

Dean's Message for December, 2016



Advent. A time of expectant waiting and preparation.

Advent. A season of only four Sundays with so much beautiful music that ought to be heard, played and sung.

Advent. A liturgical season that dramatically competes with the popular celebration of Christmas that begins the day after Thanksgiving.

Advent. Musically, my favorite season of the liturgical year.

If asked, I would be hard pressed to single out a particular Advent hymn as my favorite. But this year I've "discovered" a new hymn that has to be close to the top of the list of my favorites – *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*, text and tune (OSOSÖ) by Geonyong Lee. I was not familiar with this hymn until listening to a new CD, *Hymns from First-Plymouth* (ProOrgano CD 7260). The hymn is now beginning to appear in new hymnals including *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and *Glory to God: the Presbyterian Hymnal*. It can also be accessed at www.hymnary.org.

So, as we lead our congregations this Advent season, I leave you with the text of the first stanza of *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* – a text that seems highly appropriate for these times:

***Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.***

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Dwane
Dean