

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

10:00 AM

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ADVENT “Bible Study for Everyone,” Monday (12/12) at 11 AM.
- Men’s Breakfast, Wednesday (12/14) at 8:30 AM at Robin Hood.
- Esther Circle, Thursday (12/15) at 1 PM.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Because Christmas is almost here
Because dancing fits so well with music
Because inside baby clothes are miracles.

MANY: Rejoice!
Because some people love you
Because you have enough
Because pain does not last forever:
Rejoice!

ONE: Because of laughter
Because there really are angels
Because your fingers fit your hands
Because forgiveness is yours for the asking

MANY: Because of children

ONE: Because of parents

MANY: Rejoice!

ONE: Because the blind see and the lame walk

MANY: Rejoice!

ONE: Because lepers are clean and the deaf hear

MANY: Rejoice!

Because the dead will live again

And there is good news for the poor

Rejoice!

ONE: Because of Christmas

Because of Jesus

MANY: We rejoice!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

(Steve & Cathy Cocchia)

Reader 1: We light the First Candle in our Advent Wreath once again to remind us of our hope in Christ.

Reader 2: We light the second candle, the candle of peace, remembering the prophets who spoke of Christ's coming: that a Savior would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called him "the Prince of Peace," born to rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

Reader 1: We light the third candle, the candle of joy. When Jesus was born, the angels said that his coming was good news of great joy for all people (Luke 2:10). Because Christ has come to us, we can live every day in the joy of the Lord.

Reader 2: Let us pray:

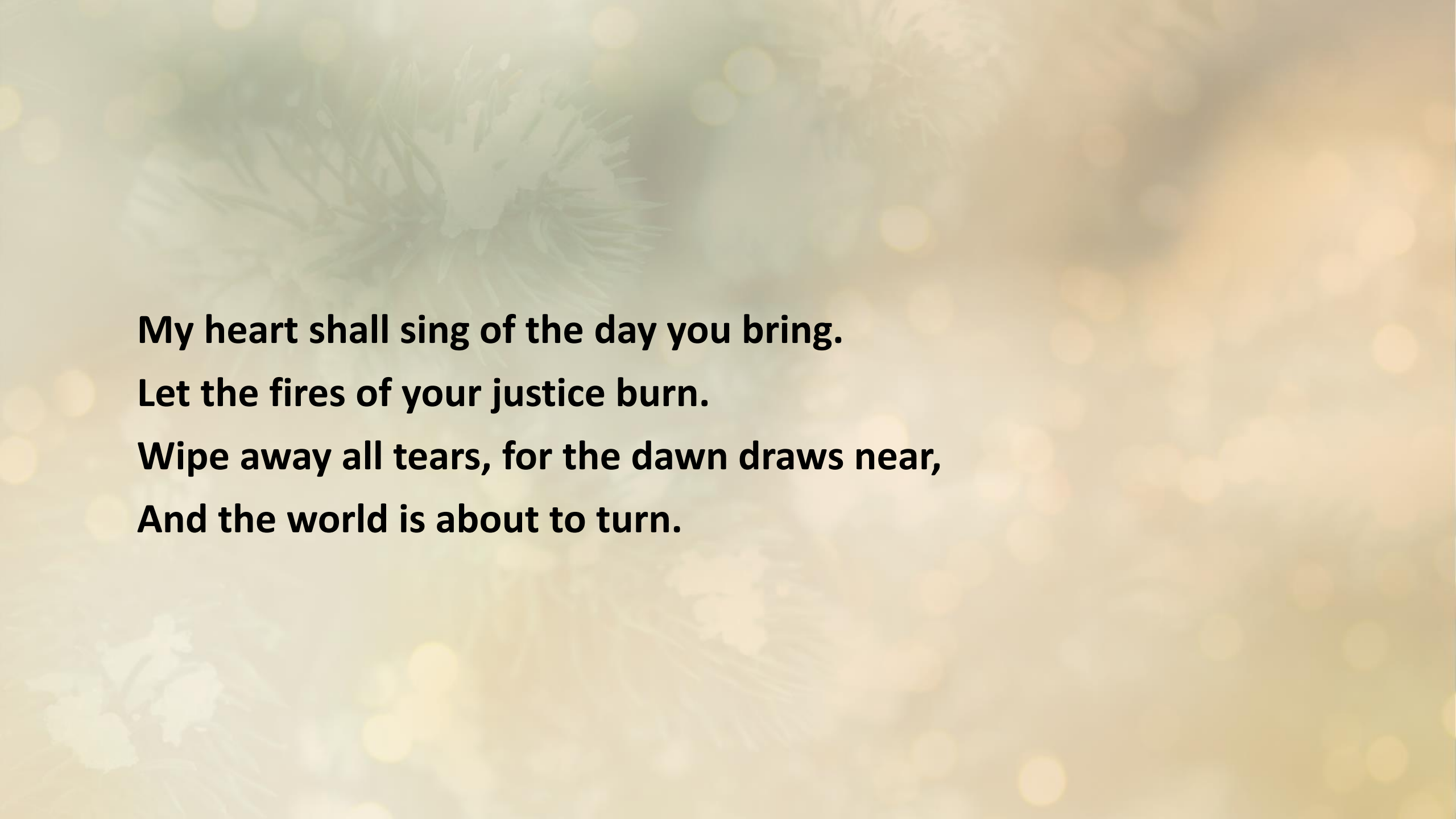
ALL: Advent God, we are filled with joy because we have hope and peace that you have sent your Son for all that believe. Help us to be the voices that proclaim grace and truth. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

HYMN

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout *STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN*

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.**

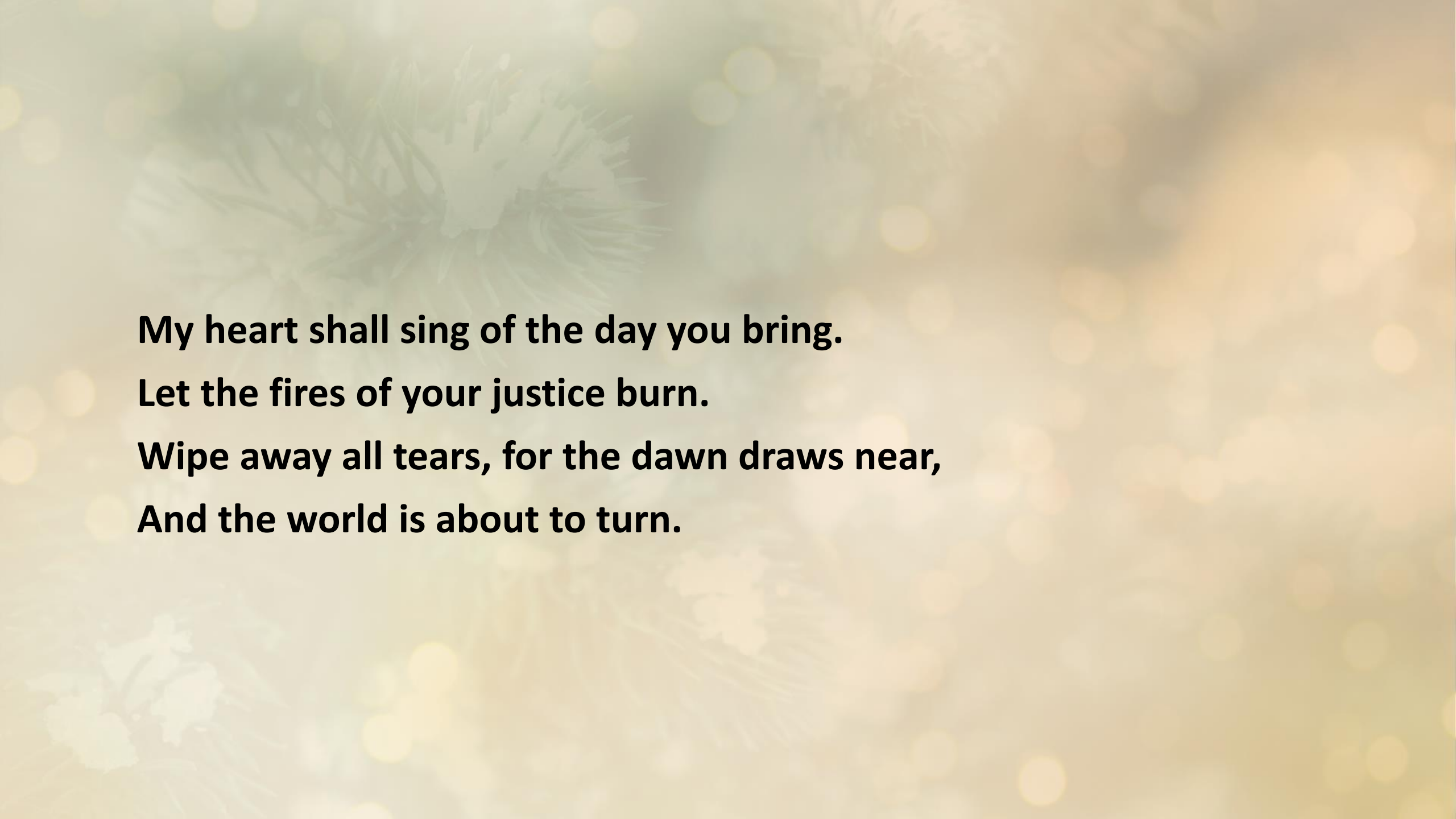
**You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**



**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.**

**Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
To the end of the age to be.**

**Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn.**

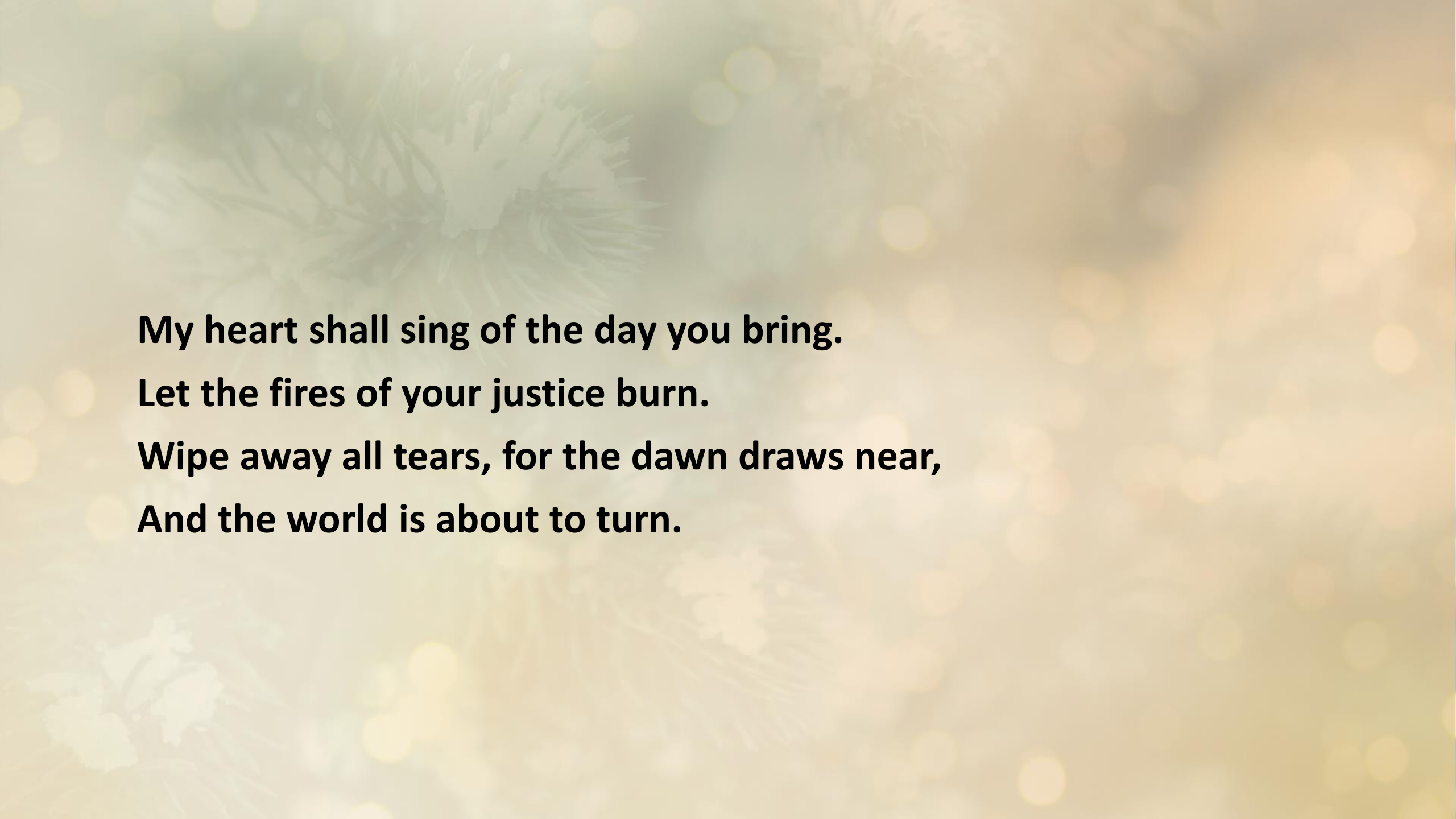


**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.**

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
Not a stone will be left on stone.**

**Let the king beware for your justice tears
Every tyrant from his throne.**

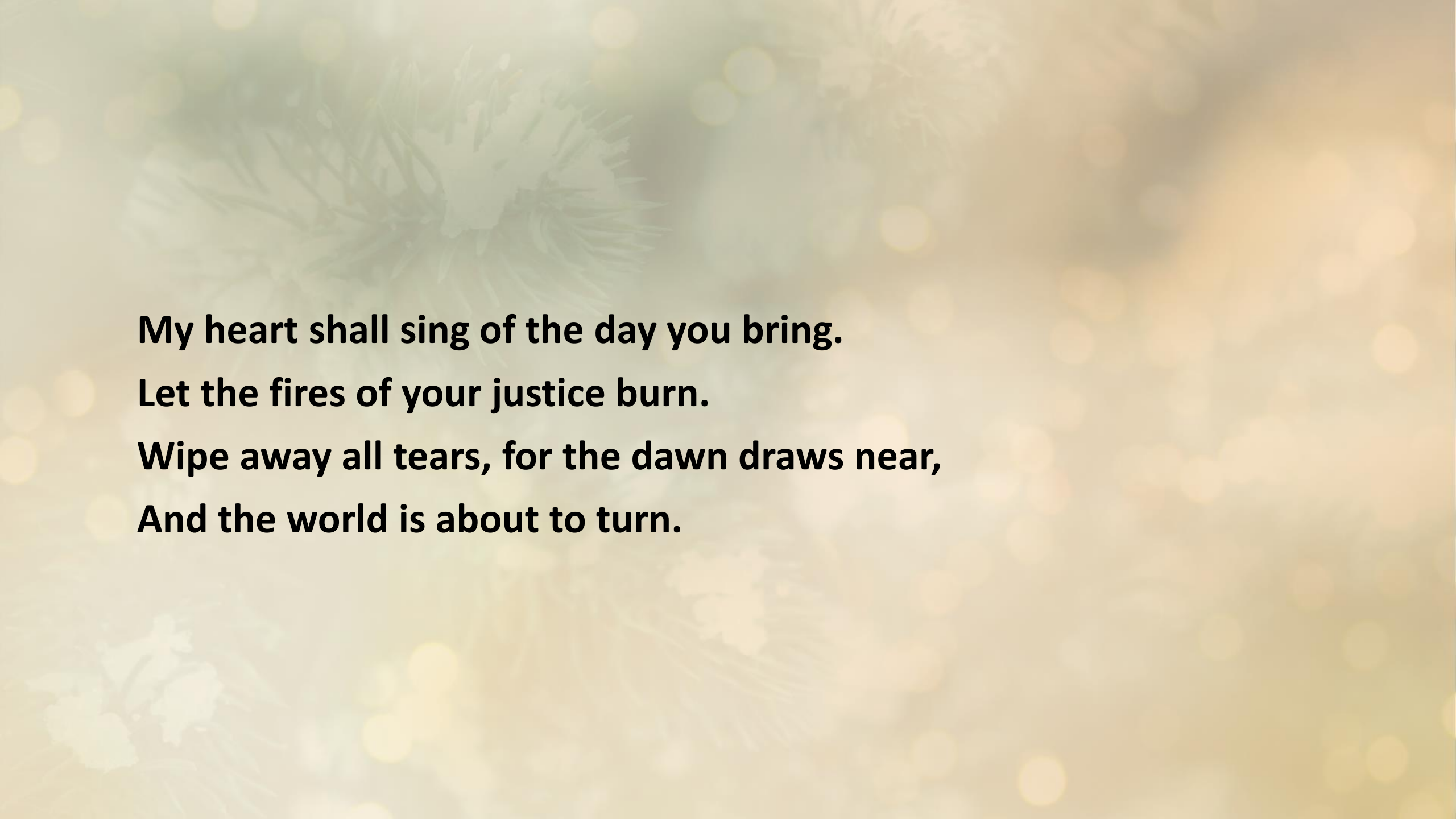
**The hungry poor shall weep no more,
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn.**



**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.**

**Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.**

**This saving word that our forebears heard
Is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God
Who is turning the world around.**



**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness,

MANY: Forgive us, O God.

ONE: When we ignore the mighty things you have done, when we doubt your mercy,

MANY: Forgive us, O God.

ONE: When we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts,

MANY: When our power rests on the oppression of others,

ONE: When our wealth causes others to go hungry,

MANY: Forgive us, O God.

(We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.)

UNISON ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Help us, your servants, according to the promises you have made, to believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen!

HYMN

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:46b-55

SERMON

Blessed?

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

READING

Mary, Nazareth Girl

Ann Weems

OFFERING SENTENCE

(Scan the QR Code to give online →)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

No Wind at the Window

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**



arr. J.K. Breedlove

OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(inspired by Isaiah 35)

ONE: We rejoice with joy and singing,

MANY: For the coming of the LORD is near.

ONE: For all who walk in God's Holy Way: those in the pews and in the pulpits; those at home and on the streets; for all who ponder God's promise in their hearts, and all who carry the good news into the world, we rejoice with joy and singing,

MANY: For the coming of the LORD is near.

ONE: For the nations and their leaders: that eyes may be opened and ears unstopped, and that peace and justice break forth in every land. We rejoice with joy and singing,

MANY: For the coming of the LORD is near.

ONE: For all the world: heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them. For the early and the late rains, and the precious crop from the earth. For the gathering darkness and the light of hope. We rejoice with joy and singing,

MANY: For the coming of the LORD is near.

ONE: For this community and all who live in it, each member of the whole body: friend and stranger, parent and child, brother and sister, widow and orphan. Strengthen weak hands, dear God, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, be strong, do not fear! We rejoice with joy and singing,

MANY: For the coming of the LORD is near.

ONE: For all who are nearest to you, O God: the lonely, the out-of-work, the sick, the fearful, the cold, and the hungry. For the one who is sorry, and the one who is ashamed. It is you, our God of hope, who sets all prisoners free. We rejoice with joy and singing,

MANY: For the coming of the LORD is near.

ONE: For all the departed, and all who remember, we rejoice with joy and singing,

MANY: For the coming of the LORD is near.

ONE: We are waiting, O God, with all the patience we can muster. Beloved of angels and archangels, Lover of saints and sinners, God our Savior, to you alone we pray,

MANY: Amen.

THE 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

God, We Await Your Advent Here

MARYTON

(Sung to the tune of "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee")

**God, we await your advent here:
When will these desert lands rejoice?
When will new blossoms bright appear
And all earth praise you with one voice?**

**We live in deserts we have made;
Gifts of your love we pass right by.
We seek possessions, more each day,
And then in thirst for joy, we cry.**

**God, we prepare for Jesus' birth —
Searching for gifts from store to store!
Yet when you sent your Christ to earth,
You gave us joy worth so much more.**

**When in the love of Christ we grow,
Streams in this desert shall abound.
Then by your Spirit we will know:
True wealth in Jesus Christ is found.**

RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

ONE: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us! We have been called, we have been anointed, we have been given a task. So go out from this place into the world.

MANY: **We go carrying Good News to the world: news about freedom from oppression and healing for the afflicted. The time of the Lord's favor is now! Hallelujah! Amen.**

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship**, entitled “Gaudete,” is written by Brad Reynolds S.J., a photographer and artist in residence at Gonzaga University, Spokane, Wash. This poem is taken from *America*; The National Catholic Weekly (December 11, 2006): See http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=5183

The **Advent Candle Lighting Prayer** is posted on SALT and use with permission. Advent Candle Lighting Litanies (saltproject.org)

The **Prayer of Confession** is written by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith. <https://spaciousfaith.com>

The **Poem**, “Mary, Nazareth Girl,” is written by Ann Weems from her book, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, PA: Philadelphia, The Westminster Press, 1980, 25.

The **Prayers for the People** are written by Margaret D. McGee, and posted on In the Courtyard. www.inthecourtyard.com

The **Hymn**, “God, We Await Your Advent Here, is written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Copyright © 1998 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Copied from *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Geneva Press, 2000).

The **Charge and Benediction** is posted by Rev Gord on his blog, *Worship Offerings*. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca>
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