

ADVENT CHRISTMASTIDE 2019



Into the Darkness

The light fades earlier and earlier this time of year and darkness falls upon us. Darkness can easily be associated with evil in antithesis to light, but in the beginning it was not so. In the beginning, God created the heavens in the earth and separated the light from the darkness and said it was good. Total darkness is not good. Only darkness is not good. But darkness followed by light followed by darkness is good. God said so, in the beginning.

The fact that there is more darkness this time of the year is also good. God created it this way. It is good. On the fourth day God made two lights, the greater to rule the day and the lesser to rule the night. He also made stars to be co-regents of the nighttime sky. Thus Night is never totally dark. We are not meant to dwell in total darkness. Even in the deepest night there are lesser lights ruling over it reminding us of the greater light to come. When God placed these greater and lesser (and even lesser) lights in the sky he said it was for “signs and for seasons.” This means we are to learn from the darkness; it is a sign for us. This means that the changing seasons are also good. This dark part of the year is the way God made things. It is good. We are to meditate on what this means.

It’s hard for us modern people to think about the meaning of darkness because we never really have to be in it. Our world is always lit. Darkness is rather foreign to us. But if we think about the world without modern amenities, the darkness is a natural time to rest. Without light we cannot work. We can think. We can pray. We can talk. We cannot work. Darkness implies the need for rest. Darkness also implies the need for quiet. It gets quiet at night. You can become aware of this if you are out in the woods just before dawn, especially in the late fall or winter when the bugs are no longer active. It’s quiet. Deafeningly so. And then just before dawn, when the light begins to grow in the sky, noises start happening. Birds start chirping. Squirrels start messing about. The noises are distracting, but the night is quiet. Quiet for meditation and prayer. This is how Jesus spent his last night before the cross. And he implored his disciples to join him, though they became overwhelmed with sorrow.

Watch and pray. This is the theme of Advent. Advent is not preparation or prelude for the babe born on Christmas morn. Advent is a watchful expectation for the King to return and dispel darkness and usher in his kingdom of light. We inhabit the darkness. We watch and pray in the darkness. And we know that after darkness, the light will come.

We have had a lot to mourn this past year as a congregation. That is probably stating the obvious. Part of mourning is leaning into the reality of death and the brokenness of this world we live in: that things are not the way they are supposed to be. Advent is a season to cry out to God to come and deliver us from our pain; our sadness; our sin. The prayer of Advent is, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

The word Advent is from the Latin word *advenire*, which means “to come to.” Advent is about the various comings of Jesus. He came 2,000 years ago as God incarnate of the Virgin Mary. He will come again in glory to set up his everlasting kingdom over the new heavens and the new earth. But there is also a very real sense in which Jesus comes to us today, in the in-between-time. Jesus shows up every Sunday when we worship him. Jesus also shows up to intervene in various ways in our lives when we call out to him. So when we cry, “Come, Lord Jesus,” we are not asking for the end to come. We are crying out for him to show up now and deliver us in our present situation.

The cover art by John Hendrix depicts the coming of Great David’s Greater Son. There he is depicted as a river of blood, but by passing that river a person journeys from death to life, from desert to verdant valley. As we enter into Christ’s life, we enter into the life of God’s people who have been trained through the millennia to hope and pray for peace, security, justice, and welfare (Psalm 122). Have we expected too little? Have our hopes been dulled by our sorrow? Great David’s greater Son is coming! Can we set our hopes to the whetstone of the Word, renew our sharp edges, and hope for something audacious?

Will you join me in entering into the darkness this Advent season? To watch and pray? To rest? To simplify? To be still and quiet? To mourn? To see the moon and stars and believe that dawn is coming? To cry out, “Come, Lord Jesus?”

May you have a blessed Advent season.

For more Advent reflections, please visit my blog at pastortimlecroy.com/category/church-year/advent/

-Pastor Tim

How Do I Use this Prayer Guide?

- On pages 5 and 6 is a basic prayer liturgy that you can remove from the guide and use for your daily prayer.
- Starting on page 7, each week of Advent has its own page with the specifics (called Propers) for prayer each week of Advent. Use this to fill in the blanks in the Ordinary on pages 4 and 5. You could cut out the liturgy and use it as a book mark in the guide itself.
- This liturgy should be lead by a member of the family with the family responding with the words in bold.
- There are three readings for most days, but families wishing to omit one for the sake of time may omit the second reading in parentheses.
- Suggested psalms, canticles, and hymns are included at the end of this guide.
- Tunes for all the psalms and hymns are available at pastortimlecroy.com/advent.
- NOTE: The Propers for each week can be used as an abbreviated prayer liturgy.
- If you have an Advent Wreath or other candles, you are encouraged to light them during the prayers.

Notes on Singing the Psalms

- Every comma notes a longer note.
- The contents of brackets are sung to the same note.
- A bolded syllable means that two notes are sung to that one syllable.
- If you can't manage singing the Psalms, you may also simply read them out of your Bible.

Ordinary for Daily Prayer

Opening Scripture¹

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God:

God of grace, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

(A period of silence is kept.)

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**²

V. Lord, open our lips. **R. And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

V. O God, make speed to save us. **R. O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glorify be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

V. Praise ye the Lord. **R. The Lord's Name be praised!**

Antiphon – repeat at the asterisks

Advent: V. Our King and Savior draweth nigh. **R. O come let us adore Him!**

Christmas: V. Alleluia! Unto us a child is born. **R. O come let us adore Him, Alleluia!**

Psalm (Psalms begin on page 12. You may also read any Psalm.)

**The Old Testament Lesson¹*

Canticle – chose one of the gospel canticles beginning on page 17.

The Epistle - You may omit this reading for the sake of time.

Hymn - optional if you read the epistle.³

**The Gospel*



¹ See the weekly prayer guides (Propers).

² This portion is optional, along with all other portions noted by a vertical line.

³ Optional portion. Hymns begin on page 20.

visit pastortimlecroy.com/advent for tunes.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, The holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

V. O Lord, Hear our prayer. R. And let our cry come unto thee.

V. Lord have mercy. R. Christ have mercy. All. Lord, have mercy on us!

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 forever. Amen.

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us. R. And grant us thy salvation. V. O Lord, save the state. R. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee. V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness. R. And make thy chosen people joyful. V. O Lord, save thy people. R. And bless thine inheritance. V. Give peace in our time, O Lord. R. For it is thou Lord only that makest us dwell in safety. V. O God make clean our hearts within us. R. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Collect of the Week¹ and other collects

*Intercessory prayer - pray for your family, friends, the church, and the world.
Note the suggestions in the weekly prayer guide (Propers).*

Hymn²

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.*

¹ See the weekly prayer guides (Propers) prayer.

² Hymns begin on page 20.

Propers for Week One of Advent – December 1-7, 2019

Opening Scripture

Keep watch, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning –lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. –*Mark 13:35-36*

Readings¹

Monday, December 2

Isa. 1:10-20; (1 Thess. 1:1-10); Luke 20:1-8

Tuesday, December 3

Isa. 1:21-31; (1 Thess. 2:1-12); Luke 20:9-18

Wednesday, December 4

Isa. 2:1-11; (1 Thess. 2:13-20); Luke 20:19-26

Thursday, December 5

Isa. 2:12-22; (1 Thess. 3:1-13); Luke 20:27-40

Friday, December 6

Isa. 3:8-15; (1 Thess. 4:1-12); Luke 20:41--21:4

Saturday, December 7

Isa. 4:2-6; (1 Thess. 4:13-18); Luke 21:5-19

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

¹ Conclude each reading as we do in church: The word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**; The Gospel of the Lord: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Propers for Week Two of Advent – December 8-14, 2019

Opening Scripture

Behold! A voice crying in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!" –*Isaiah 40:3*

Readings¹

Monday, December 9

Isa. 5:8-12, 18-23; (1 Thess. 5:1-11); Luke 21:20-28

Tuesday, December 10

Isa. 5:13-17, 24-25; (1 Thess. 5:12-28); Luke 21:29-38

Wednesday, December 11

Isa. 6:1-13; (2 Thess. 1:1-12); John 7:53--8:11

Thursday, December 12

Isa. 7:1-9; (2 Thess. 2:1-12); Luke 22:1-13

Friday, December 13

Isa. 7:10-25; (2 Thess. 2:13--3:5); Luke 22:14-30

Saturday, December 14

Isa. 8:1-15; (2 Thess. 3:6-18); Luke 22:31-38

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

¹ Conclude each reading as we do in church: The word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**; The Gospel of the Lord: **Glory to you, O Lord**.

Propers for Week Three of Advent – December 15-21, 2019

Opening Scripture

The Glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

–*Isaiah 40:5*

Readings¹

Monday, December 16

Isa. 8:16--9:1; (2 Pet. 1:1-11); Luke 22:39-53

Tuesday, December 17

Isa. 9:8-17; (2 Pet. 1:12-21); Luke 22:54-69

Wednesday, December 18

Isa. 9:8-17; (2 Pet. 2:1-10a); Mark 1:1-8

Thursday, December 19

Isa. 9:18--10:4; (2 Pet. 2:10b-16); Matt. 3:1-12

Friday, December 20

Isa. 10:5-19; (2 Pet. 2:17-22); Matt. 11:2-15

Saturday, December 21

Isa. 10:20-27; (Jude 17-25); Luke 3:1-9

Closing Prayer

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

¹ Conclude each reading as we do in church: The word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**; The Gospel of the Lord: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Propers for Week Four of Advent – December 22-24, 2019

Opening Scripture

I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel. -Numbers 24:17

Readings¹

Monday, December 23

Isa. 11:1-9; (Rev. 20:1-10); John 5:30-47

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

Morning

Isa. 35:1-10; (Rev. 22:12-17, 21); Luke 1:67-80

Evening

Isa. 59:15b-21; Phil. 2:5-11²

Closing Prayer

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

¹ Conclude each reading as we do in church: The word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**; The Gospel of the Lord: **Glory to you, O Lord**.

² There is no Gospel reading here in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ.

Propers for Christmastide, December 25-January 5, 2020¹

Opening Scripture

Behold! I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all people; for to you this day is born in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord! –*Luke 2:10-11*

Confession of Sin

Holy and merciful Father, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

Readings²

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

Luke 2:1-8

The Second Day of Christmas, Thursday, December 26

Luke 2:8-20

The Third Day of Christmas, Friday, December 27

Luke 2:21-38

The Fourth Day of Christmas, Saturday, December 28

Luke 2:39-52

Closing Prayer

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

¹ Christmastide is twelve days long, but this guide only goes through the next Saturday, which is December 28.

² Conclude each reading as we do in church: The word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**; The Gospel of the Lord: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

visit pastortimlecroy.com/advent for tunes.

Advent Psalms

Psalm 24



1. The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world and



all who dwell there - in. 2. For it is he who founded it up - on the seas,



and made it firm upon the ri - vers of the deep.

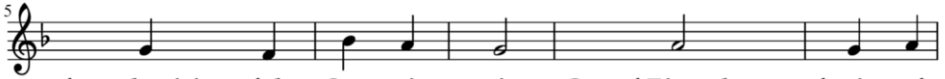
3. "Who can ascend the | [hill of] the | LORD?
And who can | [stand in] his | ho-ly | place?
4. "Those who have clean hands and a | pu- re | heart,
Who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor | sworn by | [what is] a | fraud.
5. "They shall receive a | [blessing] [from the] | LORD
And a just reward from the | God of | their sal | vation."
6. Such is the generation of | those who | seek him,
Of those who seek your | face, O | God of | Jacob.
7. Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O ever | last-ing | doors;
and the King of | glo-ry | shall come | in.
8. "Who is this | King of | glory?"
"The LORD, strong and mighty,
the | LO-RD | [mighty] in | battle."
9. Lift up your heads, O gates;
Lift them high, O ever | last-ing | doors;
And the King of | glo-ry | shall come | in.
10. "Who is he, this | King of | glory?"
"The LORD of hosts, | [he is] the | King of | glory."

George Thalben-Ball
Anglican Chant Psalter
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Psalm 50:1-15



1. The Mighty One, GOD the Lord, speaks and summons the earth



from the rising of the Sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the per - fection of



beauty, God re - veals Him - self in glory.

3. Our God comes; he does | not keep | silence;
before him is a devouring fire, a- | [round him] a migh-ty | tempest.
4. He calls to the heavens above and | to the earth,
That | he may judge his | people:
5. "Gather to me my | faithful | ones,
who made a cove- | nant with me by | sacrifice!"
6. The heavens de- | clare his | righteousness,
For | God himself is | judge!
7. "Hear, O my people, and | I will speak;
O Israel, I will testify against you. | I am God, your God.
8. Not for your sacrifices do | I rebuke you;
your burnt off' rings are con- | tinu'ly be- | fore me.
9. I will not accept a | bull [from your] house
Or | **goats** from your | folds.
10. For every beast of the | [forest] is | mine,
The | [cattle] [on a] thousand | hills.
11. I know all the | birds [of the] | hills,
and all that | moves [in the] field is | mine.
12. "If I were hungry, I | would not | tell you,
for the world and its | fullness **are** | mine.
13. Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the | blood of | goats?
14. Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your | vows to the Most | High,
15. and call upon me in the | day of | trouble;
I will deliver you, | and you shall [glori-] | fy me."

Jonathan Battishill
Anglican Chant Psalter

© 1987

Psalm 85

1. You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, you have re -
stored the good fortune of Ja - cob. 2. You have forgiven the in -
iquity of your people, and blotted out all their sins.

3. You have withdrawn | all your | fury,
and turned yourself from your | wrathful | indig - | nation.
4. Restore us then, O | God our | Savior;
let your | [anger] de - | pa-rt | from us.
5. Will you be dis - | [pleased with] [us for -] | ever?
Will you prolong your | [anger] from | age to | a-ge?
6. Will you not give us | life a - | gain?
That your | [people] [may re -] | joice in | you.
7. Show us your | [mercy,] O | LORD,
and | grant us | your sal - | va-tion.
8. I will listen to what the LORD | God is | saying,
for he is speaking peace to his
faithful people | [and to] [those who] | [turn their] hearts | to him.
9. Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who | fear him,
that his | [glory] may | [dwell in] our | la-nd.
10. Mercy and truth have | met to - | gether,
righteousness and | peace have | kissed each | other.
11. Truth shall spring | up [from the] | earth,
and righteousness shall | lo-ok | down from | hea-ven.
12. The LORD will indeed | grant pros - | perity,
and our | land will | yield its | increase
13. (B TUNE) Righteousness shall | go be - | fore him,
and peace shall be a | pathway | for his | feet.

Samuel S. Wesley
Anglican Chant Psalter
© 1987

Psalm 111



1. Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,



in the assembly of the upright, in the con-gre - gation. 2. Great are the

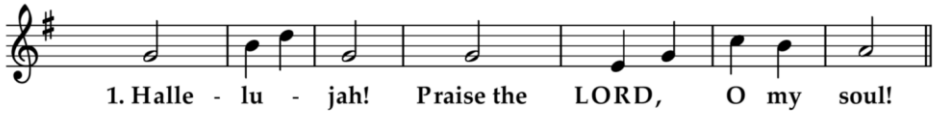


deeds of the LORD! They are studied by all who delight in them.

3. His work is full of | [majesty] and | splendor,
And his | [righteousness] endures for- | ever.
4. He makes his marvelous works to | be re- | membered;
The LORD is | [gracious] and [full of] com- | passion.
5. He gives food to | those who | fear him;
He is ever | mindful of his | covenant.
6. He has shown his people the | [power] [of his] works
In giving them | the lands of the | nations.
7. The works of his hands are | [faithfulness] and | justice;
All his | commandments are | sure.
8. They stand fast for- | [ever] and | ever,
Because they are | done in truth and | equity.
9. He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his | [covenant] for- | ever;
Holy and | awesome is his | Name.
10. The fear of the LORD is the be- | [ginning] of | wisdom;
Those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
His | praise endures for- | ever.

Richard Massey
Anglican Chant Psalter
© 1987

Psalm 146



3. Put not your trust in princes, in a | son of | man,
in whom | there is | no sal- | vation.

4 When his breath departs, he re- | turns [to the] | earth;
on that very day | **his** | **plans** | perish.

5 Blessed is he whose help is the | God of | Jacob,
whose hope is | in the | LORD his | God,

6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and | all [that is] | [in them,]
who | **keeps** | faith for- | ever;

7 who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives | food [to the] | hungry.
The LORD | sets the | pris'-ners | free;

8 the LORD opens the | eyes [of the] | blind.
The LORD lifts | up [those who] | are bowed | down;

The LORD | loves the | righteous.

9 The LORD | watch-es | o'er the | sojourners;
he upholds the | [widow] [and the] | fatherless,
but the way of the | [wicked] he | brings to | ruin.

10 The LORD will | reign for- | ever,

Your | **God**, | **O** | Zion,
To | all [gener-] | ations.
--- | **Praise** | **the** | LORD!

Thomas Norris
Anglican Chant Psalter

© 1987

Gospel Canticles

Magnificat

1. My soul magni - fies the Lord, and my spirit does
rejoice in God my Savior, for He has regarded the
low e - state of His handmaiden.

2. For be- | hold from | henceforth
all gener- | [ations] shall | call me | bless-ed;
for He that is mighty has done to me | gre-at | things,
and | ho-ly | is His | name.
(TO B TUNE) and His mercy is for | them who | fear Him
from gener- | [ation] to | gen-er- | ation.

3. He has shown | strength [with His] | arm;
He has scattered the proud, in the | thoughts of | their own | hearts;
He has brought down the | [mighty] [from their] | thrones
and exalted | those of | low de- | gree.

4. He has filled the hungry with | go-od | things,
and the rich he has sent | e-mp- | ty a- | way.
He has holpen His servant Israel, in re- | [membrance] [of His] | mercy,
as He spoke to our fathers, to Abra- | [ham and to] his | seed for- | ever

5. Glory | be [to the] | Father,
And to the Son, and | to the | Ho-ly | Spirit;
as it | [was in] [the be-] | ginning
is now and ever shall be, | [world with-] out | end a- | men.

Samuel S. Wesley
Anglican Chant Psalter
© 1987

The Song of Simeon



1. Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in peace,
2. Your sal - va - tion,
3. A light to light-en the nations,
4. Glo - ry be to the Father,



ac - cord - ing to your word,
which you have pre - pared,
and glory to your peo - ple Is - ra - el!
and to the Son,



for my eyes have seen
Before the face of all,
Lord, let your ser - vant depart,
and to the Ho - ly Spirit,



your sal - va - tion!
all peo - ple!
for I have seen your Son!
world with out end. A - men!

Timothy R. LeCroy
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Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)



1. Bless Yah - weh God of Is - ra - el Who
2. To show the mer - cy sworn to us and
3. And thou child shall a pro - phet be call'd
4. Glo - ry to God our Fa - ther, and



vis - its His peo - ple. And saves us with his
keep His cov - en - ant made to our fath - er
of our God Most High; for you shall go be -
glo - ry to His Son! Glo - ry be to the



might - y horn raised up from Dav - id's
A - bra - ham to grant de - liv - er -
fore His face pre - par - ing Him a
Ho - ly Ghost; to the great Three - in -



house. Through ho - ly pro - phets He did speak and
ance, that we might serve Him with - out fear and
road; prea - ching sal - va - tion sins for - giv'n, the
One! Who was be - fore the world be - gan and



pro - mis'd us from old to save us from our
love Him all our days, and to live just and
mer - cy of our God. The Sun shall rise and
who shall ne - ver end. Be glo - ry, glo - ry



en - e - mies and from sin's grasp and hold.
ho - ly lives in gra - ti - tude for grace.
give us light; in peace our feet shall trod.
to our God; so shall it be, A - men.

Timothy R. LeCroy
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Advent Hymns

The Advent of Our King



1. The ad-vent of our King our prayers must now em - ploy, and
we must hymns of wel-come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.

2. The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be;
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.
3. O Zion's Daughter, rise
To meet thy lowly King,
Nor let thy faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.
4. As Judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign
5. Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The old man all be put away,
The new man all put on.
6. All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever One,
Through all eternity.

*Words: Charles Coffin, 18th c.
Music: Aaron Williams, 18th c.
Public Domain*

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, thou long ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple
free. From our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our
rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of
all the earth Thou art, dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion,
joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

2. 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.

Words: Charles Wesley, 18th c.
Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 19th c.
Public Domain

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

1. Com fort, com - fort ye my peo ple, speak ye peace, thus saith
our God; com fort those who sit in dark ness, mourn ing 'neath their sor
row's load. Speak ye to Je - ru sa lem of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I co-ver, and her war - fare now is o-ver.

2. Yea, her sins our God
will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining
sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.

3. For the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance,
Since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him,
And the hills bow down to
greet him.

4. Make ye straight what long
was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token,
That his word is never broken.

*Words: Johann Olearius, 17th c.
Trans. by: Catherine Winkworth, 19th c.
Music: Louis Bourgeois, 16th c.
Public Domain*

Lift Up your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - ty gates! Be - hold the King of
glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near, the Sav - ior
of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion He doth
bring, where - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing: we praise Thee,
Fa - ther now, Cre - a - tor wise art thou!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "1. Lift up your heads, ye might - ty gates! Be - hold the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion He doth bring, where - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing: we praise Thee, Fa - ther now, Cre - a - tor wise art thou!" The score ends with a double bar line.

2. A Helper just he comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe he brings;
Wherefore the earth is glad and sings:
We praise thee, Savior, now,
Mighty in deed art thou!

3. O blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy he is,
Who bringeth pure delight and bliss.
We praise thee, Spirit, now,
Our Comforter art thou!

Words: Georg Weissel, 17th c.
Trans. by: Catherine Winkworth, 19th c.
Music: Johann A. Freylinghausen, 18th c.
Public Domain

Lo! He Comes

1. Lo! He comes with clouds de-scend - ing,
once for our sal - va - tion slain.
Thou - sand, thou - sand saints a - tend - ing
swell the tri - umph of His train. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia! God ap - pears on earth to reign.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a 6/8 time signature. The second staff contains a 3/8 time signature change. The third staff contains a 6/8 time signature change. The fourth staff contains a 3/8 time signature change. The fifth staff ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

2. Every eye shall now behold Him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold
Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

3. Lo! He comes in glory shining
Saints arise and meet your king
Glorious captain of salvation
“Welcome welcome” hear them sing
Shouts of triumph, shouts of triumph
Make the heavens with echoes ring

4. Now redemption, long expected,
See in solemn pomp appear;
All His saints, by man rejected,
Now shall meet Him in the air:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!

5. Yea, amen! Let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for Thine own;
O come quickly! O come quickly!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!

*Words by Charles Wesley, 18th c.
and John Cennick (Vs. 3), 18th c.
Music by Darwin Jordan, 20th c.
Arranged by Belmont RUF
© Darwin Jordan Music*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
Is - ra - el, that mourns in low - ly ex - ile here, un -
til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

4. O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain

5. O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode.

Refrain

6. O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light.

Refrain

7. O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace.

Refrain

Words: 12th c. Latin Text
Trans. by: John Mason Neale, 19th c.
Music: 15th c. French Carol
Setting: C. Winfred Douglas, 20th c.
Public Domain

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en
for he brings Glad ti - dings of the King of kings.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, the second staff covers the second line, and the third staff covers the third line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin,
Make straight the way of God within;
And let each heart prepare a home
Where such a mighty guest may come.

3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without thy grace we waste away,
Like flowers that wither and decay.

4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose Advent set thy people free;
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost for evermore.

*Words: Charles Coffin, 18th c.
Trans. by: John Chandler, 19th c.
Music: Bartholomäus Crasselius, 17th c.
Public Domain*

Savior of the Nations, Come

1. Sav-ior of the na - tions come, Vir - gin's Son, make
here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2. Not by human flesh and blood
By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh--
Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.

3. Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.

4. Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

5. God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6. For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7. From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

8. Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

*Words: Ambrose of Milan, 4th c.
Trans. by: William M. Reynolds, 19th c.,
F. Samuel Janzow, 20th c., and
Gifford A. Grobien, 21st c.
Music: Martin Luther, 16th c.
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Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

1. "Wake a wake for night is fly ing," the watch-men on the heights are cry - ing, "a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem at last!" Mid - night hears the wel - come voi - ces, and at the thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, ye vir - gins, night is past! The bride - groom comes. A - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take, al - le - lu - ia! And for his mar - riage feast pre - pare, for you must go to meet him there."

2. Zion hears the watchmen singing,
And all her heart
with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom:
For her Lord
comes down all-glorious,
The Strong in grace,
in truth Victorious,
Her Star is ris'n, her Light is come!
Ah, come, thou blessed Lord,
O Jesus, Son of God, Alleluia!
We follow till the halls we see
Where thou hast bid us sup with thee.

3. Now let all the heav'ns adore thee,
And men and angels sing before thee,
With harps and cymbal's
clearest tone;
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where we are
with the choir immortal
Of angels round thy dazzling throne;
Nor eye hath seen, nor ear
Hath yet attained to hear
what there is ours.
But we rejoice, and sing to thee
Our hymn of joy eternally.

Words: Philipp Nicolai, 16th c.
Trans. by: Catherine Winkworth, 19th c.
Music: Hans Sachs, 16th c. and
Philipp Nicolai, 16th c.
Arr. by: J. S. Bach, 18th c.
Public Domain

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, with
wings as drift - ed snow with eyes as flame: "All
hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y, most
high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four lines of music. The first line starts with a treble clef and a B-flat key signature. The second line begins with a measure rest marked '3'. The third line begins with a measure rest marked '5'. The fourth line begins with a measure rest marked '7'. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

2. "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say—
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Words: 18th c. Basque Carol
Trans. by: Sabine Baring-Gould, 20th c.
Music: 18th c. Basque Carol
Public Domain

Christmas Hymns

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1. An-gels, from the realms of glo-ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ the new-born King.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first line of music ends with a double bar line. The second staff begins with a measure rest (marked '5') and continues the melody. The third staff also begins with a measure rest (marked '9') and concludes the hymn with a double bar line.

2. Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:

Refrain

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star: *Refrain*

4. Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear; *Refrain*

5. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One: *Refrain*

Words: James Montgomery, 19th c.

Music: Albert Lowe, 1868

Public Domain

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

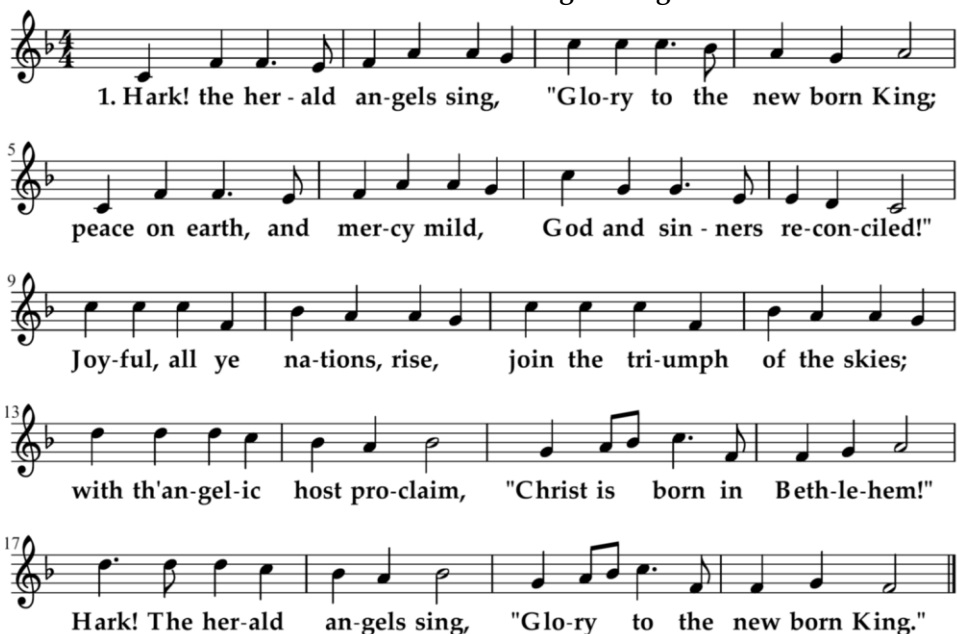
1. Good Chris-tian men re - joice, with heart and soul and
voice. Give ye heed to what we say, "Je - sus Christ is
born to - day! Earth and heav'n be - fore Him bow, and He is in the
man-ger now. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

2. Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

*Words: Medieval Latin Carol
Trans. by: John Mason Neale, 19th c.
Music: 14th c. German Melody
Public Domain*

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1. Hark! the her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new born King;
 peace on earth, and mer-cy mild, God and sin - ners re-con-ciled!"
 Joy-ful, all ye na-tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 with th'an-gel-ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
 Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new born King."

2. 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 th'incarnate Deity,
 Pleas'd as man with men to dwell,

3. 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. *Refrain*

Refrain

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

Words: Charles Wesley, 18th c.
 Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 19th c.
 Public Domain

Joy to the World!



1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
King! Let ev - ry heart pre - pare Him room and
heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.

2. Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.

3. 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.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.

*Words: Isaac Watts, 18th c.
Music: George Frederick Handel, 18th c.
Public Domain*

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music, each with a measure number (1, 4, 8, 12) at the beginning. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The piece ends with a double bar line at the end of the fourth line.

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath
 sprung, of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing as men of old have
 sung. It came, a flow'r-et bright, a - mid the cold of
 win - ter, when half-spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
 the Rose I have in mind;
 with Mary we behold it,
 the Virgin Mother kind.
 To show God's love aright,
 she bore to men a Savior,
 when half spent was the night.

3. The shepherds heard the story,
 proclaimed by angels bright,
 how Christ, the Lord of glory,
 was born on earth this night.
 To Bethlehem they sped
 and in the manger found him,
 as angel heralds said.

4. This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
 with sweetness fills the air,
 dispels with glorious splendor
 the darkness ev'rywhere.
 True man yet very God,
 from sin and death he saves us,
 and lightens ev'ry load.

5. O Savior, child of Mary,
 who felt our human woe;
 O Savior, King of glory,
 who dost our weakness know,
 bring us at length, we pray,
 to the bright courts of heaven
 and to the endless day.

*Words: 16th c. German Hymn
 Trans. by: Theodore Baker and
 Harriett R. Spaeth, 19th c.
 Music: 16th c. German Hymn
 Public Domain*

Of the Father's Love Begotten



1. Of the Fath-er's love be-got - en ere the worlds be-gan to be,



He is Al-pha and O-me - ga, He the Source the End - ing He,



of the things that are that have been,



and that fut - ure years shall see, ev - er more and ev - er more!

2. O that birth forever blessed,
 When the Virgin, full of grace,
 By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
 Bore the Savior of our race;
 And the babe, the world's
 Redeemer,
 First revealed his sacred face,
 Evermore and evermore!

4. O ye heights of heav'n,
 adore him;
 Angel hosts, his praises sing;
 All dominions, bow before him,
 And extol our God and King;
 Let no tongue on earth be silent,
 Ev'ry voice in concert ring,
 Evermore and evermore!

3. This is he whom heav'n-taught
 singers
 Sang of old with one accord,
 Whom the Scriptures of the prophets
 Promised in their faithful word;
 Now he shines, the long-expected;
 Let creation praise its Lord,
 Evermore and evermore!

5. Christ, to thee, with God
 the Father,
 And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
 Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving,
 And unwearied praises be,
 Honor, glory, and dominion,
 And eternal victory,
 Evermore and evermore!

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th c.

*Trans. by: John Mason Neale and
 Henry W. Baker, 19th c.*

*Music: 12th c. Plainsong Chant
 Public Domain*



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