

RACINE  BIBLE
CHURCH

Adore

30 DAYS OF ADORING CHRIST DURING ADVENT

Adore

*But Mary treasured up all these things,
pondering them in her heart.*

Luke 2:19

Another season of Advent is upon us, and “adore” will be the theme of all we do. Advent is the time each year (beginning four Sundays before Christmas) when we remember the expectant waiting of those in the Old Testament for the coming of Jesus. It’s also a time for us to look forward as we expectantly wait for His second coming. This is an important time of worship for the church family, and it shouldn’t just take place on Sundays.

We want to encourage the entire church family to set aside time each day to go over a page in this booklet. Whether you are a child, teen, single adult, parent with children at home, empty nester, or senior, we hope you will use this book each day from November 26 - December 25 to help you daily adore Jesus during Advent.

If you have other people in your home, gather together and go through this book together. If you have a daily time of Family Worship, use this in place of or in addition to what you normally do. If you currently aren’t in the practice of having daily Family Worship, we pray this will be an easy starting place for you to continue Family Worship even after Christmas.

God’s Word describes how Mary *treasured* and *pondered* all that happened on the night Jesus was born. This is what it means to adore, and this is the goal of this booklet: to help you *treasure* and *ponder* Jesus this season of Advent.

Each week we will focus on a different theme as we adore Christ:

Week One - Adore the Promised One

Week Two- Adore the King

Week Three - Adore the Savior

Week Four - Adore the Glorious One

How to Use This Book:

Each day you will be asked to do four things: read, discuss, sing, and pray.

Read

- Read in your Bible the portion of Scripture listed in this booklet.
- Read the short devotion that follows.
- If you desire to access this booklet electronically, you can view and/or download the entire PDF on the church website at: www.racinebible.org/advent

Discuss

- Discuss the questions provided each day with your family/household.
- If the questions provided for each day do not generate discussion, come up with additional questions in response to the text read.

Sing

- Each day, a song has been selected for you to sing together with your family/household. The song for each day has been specifically selected to reinforce and solidify what you read and discuss.
- Sing without accompaniment or have someone in your home accompany the singing on an instrument if you have someone available.
- We have also recorded each of the songs used in this booklet and have made them available on the church website's Advent page (www.racinebible.org/advent) if you would prefer to have this support.
- Over the course of the thirty days, we will be singing ten different songs (each song is repeated approximately three times) to help those unfamiliar with some of these Christmas songs learn them.
- All of the lyrics to the songs are printed in the back of this book. If you would prefer to print copies of the song lyrics for each member in your household, you can find these to download and print on the church website as well: www.racinebible.org/advent

Pray - Spend time in prayer each day at the close of this time of worship. There are specific prayer prompts written at the bottom of each page. Have one person in your family pray, assign each person in your family a different day of the week to pray, have everyone pray each night, or use a combination of these ideas or any other way that is helpful to your family/household.

November 26

Adore the Promised One: The First Promise

*"I will put enmity between you and the woman
and between your offspring and her Offspring;
He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."
Genesis 3:15*

Read: Genesis 3:1-15

It doesn't take long for humans to sin. We were created to be with God, to enjoy Him, and to walk in the delight of worshipping Him. Yet, when temptation comes to go our own way—to live in rebellion to God's ways—we sin. With that first disobedience of Adam and Eve, sin (and all its effects) entered the world. No longer could we live in God's perfect world. Instead all of humanity must live under sin's devastating effects: everything from pain in childbirth, to difficult work, to disease and suffering, to being born with a sin nature, to sin's cruelest effect- death. Worse yet, there was no way we could get back to that perfection. No way to get back to that perfect life with God. Humanity, in that moment, was without hope.

Yet, in spite of ruining God's beautiful plan, God immediately promises redemption. In the first minutes after the fall into sin, God ensures that help for the hopeless human race will one day come. We get just a small glimpse of the good news of Jesus here (v. 15). This help won't come right away; there will still be a great struggle between humanity and sin ('enmity between your offspring and her Offspring'). The redemption won't be easy or pain-free ('you [Satan] shall bruise His [Jesus'] heel'). But one day, God will send a Deliverer to ultimately vanquish sin and the devil ('He shall bruise your head'). God's first promise of the coming Messiah tells us that He will rescue humanity from the plight of sin.

Discuss

Where do you most see the effects of the curse in your life?

Sing

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (page 37)

Pray

Praise God for sending Jesus to save us from our sin!

November 27

Adore the Promised One: The Unexpected Hope

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me One who is to be Ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

Micah 5:2

Read: Micah 5:1-5

Micah was written about 700 years before the birth of the Messiah, Jesus. He was a prophet who spoke for God in some of Israel's darkest days. The nation of Israel, at the time, was on the verge of being snuffed out. They had a golden age under David and Solomon around 1000 BCE, when God promised that Someone from the line of David would be King over Israel forever. But over the next 300 years, Israel drifted away from God. By the time of Micah, most of the nation was wiped out, and the little bit that was left looked sure to fall. It seemed the promises of God were ancient history and that the so-called people of God would be no more.

It is in this hopelessness, that this promise of God shines out. Micah 5:1 shows the doom coming at Israel. From where could help come? Micah answers: from a very unexpected place, Bethlehem. Just as David was an unexpected king who delivered Israel, Bethlehem will again produce a King— this time, a much greater King— who will deliver Israel once and for all. It won't all be rosy, Israel will be in danger until His birth (v. 3), but this coming King will care for His people with God's strength, with the majesty of God as His own (v. 4). Total peace and security will be theirs forever (v. 4-5). What kind of King could bring this in such hopelessness? Only God's Messiah, Jesus.

Discuss

What reasons for hopelessness are in your life now? How does Jesus' coming (and the future promises of Jesus) impact our suffering today?

Sing

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (page 38)

Pray

Praise God for a King who gives us ultimate and eternal peace.

November 28

Adore the Promised One: God with Us

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14

Read: Isaiah 7:1-17

In this chapter, Ahaz is the king of Judah. In his role as king, he is to live in obedience to God, to point the people of Judah to God, and to trust in God alone. However, in chapter 7, Ahaz is terrified (7:2: "his heart shook"), because two nearby nations are threatening war. God steps in and tells Ahaz very certainly, it won't happen (v. 7); God Himself will protect His people. Yet, Ahaz still refuses to trust in God (v. 12). So, God gives Ahaz a sign (v. 14): by the time it takes for a virgin to get married and have a child (a few years), the threat of war will be gone and both enemy nations will be dismantled.

Verse 14, though, stands out for a more significant reason. How can we trust God, not just with threats of war, but in all things? How can we be certain in tough times that God is really with us? The answer is God gives us this sign: a virgin will miraculously have a Son. This Son will be named Immanuel, which means, God with us. God will send us a sign that is proof positive we can trust Him in all things. The sign is nothing less than God Himself sending His own Son to be with us! This promise reminds us that no matter what we go through in life, we can always turn and trust in God. We are to live lives full of faith, not because faith is a leap in the dark, but because faith is acting with the knowledge that Immanuel is truly with us.

Discuss

Why is the name Immanuel significant to you? In what ways throughout your day do you forget or not live as though God is with you? How would your life be different if you better reflected the truth that God is with you?

Sing

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (page 42)

Pray

Praise God for being Immanuel. Confess times when you have failed to remember or live in the confident hope that God is with you. Praise God for His grace!

November 29

Adore the Promised One: The Glorious Messiah

*In that day the Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal
for the peoples— of Him shall the nations inquire,
and His resting place shall be glorious.”*

Isaiah 11:10

Read: Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah 11 is filled with precise and breathtaking prophecies of Jesus, the coming Messiah. It is amazing to read this chapter and know it was written 700 years before Jesus was born. Even more, we should be drawn in awe to Jesus, at this glimpse of Him in the Old Testament.

What does Isaiah foretell of Him? This coming Messiah is from the family tree of David (v. 1). He will be filled with God's Spirit (v. 2). In Him will be a supernatural knowledge of how to live life and a seeing down to the heart of everything (v. 2). His pleasure comes by His relationship to the Father (v. 3). He will care for those in need and crush the wicked (v. 4). He will be unmoved by anything and will only do what is right (v. 5). His future rule as King will be marked by total peace and security; not only will there be no conflict, but there will be no threats, no suffering, no fear of pain of any kind (v. 6-8). There will be total paradise as everyone and everything on earth is rightly related to the King and lives in worship of Him (v. 9). Even those who previously had no possibility of knowing this King, even they will be brought in to Him and His glory (v. 10).

Discuss

Don't our hearts long for this great day? And don't our hearts burn as we read these truths in God's Word to know Him better now? What amazes you about Jesus from Isaiah 11?

Sing

“Joy to the World” (page 40)

Pray

Use this chapter to praise and worship Jesus, our eternal King!

November 30

Adore the Promised One: The Joyful Sufferer

*Behold, My Servant shall succeed;
He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.
Isaiah 52:13*

Read: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

All throughout the book of Isaiah, which we've looked at briefly this week, God has declared that He Himself will rescue Israel. He will bring not just temporary, earthly salvation from Israel's enemies, but He will accomplish eternal, worldwide salvation for all people. How will this happen? How will God do this? In shocking clarity, with astounding accuracy, Isaiah shows us how God will do this. God will send His divine Messiah to be punished for sin and win salvation for all God's people.

These verses show the horror and power of the cross. The Messiah would have to endure great pain to ultimately rid His people of their sin. God's people have gone astray (v.6), so Messiah was crushed on their behalf (v. 5). But make no mistake, this was God's plan all along; this is why Messiah would come (v. 10). In fact, though the world's pain would be endured by this Messiah, after accomplishing salvation Isaiah says, He will look at it with joy and satisfaction (v. 11).

Jesus came to earth to die for us. He was born as a baby, so He could live a perfect life in our place, die for our sin, and rise again in victory. Jesus did all this for the joy set before Him (53:11 and Hebrews 12). What was this joy? This joy is us. Jesus endured the punishment of Isaiah 53 for the joy of winning salvation for us. We are His joy, His inheritance, His crown. Jesus came for us. Doesn't this make you want to adore Him even more?

Discuss

As you read Isaiah 53, what stands out about what Jesus did for you?

Sing

"He Who is Mighty" (page 39)

Pray

Thank God for paying the debt of your sin and ask Him to keep you from sin today.

December 1

Adore the Promised One: The Anticipated Messiah

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

Isaiah 61:1

Read: Isaiah 61:1-11

In context, these verses talk on two levels. The first, how God will deliver His people from the impending exile to Babylon that they were set to endure. In this first level, God gives the good news that those who are poor, brokenhearted, captives, and prisoners, will see favor from God (v. 2) and they will be comforted (v. 3).

On another level, God tells us of the true nature of His Messiah's work. His Messiah will come not just to bring political freedom to Israel or to bring true justice to the inequities of the day, but His Messiah will come to accomplish spiritual renewal. This Messiah will bring total transformation (v. 4), a new relationship with God (v. 6), eternal joy (v. 7), a covenant and reality that will never end (v. 8), worldwide blessing (v. 9), and righteousness for all His people (v. 11).

How would this Messiah feel about His advent? What was in Jesus' mind as He prepared for His coming? Verse 10 gives us a wonderful view of our Jesus. He is pictured as a groom on his wedding day—getting everything just right in anticipation of the big day. It says His delight is in God and is adorned in righteousness, ready to bring deliverance and salvation to His people. Make no mistake, Jesus the Messiah is filled with joy to come and redeem His people.

Discuss

What emotions do a bride and groom have on a wedding day?
How does this relate to Jesus' coming and advent for us (v. 10)?

Sing

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (page 41)

Pray

Worship Jesus with joy over the blessings He has won for us.

December 2

Adore the Promised One: The Comforting Messiah

*Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare
is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received
from the LORD's hand double for all her sins."*

Isaiah 40:1-2

Read: Isaiah 40:1-11

The book of Isaiah comes to a turning point in chapter 40. God has called His people to trust in Him. They have failed. He gives them more chances, more unbelief. Finally, at their darkest hour (Isaiah 36-37), they turn to God and God saves. It seems like all is well. However, in the very next chapters, Israel goes back to her sinful ways and refuses to trust God (Isaiah 38-39). God now brings the hammer— they will be crushed and exiled (39:6-7). The book could end on that note, but just when it seems all hope is lost, Messiah bursts on to the scene to rescue His people in Isaiah 40.

It starts strikingly in chapter 40 with God promising comfort to Israel. How? Then, God promises that her wars and exile will end. How? Then, God says her sin will be forgiven. How? Then, God says, she will be brought back into relationship with Him. How!?! Verses 3-5 answer: the coming Messiah will do it. Though we don't see the full plan yet (Isaiah rolls more of the plan out in the rest of the book), God promises here that He will send His Messiah to accomplish salvation for His people. But before Messiah would come, God would send someone to 'prepare the way for Him' (v. 3). A forerunner would come to 'make straight' the way for the Messiah (v. 4). John the Baptist would come to spiritually ready the people for the coming of Messiah, to call people to repentance and obedience.

Discuss

Is your heart 'ready' for Messiah this advent? Or is there repentance and obedience that needs to take place?

Sing

"Silent Night" (page 43)

Pray

Praise God for Messiah, who accomplished salvation and brings comfort.

December 3

Adore the King: The Lion of the Tribe of Judah

*"The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him;
and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples."
Genesis 49:10*

Read: Genesis 49:8-12

Near the end of his life, the patriarch Jacob gathered his sons together to bless them and make prophetic statements about their futures. In a surprise decision, the eldest son Simeon was denied the right to rule, and this royal privilege was instead granted to Judah. With his hand on the neck of his enemies, Judah will have the praise of his brothers, who will "bow down" before him. Like a proud and majestic lion, feeding on his prey, none will dare challenge him.

Judah would be the tribe of royalty, but the pinnacle of Judah's royal rule was still far off in the distance. The rod of rule would remain with Judah until the day when one final man from the tribe of Judah sat on the throne, and then he would inherit all that the world possessed. The people would obey him, and his rule would be marked by prosperity and abundance.

No man in Israel's history ever completely matched this prophecy. As Calvin wrote, "the kingdom which began from David was a kind of prelude and shadowy representation of that greater grace which was delayed, and held in suspense, until the advent of the Messiah."

Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of the Father on high, and one day His throne will be established over all the earth. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5), His kingdom will have no end, and all the prosperity of the nations will flow into it (Revelation 21:26).

Discuss

What does it mean for us that Jesus is a *king*? How can you honor Him as king?

Sing

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" (page 35)

Pray

Think about how good it is that God is the king of the universe and praise Him for His sovereign rule and reign over creation.

December 4

Adore the King: David's Son Will Reign Forever

*"He shall build a house for My name,
and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
I will be to him a father, and he shall be to Me a son."
2 Sam 7:13-14a*

Read: Luke 2 Samuel 7

Some have called 2 Samuel 7 the "high point" of the Old Testament, and it is not difficult to see why. David, the greatest king in Israel's history, had achieved peace with his enemies and had turned his attention to building a house for the Lord. David already had a beautiful palace for himself and his family; he was now ready to turn his attention to building something befitting the God whom he loved and served. But the Lord turned the tables on David. Rather than David building a house for the Lord, the Lord would build a house for him (v.11). In this case, the "house" wasn't a physical structure but a royal family line. The Lord made a promise to David that he would have a son who would sit on his throne, reigning without end. In this way, the Lord said, "your throne shall be established forever" (v.16).

Those who know something of Old Testament history might be tempted to think that the Lord was referring to Solomon as the promised son. And though Solomon's reign was, indeed, part of the fulfillment of this promise, there was much more to it than Solomon could possibly fulfill. David was promised a son whose reign would never end. Solomon's reign ended, and so did the reign of every other king in Israel's history. There was One who was coming, from the line of David, whose kingdom would know no end. Who was He? When would He arrive? The remainder of the Old Testament unfolds with these questions reverberating in the background.

Discuss

When you think of something that is *eternal*, what comes to mind?
Why is it so hard for us to grasp the idea of something that never ends?

Sing

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (page 37)

Pray

Dwell on the concept of eternity, and praise the Lord for the glorious promise of eternity with Christ.

December 5

Adore the King: Son of God, Son of Man

"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the LORD God will give to Him the throne of His father David."

Luke 1:32

Read: Luke 1:26-38

It had been centuries since a descendant of David had sat on his throne, and nearly a thousand years since David himself held the scepter of Israel. And even when the throne had been occupied, nothing approaching the glory of the Davidic kingdom had been seen since the glory days of Solomon. Now, an angelic spokesman is telling a young Jewish woman that she would bear a son who would occupy that long-empty throne. For the people of Israel, such a fact would be the most significant event to occur in many, many generations.

But it goes much farther than that, because the child to be born wouldn't merely re-occupy an abandoned throne. There was something much different about this future king. The angel says He would be called "the Son of the Most High," that is, the Son of God Himself. At the same time, the angel refers to the "throne of His father David." So this child to be born would be Son of God and Son of Man. A human king, and a divine king. Not since the days of Eden had humans lived under the direct reign of God Himself, and yet that reality was now dawning once again upon God's people. In the coming of this king, the Lord was reversing the curse and reconciling a sinful world to Himself.

Discuss

Why is it a blessing to us that Jesus is a *divine* king?
Why is it a blessing to us that Jesus is a *human* king?

Sing

"What Child is This?" (page 44)

Pray

Take the blessings you found from the questions above and turn them into prayers of praise to God.

December 6

Adore the King: A Royal Lineage

*...and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary,
of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.*

Matthew 1:16

Read: Matthew 1:1-17

To assail Jesus on the basis of His background was a common slander of Jesus from His enemies, and Matthew writes to give his Jewish audience, a very origin-minded group of people, the truth about Jesus' lineage. There can be no question of the legitimacy of Jesus' claim to be Messiah on the basis of His family of origin. He meets the credentials. Yet Matthew is doing something much more significant than merely giving a factual retelling of Jesus' family line. He is painting a portrait in both factual and symbolic colors. He is, essentially, taking the role of preacher or prophet as much as he is fulfilling the role of historian.

By stating that Jesus is the son of Abraham and David (v. 1), Matthew is highlighting His royal lineage. All Jews trace their origin to Abraham, and every Jew knew that the Messiah would also be in the line of David. So "son of Abraham" means Jesus was a true Jew, and "son of David" means Jesus was royalty.

Matthew arranges his genealogy into three groups of 14 men each, with Abraham and David serving as the main highlights of the genealogy. Clearly, Matthew had an intended purpose in his "three 14s" arrangement, using the number of generations symbolically. Seven is considered the number of completion, so the list includes 6 groups of seven. Jesus Christ, therefore, would be the beginning of the seventh group of seven, thereby reinforcing that Jesus is the end of the old and the beginning of the new. Significantly, the genealogy of Jesus is the last genealogy recorded in Scripture. As a matter of fact, Paul tells his readers to avoid genealogical talk. From Jesus on, we all find our genealogy in Christ.

Discuss

Which names in the genealogy have troubling backgrounds? Why do you think these names are included in a list meant to establish the Messiah's credentials?

Sing

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (page 36)

Pray

Jesus' own ancestry contains a lot of troubled characters. Confess your own unworthiness to be considered in His family, and thank Him for the grace that welcomes you anyway.

December 7

Adore the King: Wise Men Worship the King

*"Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?
For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him."
Matthew 2:2*

Read: Matthew 2:1-12

Dwelling in what is modern-day Iran were a class of individuals known in Greek as magi (where we get our word magic). These "wise men" were learned Gentiles who studied astrology, mathematics, and science. Having no doubt obtained sacred writings from the Jews of the dispersion, these men knew of prophecies of the Jewish Messiah, and the God of Israel used their study of the heavens to direct them to the birth of the King of Kings.

Think about what this journey meant for these wise men. It meant months of travel through difficult and dangerous lands. It meant months away from home. It meant quite an outlay of wealth to fund the whole endeavor. All to worship a child. How ironic that Gentiles from hundreds of miles away, dwelling in lands that worshiped any number of foreign gods, would be willing to travel for months to visit the King of the Jews, while the thousands of Jewish people within a short walk of Bethlehem pay the baby little or no attention at all.

The key word in this passage is worship. They didn't arrive to ask for favors; they were on no diplomatic mission; they were not seeking an international treaty; they were not threatened by predictions of this king's future greatness. These men arrived for one reason: to ascribe to this little Boy-King the greatness and majesty that He was due.

Discuss

Worshipping Jesus required quite a sacrifice from the magi. What sacrifices are required of us to truly worship Jesus today?

Sing

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (page 35)

Pray

Spend some time simply worshipping and adoring Christ. Offer your time, energy, and resources to Him.

December 8

Adore the King: The Clash of Kings

*A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted,
because they are no more.*

Matthew 2:18

Read: Matthew 2:13-18

Christmas is such a time of joyous celebration. Even secular culture around us speaks of this holiday as a time to celebrate “peace on earth.” And while the birth of Christ was indeed an occasion of great joy and announcement of peace, it was also a time of great violence and pain. Christ was born a king, the true King of the Jews, and at least one king alive at the time of Jesus’ birth wasn’t really interested in dealing with competition to his throne. Herod would have no one challenging his right to rule over the people of Israel.

And so Herod did what he thought necessary to eliminate the infant King born just a few miles away in the little town of Bethlehem. He sent his minions on a murderous mission into that village. They were to kill every little boy they found, leaving no chance that Christ would live to challenge the Herodian claim to the throne of Israel.

This is not a narrative we typically focus on during Advent. None of us like thinking about such a tragic event. But it is worth being reminded that when God came among us, men would rather he had stayed away. The darkness hates the light; evil despises holiness. As John tells us, “He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him” (John 1:11). Apart from the grace of God softening our hearts and opening our eyes, we are all murderous Herods who don’t want anyone, human or divine, challenging our right to rule over our lives. But by the grace of God, some have submitted to the rule of Christ, bowing our knees before Him and honoring Him as Lord of our lives. As John also wrote, “But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

Discuss

What is so appealing about ruling over our own lives that we have trouble joyfully submitting to God’s rule over us? How do you typically respond when you are tempted to view Jesus’ claim on your life as a threat rather than a blessing?

Sing

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (page 42)

Pray

Ask the Lord to show you where you haven’t truly bowed the knee to His lordship in your life. Confess these failures and rejoice in the forgiveness you have in Christ.

December 9

Adore the King: The Government on His Shoulder

Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:7

Read: Isaiah 9:2-7

The prophet Isaiah composed this chapter during a time of great turmoil and anguish. The mighty and fearsome nation of Assyria was about to invade Israel, and that prospect was good reason for the people to tremble. The Assyrians were known for their terror and cruelty. As they contemplated the coming invasion, the people could only look forward to “distress, darkness, the gloom of anguish” (8:22).

But that wasn’t the whole story. God was promising the nation that, though darkness was coming, a light would follow. He had not abandoned His people forever. Despite the bleak prospects ahead, Isaiah prophesied with great joy of One who was coming. But notice that he prophesies in the past tense. He is so sure of the blessing that is coming that he speaks as though it has already come. The people who walked in darkness “have seen” a great light.

A son was going to be born who would reverse the fortunes of the people. He would assume leadership of the nation, and His rule would be marked by blessings never before experienced by the Jewish people. The titles Isaiah uses for this king are significant: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Matthew, for obvious reasons, saw the true fulfillment of the promise of Isaiah 9 in the life and ministry of Jesus (Matthew 4:15-16). Only the kingdom of Christ could be described like this.

Discuss

Think about each of the descriptions for the Messiah listed in verse 6. In what ways has Jesus fulfilled each of those titles?

Sing

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” (page 38)

Pray

Praise Jesus for each of the descriptions of the Messiah found in this text. Ask the Lord to help you point others to Him.

December 10

Adore the Savior: Mary's Song

*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..."*

Luke 1:46-47

Read: Luke 1:39-56

We don't know all of what Mary knew about Jesus before His birth as the popular Christmas song, "Mary, Did You Know?" points out, but Scripture reveals she knew a lot. The song she sings to God in Luke 1 demonstrates that she knew much about the Savior she would birth. She knew God is a God who sees (v. 48), He is mighty (v. 49), He does great things (v. 49), His name is holy (v. 49), He is merciful (v. 50), He is to be feared (v. 50), He has shown strength (v. 51-52), He fills the hungry (v. 53), He is a God who helps (v. 54), He is a God who speaks (v. 55), and He is eternal (v. 56).

The theme of Mary's song points to God's sovereignty and goodness, specifically, that He humbles the proud and exalts the humble. As you read through Mary's song, notice how many times she points this out in various ways. Do you believe that God's got every aspect of this universe under control? Do you freak out when things don't make sense or do you rejoice in the fact that God is abundantly good and He is always in control?

Also, notice the genuineness of her song. This wasn't something she had to conjure up. This wasn't Mary putting on a fake smile for Elizabeth. Her response wasn't forced or contrived, it was the overflow of her soul. Her *soul* magnified. Her *spirit* rejoiced! Is your soul adoring the Savior this Christmas?

Discuss

What other passages of Scripture reflect some of the things Mary praises God for? How have you found these attributes of God's character to be true in your life?

Sing

"He Who is Mighty" (page 39)

Pray

Pray prayers of thanksgiving for the specific attributes of God Mary identifies in Luke 1.

December 11

Adore the Savior: Zechariah's Song

"...the Sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Luke 1:78b-79

Read: Luke 1:67-79

Have you ever been in complete darkness? I'm not just talking about walking into a room without turning on the light in the middle of the day; I'm talking about complete darkness, the kind where you can't see your own hand when you put it in front of your face? For many the only time they experience this is when the electricity in their house and throughout their community unexpectedly goes out in the middle of a cloudy night. If this has happened (or would happen) to you, what did (or would) you do? If you were in the middle of doing the dishes, would you continue? Probably not. If you were walking from one part of your house to another, would you make it to your destination without bumping into something or stubbing your toe? Probably not.

The thing about true darkness is that it's not only discomfoting, it's debilitating. It's not just inconvenient, it's incapacitating. Work isn't difficult to do in complete darkness, it's impossible. This is why Zechariah places such an importance on light at the end of his song in Luke 1. He calls Jesus the "Sunrise from on high" (or "Dayspring"), and describes those in darkness as "sitting." They aren't doing anything, because they can't. We aren't just ineffective apart from Christ, we are completely useless. We need light and we need to have our feet guided into the way of peace.

Discuss

Can you think of other portions of Scripture that refer to Christ as light? What further insights do they show you about the power of light over darkness?

Sing

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (page 42)

Pray

Thank God for being the Sunrise from on high and for causing you to not live in darkness. Pray He will continue to guide your feet in the way of peace.

December 12

Adore the Savior: Joseph & the Angel

"She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

Read: Matthew 1:18-25

What is your name? Do you know what your name means? Do you know why you were given your name? Were you given your name because of the significance of its meaning? Were you given your name because someone in your family had the same name? Were you given your name to honor a family friend? Were you given your name because your parents thought it sounded good with your last name?

Names in the Bible were significant and were given for specific reasons. Some people even had their name changed so their name would better reflect who they were or a major event they were a part of. It was assumed that John the Baptist would be given a family name from his father Zechariah, but this was not God's plan. In Matthew 1, Joseph is instructed to give Mary's baby the name Jesus.

He is given the name Jesus to reflect who He is. Saving people is not just something He does, but it is who He is. He is Jesus. He is Savior. He is Messiah. This wasn't a surprise to Joseph or anyone familiar with the Old Testament. They were eagerly anticipating the coming Immanuel spoken of by the prophets. We adore Jesus not just because of what we know Christ has done, but because of who He is. He is Jesus.

Discuss

What are some other names for Jesus given by Scripture?
How do each of these names cause us to distinctly worship Jesus?

Sing

"What Child is This?" (page 44)

Pray

Specifically, pray thanking God that He is Jesus, Immanuel, and Savior.

December 13

Adore the Savior: Training & Waiting

*"For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation for all people..."*

Titus 2:11

Read: Titus 2:11-14

Paul's letter to Titus didn't just provide him with instruction and encouragement, it also contributed to the "hymn book" of the early church. The two passages we will look at today and tomorrow were songs used in the worship of the early church. They both specifically address the salvation brought about by the coming of Christ. In the ESV translation of Scripture, verse 12 begins with the word "training" and verse 13 begins with the word "waiting." These two words will be our focus today.

The grace of God has come bringing salvation not just so that we will get to go to heaven when we die. The grace of God has come bringing salvation to train us. Salvation isn't the end, it's the beginning. It's the beginning of the path of godliness with the goal and reward being God. We need to look at salvation this Advent season as Day 1 of our training. It's not crossing the finish line, it's the beginning of the first workout in a long training plan.

Waiting is so closely related to training. Waiting is not the opposite of training. Waiting is patience on the outcome while you are training hard. Just as no one expects to drop twenty pounds after the first week of diet and exercise, we must wait while we train. The goal is gloriously worth the wait! As we celebrate the first Advent before the grace of God appeared, we also long for the second Advent when Christ will return. So we train and wait.

Discuss

How's the training going? Where have you seen growth in the things mentioned in verse 12? Where does more growth need to take place?

How's the waiting going? Does your daily life (your schedule, your finances, your daily decisions, your conversations) reflect you are waiting for our blessed hope?

Sing

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (page 37)

Pray

Pray for faithfulness and growth in training, for endurance and patience in waiting.

December 14

Adore the Savior: The Abundance of Salvation

...so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:7

Read: Titus 3:4-7

Wow! If you didn't let out an audible, "Wow!" after reading those four verses, go back and read them again. Seriously, it's only four verses. Read it again.

As we near "crunch time" in terms of finishing up our gift buying, we just read four verses describing the incredible gift of salvation we have been given. What makes this salvation so incredible? What makes us let out an audible, "Wow!" when reading these verses?

1. We don't deserve it. We didn't earn it, but He saved us out of His mercy! (v. 5)
2. We were filthy, but we have been washed clean and regenerated! (v. 5)
3. We were dead, but we have been renewed by the Holy Spirit! (v. 5)
4. We didn't just get some of the Holy Spirit, but He has been poured out on us richly! (v. 6)
5. We deserve condemnation, but we have been justified by His grace (v. 7)!

Wow! God is so good! We have been given so much more than we deserve. He hasn't just given us enough to get by, He has given us an abundance! But wait, there's more. Did you see it at the end of verse 7? He has made us heirs! Wow! He didn't just save us, wash us, equip us, and send us away or keep us at a distance. He brought us into His family and we have a glorious inheritance! Wow!

Discuss

How should knowing that the Holy Spirit has been poured out on you richly cause you to live? Are you living this way? Why or why not?

How should knowing that you are an heir of Christ cause you to live? Are you living this way? Why or why not?

Sing

"Joy to the World" (page 40)

Pray

Thank God for the abundance of salvation. Confess ways you have been ungrateful for or complacent with this gift. Pray you will better live as an heir "according to the hope of eternal life."

December 15

Adore the Savior: Peace with God

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Romans 5:1

Read: Romans 5

As we've already mentioned, the message of the angels was one of "peace on earth." Here in Romans 5, Paul unpacks more thoroughly the history of this peace. As he does, we see very clearly how undeserving we are of this peace. Notice all of the terms Paul uses to describe us before salvation: weak (v. 6), ungodly (v. 6), sinners (v. 8), and enemies (v. 10). These are helpful terms. For whatever reason, people don't often use the term "enemy" to describe their relationship with God prior to salvation, but this is who we were.

Contrast this with what Paul says about what God gave us even though we were His enemies: peace (v. 1), faith (v. 2), grace (v. 2), hope (v. 2), love (v. 5 & 8), justification (v. 9 & 16), salvation (v. 9), reconciliation (v. 10-11), righteousness (v. 17 & 19), and eternal life (v. 21).

What a marvel that in a world of bitterness, resentment, and retaliation, Christ loved us while we were His enemies. When we are wronged by our loved ones, we have a hard time forgiving; but Christ loved us while we were His enemies. The baby in the manger was born so that the enemies of God could have peace with God.

Discuss

Why is it important to remember we were once enemies of God?
What other things do you find remarkable in Romans 5?

Sing

"Silent Night" (page 43)

Pray

Pray prayers of praise for God's grace, mercy, and love. Praise and thank Him for reconciling us while we were His enemies.

December 16

Adore the Savior: The Finished Work

For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 10:14

Read: Hebrews 10

Have you ever read a story that didn't make sense in the beginning and the middle, but then when something big happens toward the end, it all clicks together to make perfect sense? In some ways, the story of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and all the rest of the Old Testament doesn't make sense until we get to Jesus. Once we meet Him and see who He is and what He has done, then it all clicks together and makes perfect sense.

This chapter is simply comparing the same old sacrifices offered year after year, which could never really complete the job, with the Christ coming into the world (v. 5), Christ completely doing the will of God (v. 7), and Christ offering the perfect and final sacrifice (v. 12 & 14).

Discuss

Can you find something specific to thank God for in each verse from 12 through 18?

Sing

"He Who is Mighty" (page 39)

Pray

Remember what was revealed in the Old Testament and thank God for it. Rejoice in what has been completely revealed in Christ and praise Jesus for it.

December 17

Adore the Glorious One: Simeon's Song

"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel."

Luke 2:29-32

Read: Luke 2:22-38

When is the last time you waited for something? How long did you wait? Simeon and Anna are presented here as people who were waiting. They waited all their lives, right up until they were very aged. They were waiting to see God's provision of a Savior. They were waiting for the arrival of the promised Messiah.

As you read through this passage notice two things. Pay careful attention to what Simeon and Anna say. And also attend carefully to what is said about Simeon and Anna. The first (what they say) will show you how they described and responded to Jesus. This should show you what a truly biblical expectation and response to Jesus should be. The second (what is said about them) will serve to paint you a picture of what it would mean to be a God-blessed older man or woman.

Discuss

What do Simeon and Anna say about Jesus?

How does this help us understand who Jesus is so that we can adore Him?

Sing

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" (page 35)

Pray

Turn everything that Simeon and Anna say about Jesus into a prayer of praise and thanks to Jesus.

December 18

Adore the Glorious One: The Angel's Song

*"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"
Luke 2:14*

Read: Luke 2:8-14

We all have pictures in our minds of what this looked and sounded like. Where do these pictures come from? Probably from Christmas cards, picture books, or even plays and theatrical presentations we have seen. Let's slow down, try to clear our imaginations if we can, and be very intentionally biblical. What exactly does the passage say? What picture do the precise words of the passage give us?

Verse 13 says that the angels and heavenly host were "praising God and saying" this language may imply singing but not necessarily. And if it does imply singing it may be referring to a kind of Jewish chanting that does not sound (at all) like what we know as melodic Christmas carols.

We do not know what they looked like or how they sounded. But we do know exactly what they said. They proclaimed "Glory to God in the Highest!" They were praising God. Why? Because these angels, though they had seen many things, had never seen anything like this! They knew about and had witnessed human sin. They knew about and had witnessed God's mighty miracles. But this one was more amazing than any they had ever seen!

Discuss

What is peace? How does Jesus bring peace? (You may use these verses to help answer: John 14:27; Romans 5:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

Sing

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (page 36)

Pray

Let's give God glory in prayer. Praise Him for His power, His plan, and His salvation.

December 19

Adore the Glorious One: The Word Became Flesh

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.*

John 1:14

Read: John 1:1-18

If this passage was a breakfast, it would be the tallest stack of pancakes you could imagine. The number of amazing things these verses reveal about Jesus is so very high. This is one of those passages that stacks so many stupendous truths on top of each other that they just come too fast and tower up too high to take it all in.

So, as we read this passage today, let's simply slow down and notice what it tells us about Jesus.

Discuss

What do verses 1-5 tell us about Jesus?

What do verses 9-13 tell us about Jesus?

What do verses 14-18 tell us about Jesus?

Sing

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (page 41)

Pray

As you look through the observations you listed out above, you can see how each of those truths about Jesus shows us why we need Him. Let's tell Him how much we need Him and praise Him for meeting our needs.

December 20

Adore the Glorious One: First Place in Everything

And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.

Colossians 1:18

Read: Colossians 1:15-20

Seven supremacies of our Savior are listed in this powerful passage. He is the image or exact representation of the Father. He is the firstborn over all creation (meaning the One who is sovereign over it all and inherits it all). He is the creator of all that is. He is the head of the church. He is the firstborn from the dead (meaning He is the leader of all who will be resurrected by His own resurrection). He is the only One in whom all the fullness of God dwells. And, finally, He is the great Reconciler (or Savior or Peacemaker).

Discuss

As you consider these seven supremacies, which one strikes you most deeply today? Why?

Sing

"What Child is This?" (page 44)

Pray

Jesus is so worthy! Let's pray that Jesus would be known and loved and worshipped by more people through our witness and ministry.

December 21

Adore the Glorious One: The Glorified Christ

And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name...

Philippians 2:8-9

Read: Philippians 2:1-11

Surely it is no exaggeration to mark this out as one of the most astonishing things that ever happened in the universe: A humble God saves proud people!

This passage, in calling us to humility, takes us from Heaven's glory, to the cradle, to the cross, and back up to Heaven again.

Verses 1-4 are the application - the part of the passage that tells us what we are supposed to think and do. Verses 5-10 serve to back up, prove, and nail down the application. They give the reasons for and the power to accomplish the application.

Verses 6 and 7 are a careful statement that Jesus was (and is) equal with God. He did not lay aside that deity. But what He did do was take on humanity (a real human nature). Thus, in His incarnation, He laid aside the privileges of His deity in order to live as a fully human person in our place.

Discuss

When was the last time you saw someone being proud?

When was the last time you saw someone being humble?

How might you demonstrate the actions and attitudes of verses 1-4 in your home?

Sing

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (page 38)

Pray

We can make the promises of verses 9-11 our prayer for today. How we long to see that happen!

December 22

Adore the Glorious One: The Final Christmas

*When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead.
But He laid His right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first
and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive
forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."*

Revelation 1:17-18

Read: Revelation 1:9-20

This picture of Jesus is filled with symbolic detail. Perhaps a few comments will help you understand the picture and worship the Savior.

The Son of Man is a title for Jesus taken from Daniel 7:13.

The robe and sash is that of a judge in authority.

The white hair corresponds to the Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:9) picturing eternity and wisdom.

The flaming eyes speak of His inescapable vision and infallible insight.

The burnished bronze feet may mean that, like the bronze altar, He represents the divine judgment and sacrifice for sin.

The voice is deeply, almost indescribably, powerful.

The stars in His hand indicate His possession and control over the church.

The sword in His mouth represents the sharp and always accurate verdict of truth He speaks.

Discuss

Observe what Jesus says in verses 17-18. What do you find comforting and what do you find frightening in what He says?

Sing

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (page 41)

Pray

This passage shows Jesus in charge of the churches. Pray for your church and its obedience to Jesus.

December 23

Adore the Glorious One: The Imprint of God

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.

After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hebrews 1:1-4

Read: Hebrews 1

Advent is a season of waiting. Hebrews 1:1 begins with the language of the wait, the build up, and the anticipation toward the consummation in Christ. Then, in verses 2-4, we travel at rocket speed from before creation, to the work of Christ at the Cross, to the glorious future when Christ receives all the glory He deserves.

In the second half of the chapter, various Old Testament passages are quoted in order to prove Christ's absolute superiority to the angels. Along the way we learn that Jesus has an everlasting Kingship (v. 8), He loves righteousness and hates wickedness (v. 9), He will one day roll up the heavens like an old garment (v. 11-12), and that all of His enemies will be crushed under His feet (v. 13).

Discuss

What do verses 10-13 say about the future of the universe? What difference should this make in the way that we plan and work? The way we worry and fear?

Sing

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (page 36)

Pray

Take verse 9 and pray about what we should love and what we should hate. Take verses 10-12 and pray about the future of the universe.

December 24

Silent Night (Part One)

*And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him
in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.*

Luke 2:7

Read: Luke 2:1-7

It was exactly two hundred years ago this very night that the beloved Christmas hymn, "Silent Night" was composed. Austrian Joseph Mohr wrote the text a few years prior to giving them to composer Franz Xaver Gruber. Mohr asked Gruber to write a melody and guitar accompaniment so that the song could be sung for the Christmas Eve service at his church in 1818, and it was finished just in time.

The text is very interesting. The opening line to each verse begins with these words, "silent night, holy night." When we think about the night Jesus was born and read these opening seven verses to Luke 2, we think of it as a relatively silent, calm, ordinary night. After all, the backdrop for the night given to us from Luke is one of a census. There aren't many things more normal and boring than a census! Luke doesn't go to great lengths to describe the difficult journey Joseph and Mary traveled. He doesn't describe a frenzied search for a room to stay in or a doctor to deliver the baby. There aren't mobs of people waiting outside the door for the first glimpse of the baby. Even the actual account of Christ being born is just one simple verse (verse 7) in our Bibles. It was a simple, quiet, humble night. It was a silent night until...

Discuss

Why is it significant that it was a relatively silent night? What seemingly understated glimpses of the extraordinary do you see in these "ordinary" verses?

Sing

"Silent Night" (page 43)

Pray

Praise God for coming as a humble baby to save you. Pray for help to worship Him by recognizing Him to be extraordinarily at work in the "ordinary" events of your life.

December 25

Silent Night (Part Two)

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2:20

Read: Luke 2:8-20

It was a silent night until... the angels broke the silence! We saw yesterday that Luke's description of the birth of Jesus was one verse (v. 7), but now we see the response to the birth of Jesus was anything but silent and normal. An angel takes three verses to announce His birth (v. 10-12), and this is followed up by a multitude of angels declaring glory to God for Jesus (v. 13-14). This was definitely not normal nor silent!

This announcement was given to some shepherds, the most silent and normal of people. Their response? Not normal nor silent! They dropped everything immediately (v. 16) and went to Jesus. Luke doesn't steal from the humility of this moment and give us much detail about the shepherds' encounter with Jesus at the manger, but he does let us know that the shepherds weren't quiet about it as they left (v. 17, 18, & 20). The last moment of "silence" we are given is in verse 19 as Mary treasures and ponders.

Christmas is the beautiful juxtaposition of the silent and the loud, the ordinary with the extraordinary. Again, each verse of the hymn starts with the words "silent night," but notice how very little of the rest of the song is silent (especially in the second and third verses). On this "silent" night, the heavenly hosts sing loud (verse 2) and we are to add our voices to this "silent" night (verse 3). Let us adore Jesus through silence and sound, through biblical meditation and bold declaration.

Discuss

How do you "silently" ponder and treasure Jesus (19)?
How are you "loudly" making Christ known (17)?

Sing

"Silent Night" (page 43) & "Joy to the World" (page 40)

Pray

Ponder as you pray by declaring God's attributes and works to Him. Pray prayers of repentance for not treasuring and pondering Jesus as you should, for not "making Him known" as you should. Pray prayers of joy for the "redeeming grace" you just sang about.



Adore

Songs of Advent

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
in His temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains;
And the mountains in reply,
echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem, and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See within a manger laid
Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
with us sing our Savior's birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come Thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
born a Child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever,
now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

By Thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity;
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

He Who is Mighty

Oh, the mercy our God has shone to those who sit in death's shadow.
The sun on high pierced the night; Born was the Cornerstone.
Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born.

He who is mighty has done a great thing;
Taken on flesh, conquered death's sting,
shattered the darkness and lifted our shame. Holy is His name.

Oh, the freedom our Savior won; The yoke of sin has been broken.
Once a slave, now by grace no more condemnation.
Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born.

He who is mighty has done a great thing;
Taken on flesh, conquered death's sting,
shattered the darkness and lifted our shame.
Holy is His name. Holy is His name.

Now my soul magnifies the Lord; I rejoice in the God who saves,
I will trust His unfailing love, I will sing His praises all my days.
My soul magnifies the Lord; I rejoice in the God who saves,
I will trust His unfailing love, I will sing His praises all my days.

He who is mighty has done a great thing;
Taken on flesh, conquered death's sting,
shattered the darkness and lifted our shame. Holy is His name.

He who is mighty has done a great thing;
Taken on flesh, conquered death's sting,
shattered the darkness and lifted our shame.
Holy is His name. Holy is His name.

"He Who is Mighty" is by Kate DeGraide and Rebecca Elliott.
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Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, o come, let us adore Him,
o come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him, o come, let us adore Him,
o come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, o come, let us adore Him,
o come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

O come, let us adore Him, o come, let us adore Him,
o come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, o come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
"Alleluia!" to our King;
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

What Child is This?

What Child is this who, laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping,
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
where ox and lamb are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through;
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise a song on high,
the Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Raise, raise a song on high,
the Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Adore

November 25

Come Let Us Adore Him (Matthew 2)

December 2

Adore the Promised One (Isaiah 40)

December 9

Adore the King (Isaiah 9) with Handbell Choir

December 9, 5:00 PM

Christmas Fellowship Dinner

December 16

Adore the Savior (Hebrews 10)
with Crosswalk Children's Choir & Women's Vocal Ensemble

December 23

Adore the Glorious One (Hebrews 1)
with Choir & Orchestra

December 24, 4:00 PM

Christmas Eve Service

All services at 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM unless otherwise noted



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