



## **Advent Guide 2007**

*"We have seen His Glory, the glory of the one and only Son,  
Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."  
(John 1:14)*

**Advent-** *a season marked by the four Sundays previous to Christmas.*

When was the last time your family anticipated a special vacation, occasion, or event?? Perhaps it was a cross-country trip or a family occasion such as a wedding, a graduation, the birth of a child, or a 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. How was your life different in the days leading up to that event?

*Preparation* would almost certainly be part of the answer to this question.

How do you prepare for Christmas? Shopping for gifts, planning visits, preparing meals, decorating the house, and making a trip to that favorite place to select a Christmas tree—all of these are typical to our preparations for Christmas. Yet they can all fail to prepare us for what Christmas is all about.

Though the story is old and familiar, we need to hear it again, with hearts that are hungry to grasp the wonder of the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. The story of a Father Who promised to send a Redeemer to the fallen world; of a Redeemer Who gave His perfect life for sinners and brought with Him the kingdom of grace; and of the glorious return of this Redeemer as King of kings and Lord of lords.

It is my prayer that you and your family and friends will use this guide to read from God's Word each day of Advent, and that the hymns included as well would help you to prepare to celebrate Christ's coming this Christmas. The passages listed for each of the Sundays in Advent will be read as the Call to Worship, and you can prepare for worship each Saturday evening by reading the passage and singing the carol listed for that Sunday. If there are young children in your family, choose one simple thought from the Scripture passage and perhaps one line from the hymn to explain and illustrate. You'll find that you will grow in understanding as you bring biblical truth to the level of your children.

Above all, I pray that your Christmas would be filled with the joy of Christ, and that together we would celebrate the joy of belonging to Him while we long for His coming again in glory. May you know His love more fully this Christmas!

John Bennetch, Director of Worship

**December 2, 2007**

**Isaiah 40:1-5**

700 years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah predicted events that would find partial fulfillment in the kingdoms of Israel and Judah a century and a half later but which would find their fulfillment in the birth of Christ and in His life and ministry. The glory of the Lord is revealed in the salvation and judgment brought by Christ, and all obstacles (mountains, valleys) will be removed as His kingdom is established.

|           |                 |  |
|-----------|-----------------|--|
| Monday    | Genesis 1:26-31 | The Creation of Man                      |
| Tuesday   | Genesis 3:1-24  | The Fall of Man into Sin                 |
| Wednesday | Genesis 3:15    | The First Promise of Redemption From Sin |
| Thursday  | Deut. 18:15-19  | A Prophet Greater than Moses Will Come   |
| Friday    | Isaiah 7:10-14  | A Virgin with Child - Emmanuel           |
| Saturday  | Isaiah 11:1-5   | A Shoot from the Stem of Jesse           |

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**  
**(VENI EMMANUEL)**

This ancient Advent hymn text dates back to the worship of a 5<sup>th</sup> century church of Jewish Christians. The text found its way into the worship of the Roman church during advent in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, and is now sung widely in a number of translations from Latin to English. Each verse contains a name from Old Testament prophecy of the coming Messiah; note below a verse-by-verse list of these names and their New Testament fulfillment. The familiar "rejoice" refrain was added in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

1. Emmanuel (God with us) Isa. 7:14; Matt.1:23
2. Lord of Might (Lord of Lords) Deut. 10:17; I Tim. 6:15;  
Ex. 19:16-20
3. Rod of Jesse Isa.11:1,10;Rom. 15:12
4. Dayspring from on high Mal. 4:2; Luke 2:29-32.  
Christ is the Dayspring- the light to dispel the darkness-  
the bright Morning Star (Rev. 22:16)
5. Key of David Isa. 22:22; Rev. 3:7

The tune is an ancient chant which has a character both of longing and rejoicing.

The phrase "shall come to you" is actually more accurately translated "shall be born to you." The original hymn celebrated the birth of Christ, but as you sing it during Advent, meditate on the ways that Christ continues to transform us and to prepare us for His coming again.

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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*"The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,"  
declares the LORD. Is. 59:20*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on  
3. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's  
4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy  
5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here.  
Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law  
• tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save.  
draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night.  
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high.

REFRAIN  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
• and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
and close the path to mis - er - y.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Latin antiphons, 12th cent.  
Latin hymn, 1710  
Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961

VENI EMMANUEL L.M.ref.  
Plainsong, 13th cent.  
Arr. by Thomas Helmore, 1856

**The Second Sunday in Advent  
December 9, 2007**

**Micah 5:2,4,5a**

How did King Herod know where to look for the baby Jesus?? The prophet Micah, in approximately 700 B.C., prophesied that the one who would be ruler over Israel would come from Bethlehem. What is more striking to us is the prophecy that this ruler will shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD, and that this ruler would “be their peace.” As you worship this week, meditate on ways that Christ has become your peace.

|           |                 |   |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| Monday    | Isaiah 19:20-25 | Sending a Savior and Deliverer to Egypt     |
| Tuesday   | Isaiah 40:9-11  | A Savior and Deliverer for Egypt            |
| Wednesday | Isaiah 42:1-4   | Behold My Servant                           |
| Thursday  | Isaiah 49:1-7   | A Servant Will Bring Salvation to the Earth |
| Friday    | Isaiah 53:1-12  | The Suffering Servant                       |
| Saturday  | Isaiah 61:1-3   | The Spirit of God is Upon Him               |

**O Come, All Ye Faithful  
(ADESTE FIDELES)**

Both the text and tune of this well-known Christmas hymn were written by John Francis Wade in 1751. In it, the “faithful” (believers) are invited to remember the birth of Christ in Bethlehem (Luke 2:4-7). Verse 2 is drawn directly from part of the Nicene Creed, a creed written to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and the person of Christ.

*God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
by Whom all things were made; ...*

In verse 3 we join the angels and saints in heaven in praising the Lord (Luke 2:13-14); and in verse 4 we glorify the “Word made flesh” (John 1).

This hymn text is unusual in that it does not rhyme. Nevertheless, this hymn has been included in virtually every hymnal published in the English language. The tune is simple but strong; the refrain can be sung by the youngest of children.

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

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*Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. Luke 2:15*

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,  
2. God of God, Light of Light;  
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion.  
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem: come and be - hold him  
lo. he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be -  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove: glo - ry to God  
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n: Word of the Fa - ther.

REFRAIN

born the King of an - gels:  
got - ten, not cre - a - ted; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let  
in the high - est; late in flesh ap - pear - ing:

us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Latin hymn  
Attr. to John Francis Wade, 1751  
Tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841; alt.

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6.ref.  
John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

**The Third Sunday in Advent  
December 16, 2007**

**Isaiah 9:6,7**

If your family does not have a copy of Handel's "Messiah", it's time to go to the library and borrow a copy. Isaiah 9:6,7 is most masterfully set as Chorus #12 of Handel's great work, and you will hear the words "Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" with a new emphasis. What a joy that we can rejoice in the fact that *His* government and *His* peace will know no end.

|           |                  |   |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| Monday    | Jeremiah 23:5-6  | Raise Up for David a Righteous Branch   |
| Tuesday   | Isaiah 12:1-6    | The Promise of a Deliverer in Bethlehem |
| Wednesday | Zechariah 9:9-10 | Your King is Coming                     |
| Thursday  | Malachi 3:1-3    | The Messenger is Coming                 |
| Friday    | Luke 1:1-25      | The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold  |
| Saturday  | Luke 1:26-38     | The Announcement to Mary                |

**Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come  
(ANTIOCH)**

This familiar carol that we sing at Christmas is actually appropriate throughout the year. It helps us to focus not only on the first coming of Christ, but on the joy that is ours as we anticipate His coming again. The text was written by Isaac Watts, one of the greatest of all English hymn writers, and was included in the 1719 publication *Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament* under the heading "The Messiah's Coming Kingdom." Clearly Watts saw Psalm 98 speaking of the Kingdom of Christ, which we see in part now in the church but long to see fully in Christ's return.

Note that verses 1 and 2 are clearly drawn from Psalm 98, singing of the rejoicing of earth and heaven at the coming of the King. Verse 3 is drawn largely from Genesis 3:17-18, an interlude to the focus on Psalm 98 which speaks of Christ's dominion over sin and reversal of the Fall. Verse 4 helps us to rejoice in Christ's rule over the nations.

The tune was written by Lowell Mason, an accomplished organist, composer, music teacher, and a Presbyterian Organist in Savannah, Georgia and in Boston. Mason borrowed themes from three movements of Handel's *Messiah* - "Lift Up Your Heads," "Glory to God in the Highest," and "Comfort Ye My People" for this familiar and joyful hymn tune. He named it ANTIOCH after the New Testament city in which the "followers of The Way" were first called Christians.

# Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 98:4*

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Based on Psalm 98  
 Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH C.M.rep.  
 George Frederick Handel, 1742  
 Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

**The Fourth Sunday in Advent  
December 23, 2007**

**Isaiah 60:1-3**

Although the world is filled with darkness, the light of the Lord has come to us in the Gospel of Christ. The glory of the One and Only, full of grace and truth, has been revealed among us, and we rejoice that we are among the number of Gentiles who have been called to the light of the Gospel. Particularly as you prepare for worship on Christmas Eve, meditate on the theme of light coming into the darkness.

|           |                    |  |
|-----------|--------------------|--|
| Monday    | Luke 1:39-56       | The Song of Mary: <i>Magnificat</i> ("magnify")      |
| Tuesday   | <i>Luke 3:1-7</i>  | <i>The Birth of Jesus</i>                            |
| Wednesday | Luke 1:68-78       | The Song of Zechariah: <i>Benedictus</i> ("blessed") |
| Thursday  | John 1:1-14        | Light into Darkness                                  |
| Friday    | Philippians 2:1-11 | The Servant Christ                                   |
| Saturday  | Colossians 1:15-23 | The Pre-eminent Christ                               |

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**  
**(MENDELSSOHN)**

The text of this beloved Christmas carol was originally in 10 verses, written by Charles Wesley. The text was significantly altered by, among others, the great reformed evangelist George Whitefield. Notice that the Gospel is plain for all to see in the angel's song, recounted in verse 1: "Glory to the newborn King: Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Verses two and three call to mind the attributes of Christ, both making use of biblical names of Christ such as *Everlasting Lord*, *Emmanuel*, *Prince of Peace*, and *Sun of Righteousness*. Notice that in verse three we see a reference to the "sons of earth," a clear reference to the fact that outside of the work of Christ, we are all sons of Adam and deserve death. But in Christ we receive new life- Christ was born that we might receive new life, the "second birth" referred to in verse three. As you sing this text, watch the focus shift from the song of the angels to our reflection on the person and work of Christ and the call to the nations to join the angels in praising Him.

The tune was written by Felix Mendelssohn as part of a festival song for male voices and brass. This tune became very popular, and a friend suggested that it be used for a sacred text. Mendelssohn's response was that this tune would never work as a setting for a hymn. He was proved wrong, as this hymn is sung around the World at Christmas time.

# Hark! the Herald Angels Sing 133

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace. Luke 2:14*

- 1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 - 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
 - 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

*Optional choral ending on the next page*

TEXT: Charles Wesley, altered  
MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn; arranged by William H. Cummings

MENDELSSOHN  
7.7.7.D. with Refrain

