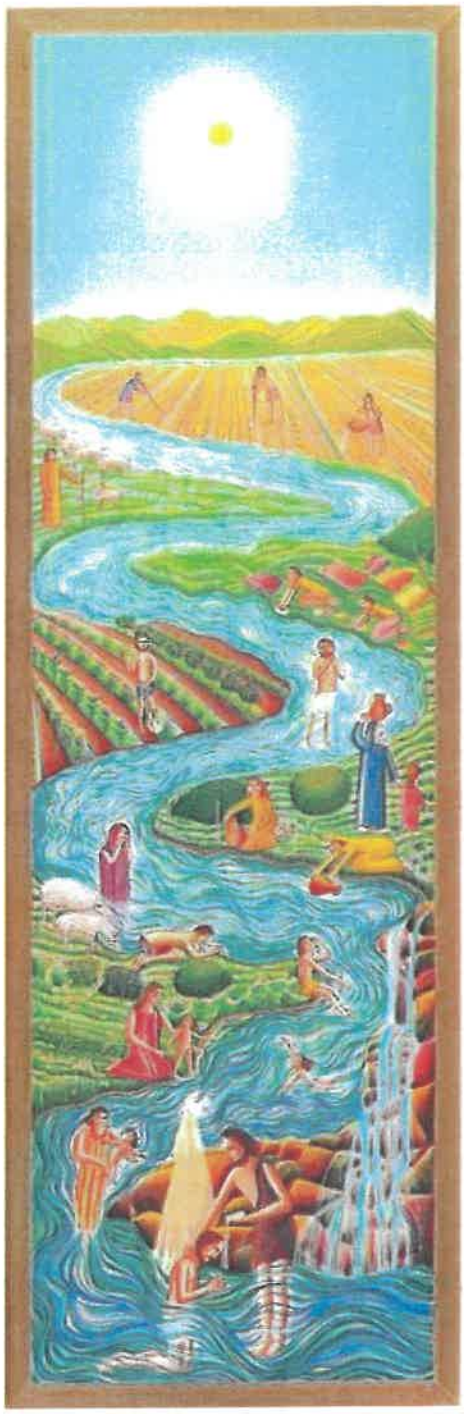


St. John's United Church of Christ
Chambersburg, PA
November 8, 2026

ELISHA HEALS NAAMAN

*Please stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING SONG *"This is the Day"*

UNISON WELCOME

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE *"The peace of Christ be with you"* *"And also with you"*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY & PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*

Let us rejoice, for morning has dawned. A new day has been born, and we are newly alive to enjoy it.

We know the beauty of God's creation and the wonder of the human family. We remember those whose love has shaped our lives and those whose struggle for justice has been unsleeping even in nighttimes of loneliness.

We gather in our church to worship God, to share prayers and gifts, to pledge ourselves to God's work in the world.

May God bless us, so that what we do in this time together may be honest, sacred, and filled with hope.

***HYMN #2** *"Come, Thou Almighty King"*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us make our confession to God in hope and faith.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *from Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*

Gracious God, we confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, our soul, our strength, our mind. We have not loved our neighbors with a deep and abiding compassion. And we have not loved ourselves and cared for our own truest needs. Transform our shallowness, enliven our deadness, heal our wounded, broken places, and so fill us with your spirit that we can be forgiven, even as we forgive ourselves and others. For we pray in the name of Jesus Christ who brings us love that has no end. Amen.

KYRIE Hymnal Companion C-4

ASSURANCE OF GRACE *from Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*

God sent Jesus not to judge us, but to save us. God accepts both our courage and our fears. In the name of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Dare to accept the gift of a new beginning.

***GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #704**

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Kings 5:1-15a; Matthew 8:1-4

RESPONSIVE READING *"In the Middle of the Question" by Bobby Jo Valentine*

When life gets complicated, when life gets hard to understand
The simple things grow sacred like the touch of another hand.
Everything underrated, everything buried underneath
In the present gets appreciated when the future is a mystery.
So I'm not bringing any answers and I'm not sure if there's a lesson.
But we can walk through this together and love each other through the question.
And there may never be an answer on this side of the lesson
But I believe that Love walks with us in the middle of the question.

ANTHEM *"Give Me Jesus"* arr. Dwayne Davis

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Chani Wolfe

STEP SHOW PRESENTATION NETWork Ministries Step Teams

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #706** *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

O Lord, our God, we offer you our gifts and our praise. In your mercy, you have given us life everlasting and freedom from death. In your love, you have given us the strength to stand up and continue on our journey. In your wisdom, you have taken a chance on us, allowing us to be part of your holy plans and your message. Help us to use the gifts you have given us with mercy, love, and wisdom, so that we can continue to honor the trust you have put on us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #497** *"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"*

***COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (seated)

Join us for a time of fellowship following the service!

Birthdays this week: 11/09 Sarah Herbert; 11/10 Joanne Slothower; 11/11 Nancy Harrison; 11/13 Angela Miller.

Worship Participants:	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Peg Bryner
Lector	Diana MacFarlane
Children's Corner	Rebecca Pound
Media Coordinators	Mike Blumberg and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	"River" © Estate of John August Swanson, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of Vanderbilt Divinity Library

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given to praise the Lord! Thank you for supporting Oma and Opa for 71 years of marriage by John and Nina Widmann.

St. John's Vision

We are called to love, to learn, to worship and to witness in Christ as a congregation that welcomes everyone, and seeks service that will advance God's realm on earth.

St. John's Mission
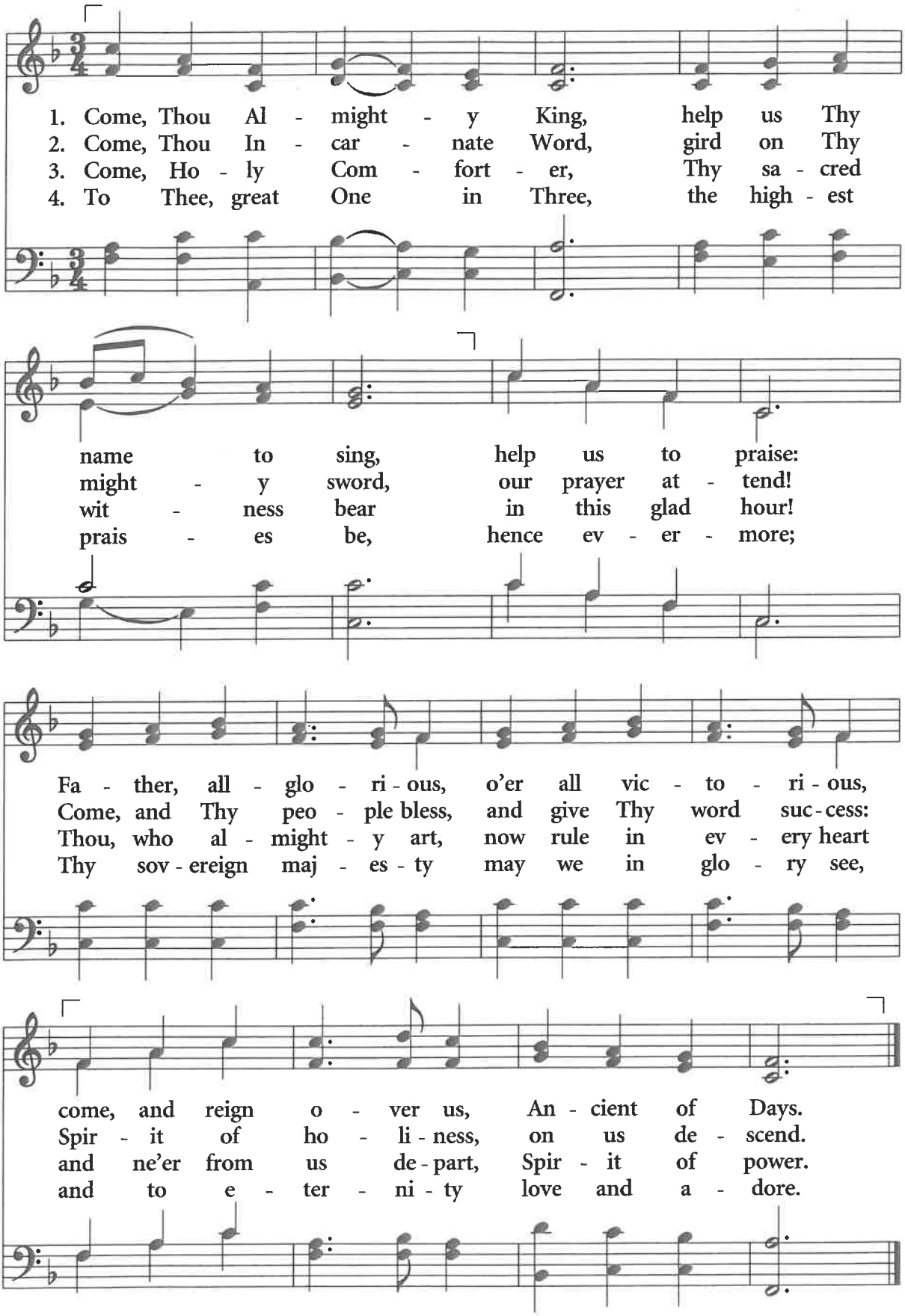
To grow in love of God and neighbor

Worship Resources:

Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi
Your True Name: Poems, Songs, and Stories to find your way to you by Bobby Jo Valentine
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor

We are delighted to welcome **NETwork Ministries' Step Teams** to St. John's UCC! The arts ministry at NETwork gives children and teens opportunities to learn and grow in their artistic gifts, intentionally connecting with the diverse cultures represented in our community, and providing new contexts to build relationships and share the good news of Jesus. May we be blessed by their sharing with us today!

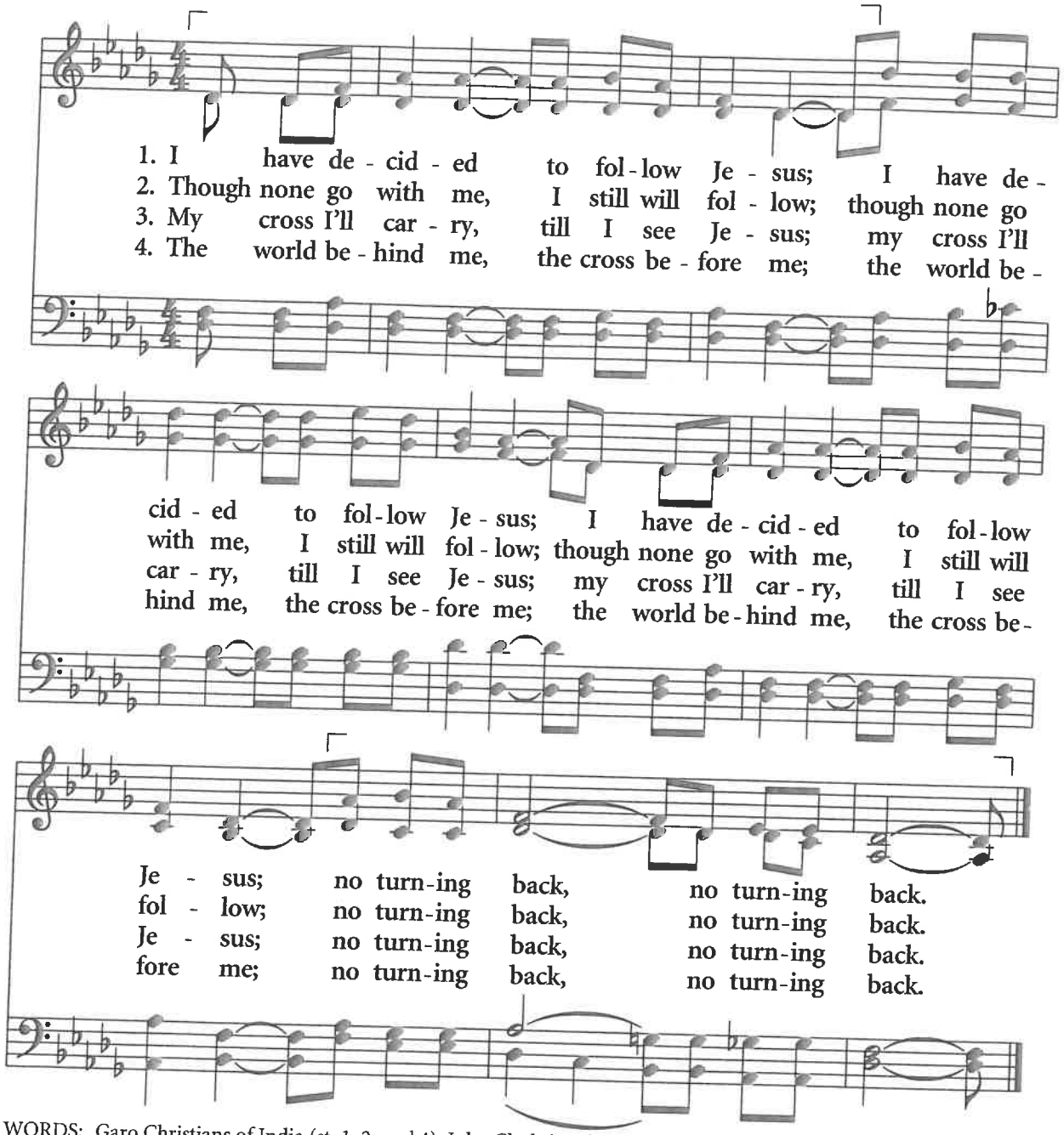
2 Come, Thou Almighty King



WORDS: Anonymous
MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769

ITALIAN HYMN
6.6.4.6.6.6.4

497 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus



WORDS: Garo Christians of India (st. 1, 2, and 4); John Clark (st. 3)
MUSIC: Folk melody from India; arr. William J. Reynolds, 1959

ASSAM
10.10.10.8

Arr. © 1959, Ren. 1987 Van Ness Press, Inc. (Admin. by LifeWay Worship)

NEWS IN THE PEWS November 8, 2026

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, pastor@sjucc1811.org (641) 260-1868 (cell)
Tonya Schwartz, Office Administrator, manager@sjucc1811.org (717) 263-8593 (office)
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

TODAY:
8:00 pm Bible Study on 1 Peter Chapter 3- Zoom via link from Friday's e-blast

Monday, November 9
1:30 pm Book Study on Chapter 4 - Conference Room 111
6:00 pm DIY Christmas Ornament Bar Craft Night - Room 116
7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 10
5:30 pm Yoga - Room 202
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study via Zoom
6:30 pm Cub Scouts - Fellowship Hall/then break into smaller groups

Wednesday, November 11
Church Office Closed in observance of Veteran's Day!
11:30 am Ladies Luncheon - Hoss's Steak and Seafood Restaurant

Thursday, November 12
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice - Room 117
7:15 pm Choir Practice - Room 103

Sunday, November 15
8:45 am Godly Play Church School Class (Ages 3-K) - Room 119
8:45 am SPARK! Church School Class (Grades 1-5) - Room 115
8:45 am Scripture/Contemporary Issues (Grades 6-12) - Room 206
8:45 am Wired Word Adult Church School Class - Library Room 106
8:45 am Upper Room Adult Church School Class - Conference Room 111
10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:15 am Fall Congregational Meeting - Room 116
1:00 pm PEO Auction Doors Open, Silent and Live Auction begins - Fellowship Hall
8:00 pm Bible Study on 1 Peter Chapter 4 - Zoom via link from Friday's e-blast

Monday Afternoon Book Study We'll discuss chapter 4 of Jeff Chu's "Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand" on Monday, November 9, 1:30 PM in Conference Room 111.

Sunday Night Bible Study Join Pastor Caroline on Sunday, November 8 at 8 pm via Zoom for a Bible study on the letter of 1 Peter Chapter 3 Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0593 5961 and Passcode 277938. A hyperlink is included in the weekly e-blast.

Totenfest will be Sunday, November 22, the last Sunday of the church year. We will remember with love and thanksgiving those members of our faith community who have died during the past year. We also wish to include the people in your lives who have transitioned to be with God since our last observance of Totenfest on November 23, 2025. Please contact Pastor Caroline by Monday, November 16, with the name of the person you wish to be remembered, along with their date of death, so that we can honor them during the service and in the bulletin.

Staff Christmas Gift It is the tradition at St. John's United Church of Christ to have a special offering envelope designated for Christmas Gifts for Church Staff. Our staff are a true blessing to our church and if you want take part in this please submit this to the church office and in the MEMO line of your check be sure to say "Staff Christmas Gift". We need this by **Sunday, December 6, 2026** in order for our staff to receive this by Christmas. Thank you!

Fall Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, November 15. We will be voting to adopt the budget for 2027. Copies of the meeting packet are available in the Narthex and Welcome Center and by request from the church office.

Keystone Conference Fall Budget Meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday, November 14. If you are interested in participating as a lay delegate, please contact Pastor Caroline.

Winter Quarter First Fruits in November, December and January will go to support the Salvation Army Angel Tree, Hoffman Homes Holiday Gift Program, and "Operation Christmas Joy," an opportunity to make the holiday season brighter for the residents of Laurel Lakes Rehabilitation and Wellness Center. More information about each of these organizations and opportunities is included in the November Spirit. Thank you for your generosity in serving our neighbors and demonstrating God's love in action.

Christmas Cookies and Crafts on Saturday, December 5 from 9 am to 2 pm in Fellowship Hall. Buy homemade crafts and artwork to brighten your heart and home! Holiday treats to be sold by weight: Cookies $10/lb. and Candy $12/lb. Proceeds will benefit kinds in our community. Bring your baked goods to kitchen on December 4th from 6pm-8pm. Your crafts and artwork for sale should be priced and placed in Fellowship Hall. Sign up is in lobby at the Welcome Center.

Mercersburg Association Fall Meeting will be held at St. Paul's UCC in Mechanicsburg on Sunday, November 15, 3-5 pm. This will be a hybrid meeting with a Zoom option to attend. Please contact Pastor Caroline if you would like to attend as one of two lay delegates.

Fall Clean-Up of St. John's grounds is scheduled for Saturday, November 21 at 9:00 am (rain date is Saturday, November 28). Bring your favorite rake or use one from church's inventory!

Bible and a Beer is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. Join us on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Trojan Diner at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be November 16.

St. John's Nursery School will be selling The Butcher Shoppe cookie dough and coffee again this year, as well as pizza and sub coupons, after worship on Sunday November 15. Delivery of coffee and cookie dough will be in early December.