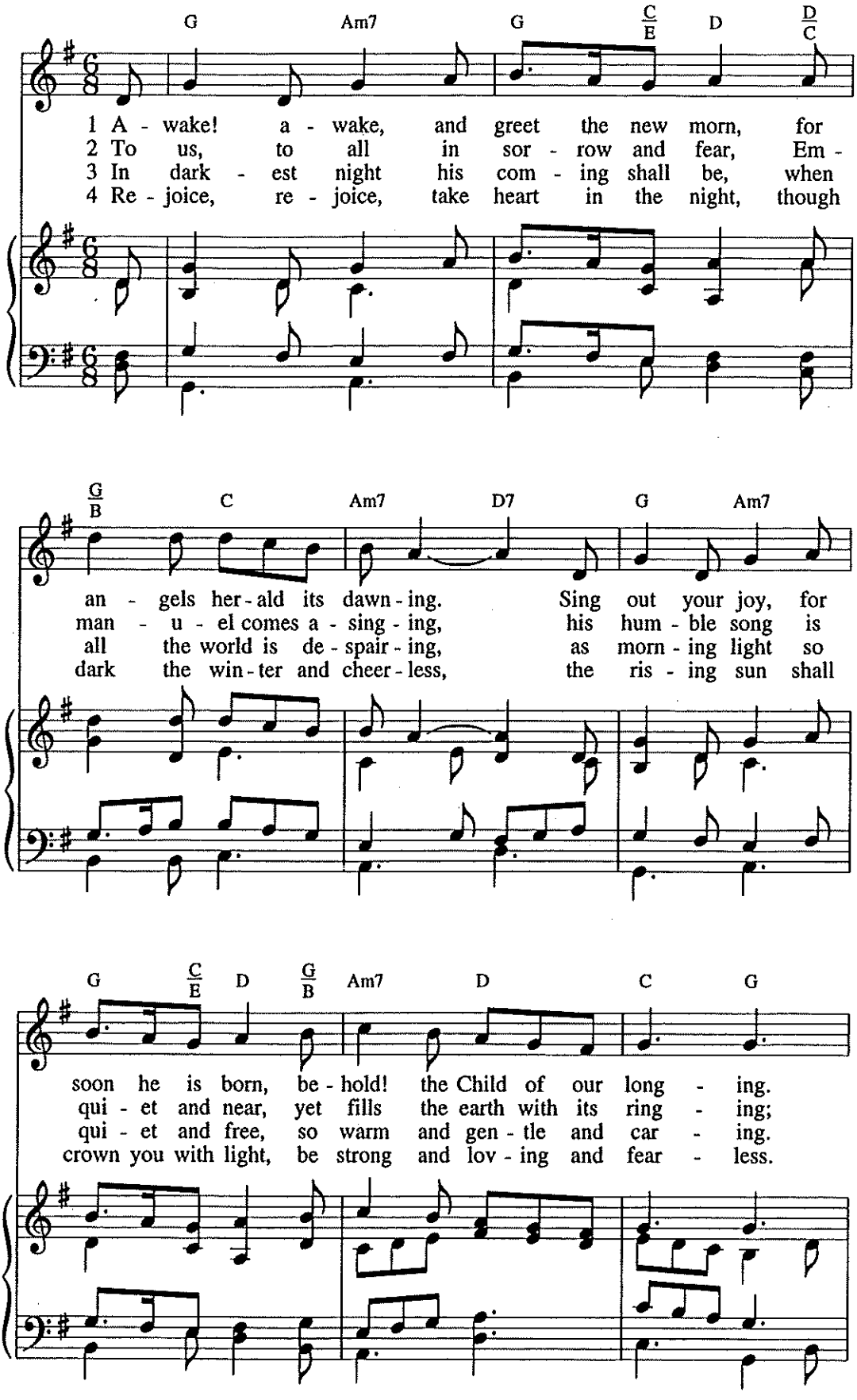
WORDS: Brian Wren (1936-)
MUSIC: John Carter (1930-)

GATES
Irregular

Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company
Music © 1998 Hope Publishing Company


Am
G7/B
C
C♯dim7
G/D
Em
Am
D7
G
to Refrain
rit.
shines in the night, lead-ing us on till the morn-ing is bright. When
cir-cles the earth, giv-ing a prom-ise of safe-ty and worth. When
wel-comes the dawn, tell-ing the world that the Sav-ior is born. When
burns in our heart, Je-sus has come and will nev-er de-part. When
rit.

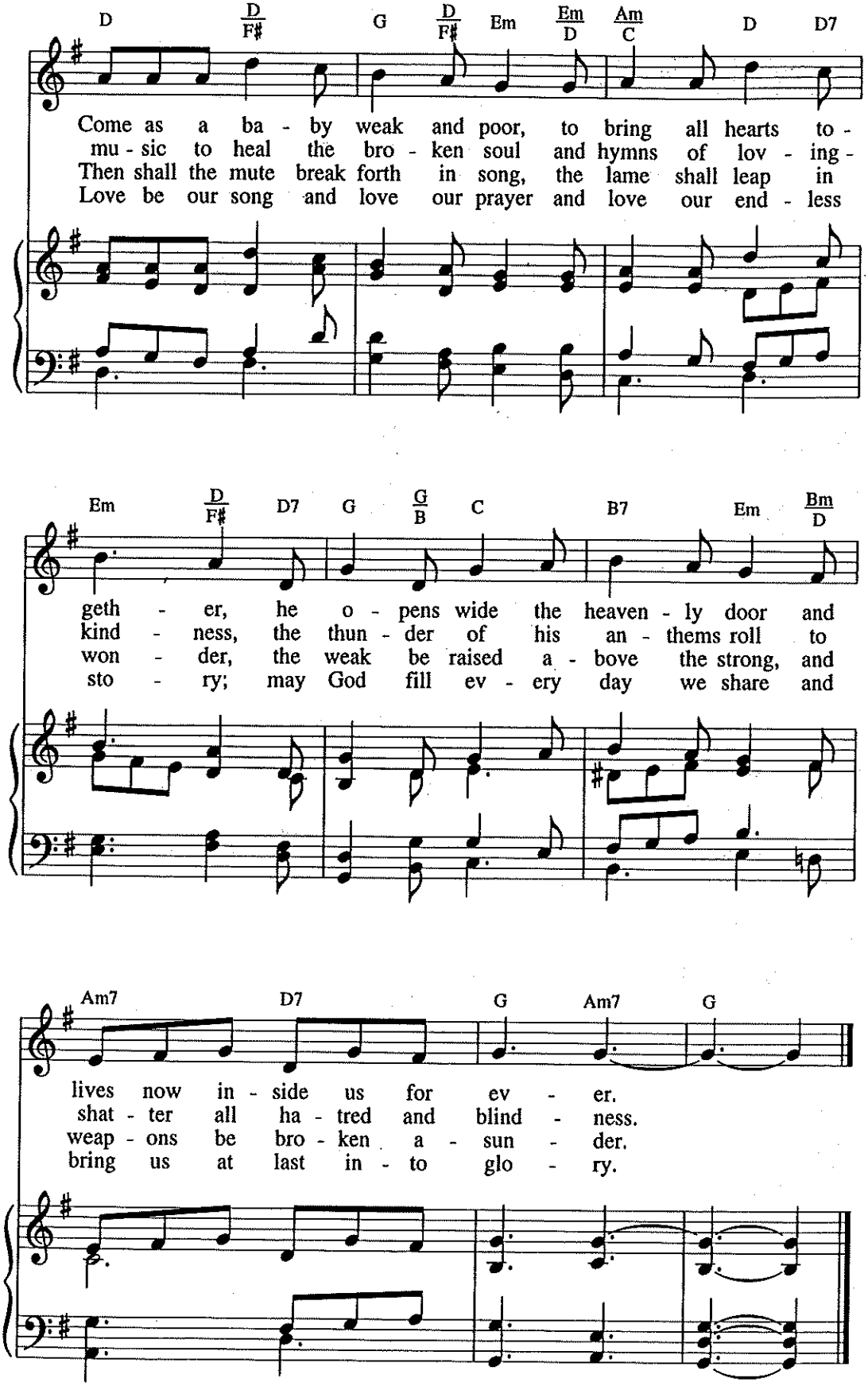
160 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen (1950-)

Words and Music © 1983 GIA Publications

REJOICE, REJOICE
Irregular


D D/F♯ G D/F♯ Em Em/D Am/C D D7
Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less
Em D/F♯ D7 G G/B C B7 Em Bm/D
geth - er, he o - pens wide the heaven - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - ery day we share and
Am7 D7 G Am7 G
lives now in - side us for ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.