



# Advent Season Gathering

## Week 2





# Welcome

We gather together to prepare our hearts for God's arrival into our world. During this hour, and this Advent season, we acknowledge God's arrival in History, through the nation of Israel and through the birth of His Son, Christ Jesus.

We patiently wait and expect God to daily arrive in our hearts and in our communities. We long for the Second Coming of the Lord to fully establish His eternal kingdom.

For the Lord tells His people:

**“My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.”**

(Ezekiel 37.27)

As winter approaches, and nature becomes harsh and volatile, we are reminded that our world and the human race are often chaotic and disordered. We long for the peace that Christ brings, which restores all things to wholeness.





# Come, Come, Emmanuel

**Come, Come, Emanuel**

**Come, Emmanuel**

For the Lord of Creation will

**Come, Come, Emanuel**

**Come, Emmanuel**

See God's marvelous deeds and

**Come, Come, Emanuel**

**Come, Emmanuel**

For God chose us and so we will

**Come, Come, Emanuel**

**Come, Emmanuel**

For the angel proclaims he will

**Come, Come, Emanuel**

**Come, Emmanuel**

As the servants of God we will





# Prepare the Way of the Lord

The prophet Isaiah announces the coming of the Lord to gather and to bring peace and wholeness to the people of God.



<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling:  
**"In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the LORD;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.**

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> **And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.**

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."





<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out."  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
"All people are like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the  
field.  
<sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.  
Surely the people are grass.  
<sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever."  
<sup>9</sup> **You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"**  
<sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.  
See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.  
<sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

(Isaiah 40.1-11)





# A Shoot from the Stump of Jesse

Like ancient Israel, we have need for peace in a world full of disorder. The Lord makes known his plans to bring forth a prophet, a savior, a judge, and a king who will bring forth justice and peace:



<sup>1</sup>A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>**The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the  
LORD—**

<sup>3</sup>and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of  
the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.





<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling<sup>[a]</sup> together;  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the  
viper's nest.

<sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,

**for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of  
the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.**

<sup>10</sup> In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a  
banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him,  
and his resting place will be glorious.

(Isaiah 11.1-10)





# The Second Candle of Advent

Righteous God, Judge of all the earth, how long must we endure the brokenness of our world? I am like the grass that withers and the flowers that fade; but you, O Lord, stand forever. Breath life and peace into your people, and justice into your world. Gather your flock into your gentle arms.

O God, we light the second candle of Advent.

*We light it with Peace. We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.*





# I Want to Walk as a Child of Light

I want to walk as a child of the light  
I want to follow Jesus  
God sent the stars to give light to the world  
The star of my life is Jesus

*In Him there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus*

I want to see the brightness of God  
I want to look at Jesus  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path  
And show me the way to the Father

*In Him there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ  
I want to be with Jesus  
When we have run with patience, the race  
We shall know the joy of Jesus

*In Him there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus*





## John the Baptist Announces the coming of the Christ

We often forget that much of the disorder of our world originates from Sin. Christ comes so that hearts and minds might be restored, so that we can enjoy union with Him. We read John the Baptist announce the Christ, who comes to bring new life:

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup>and saying, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.**” <sup>3</sup>This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”

<sup>4</sup>John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup>Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Produce fruit in keeping with





repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance. **But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

(Matthew 3.1-12)





## Peace and Future Glory

We eagerly wait and expect that our condition shall be remedied; our brokenness shall be fixed. Through the work of Christ we overcome sin, death, and estrangement from God. We become sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. We read the Apostle Paul proclaim the future glory reserved for God's faithful ones:

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

**<sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?** <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

**<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been**





**called according to his purpose.** <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

(Romans 8.18-30)





# 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.

Joy to those who long to see thee  
Dayspring from on high, appear  
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse  
Of thy birth, we long to hear  
Over the hills the angels singing  
News, Glad tidings of a birth  
Go to Him, your praises bringing  
Christ the Lord has come to Earth



Come to Earth to taste our sadness  
He whose glories knew no end  
By his life he brings us gladness  
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend  
Leaving riches without number  
Born within a cattle stall  
This the everlasting wonder  
Christ was born the Lord of all

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.



## Benediction

Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation to its intended harmony.

Give us your peace that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gracious Father, shine your light on me this day,  
that my life would point to your coming glory,  
by which the world will be healed and your people set free.

God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

O Lord Jesus, come!

