



KING
OVER
KINGS



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

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Introduction

Isaiah 9:6-7

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
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.*

One of the most famous Messianic prophecies is this one found in the book of Isaiah. Written about 700 years before Jesus was born, it speaks of a human child that would be given lofty titles such as Mighty God and Everlasting Father. It's interesting, though, how much the passage speaks of the kingly authority of this coming Messiah. The government would be on his shoulder. The increase of his government and peace would be without end. He would rule on the throne of David and establish it with justice and righteousness forever. The Messiah was predicted to be a lot of things, but most obviously, he was predicted to be the king.

A king, however, isn't a very familiar position to us. Nor is it even very attractive. Most of us instinctively question authority and we balk at the idea of granting someone absolute power. On the surface, submitting to a king doesn't sound very good at all. Yet if we look a little deeper, we begin to recognize that there's something inside of us that cries out for a king. We want someone to lead us. We want somebody to establish peace and order. Perhaps we especially want someone to rescue us from injustice and oppression. That's why a nation can be drawn so strongly to certain political figures. There's some impulse inside of us that wants to follow a trustworthy leader that we believe can deliver us.

The promise of Christmas is that there is such a trustworthy leader. This time of year reminds us that one day Jesus will fully establish his rule, and it will be what we have always longed for. Jesus's kingship will be characterized by the wisdom and joy offered by the Wonderful Counselor, the power and strength offered by the Mighty God, the love and benevolence offered by the Everlasting Father, and the harmony and reconciliation offered by the Prince of Peace.

The season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and over the course of those four weeks, we are reminded that our true king really is coming. Each of the four weeks of Advent focuses on a particular theme. Different traditions associate different themes with each week, but a common sequence is this:

Week 1: Hope

Week 2: Peace

Week 3: Joy

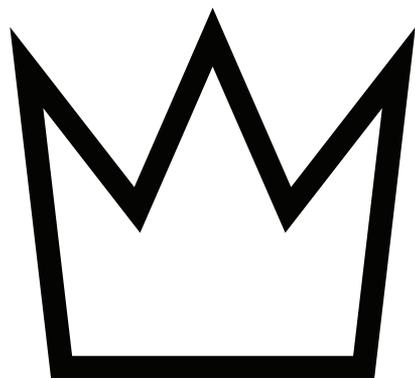
Week 4: Love

These four themes represent essentially all of what we really long for in a king, and they're what we have in Christ. Advent reminds us of what we have and builds our anticipation for the return of Christ.

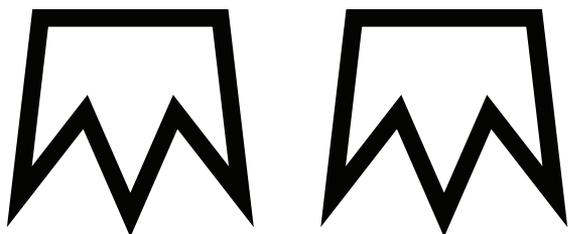
This devotional is designed to help us do just that, and can be used by families, households or small groups of friends each night of Advent. Each entry includes a short passage related to the week's theme, plus a brief thought that highlights the passage's connection to that week's theme. That thought is followed by a question designed to stir group reflection on the passage, along with a short example prayer. Lastly, a pair of Christmas carols related to the theme is listed, with the lyrics to the songs printed in the back of the devotional. Of course, the songs are only suggestions to get you started. Depending on what seems best for your group, you may choose to sing one or both of the songs listed, or any others that you think would be fitting.

Many of us also maintain the tradition of lighting Advent candles each night, so during the devotional time, you may also consider using an Advent wreath and lighting each of the four Advent candles as you progress through the season.

However you choose to use this resource, we hope that it helps to rightly anticipate the glorious rule of our coming King.



WEEK
ONE:
HOPE



HOPE for December 2

Isaiah 11:1-5

*¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*

*² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

*He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,*

*⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*

*⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*

More than 700 years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Isaiah not only predicted Jesus's coming but also described what he would be like and what he would do. For example, he would judge the earth. But he wouldn't judge by mere appearances like most of us do. Instead, he would judge with righteousness and equity. In other words, he would be fair. There is very little that is more disheartening than injustice. We've all experienced betrayal or unfairness that has left us deeply wounded. Yet our hope is in a future kingdom ruled by a just King. Imagine: no more injustice and every wrong made right.

Reflection: When Jesus returns, in what ways are you looking forward to seeing him “decide with equity”?

Prayer: Jesus, I thank you that every wrong in the world will be made right when you return. Come quickly!

Suggested Songs: “O Come O Come Emmanuel,” “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

HOPE for December 3

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

C.S. Lewis said, “If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.” We are constantly living with deferred hope and unsatisfied desire. Sometimes we touch on peace through the familiar and nostalgic but we never quite feel home. That, of course, is because we’re not. We’re living in a foreign country where it’s hard to communicate, where feelings of loneliness are normal, where simple tasks are exhausting and where we never quite feel settled. Our citizenship is in heaven and we know that one day soon we will come home. Then we will speak and be understood. We will be known and appreciated. Our efforts will no longer feel fruitless. Our hearts will be at peace.

Reflection: After being gone from home for a length of time, what brings you peace or delight when you return home?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I know that everything I long for will be satisfied when I come home to you. Thank you for making my future hope certain.

Suggested Songs: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,”
“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

HOPE for December 4

Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

In so many ways, Jesus reverses the way that we think things should happen. In Christ, the last are first, the meek inherit the earth and the poor are rich in faith. In a similar way, we would naturally assume that suffering makes hope crumble. But in Christ, it's just the opposite. Our sufferings begin a chain of events that actually produce hope. In fact, we are even encouraged to rejoice in our sufferings. That may sound entirely impossible in the middle of intense pain, but when we understand that God's business is making ugly things beautiful, then we not only can rejoice in sufferings but we are compelled to. The love that he poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit enables us to see good even in pain.

Reflection: What might God be producing in you right now through suffering?

Prayer: Gracious Father, thank you that you are bigger than my current sufferings. You have the power to overcome evil and turn it to good. Please help me to see that clearly and to rejoice in the hope that my sufferings are producing.

Suggested Songs: "O Come All Ye Faithful," "O Holy Night"

HOPE for December 5

1Corinthians 15:50-58

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

In Christ, death has been defeated and is only a doorway to immortality. One day soon, your perishable body will be discarded and you will be clothed with the imperishable. All that is currently broken in your physical body will be repaired and transformed.

Reflection: What about your physical body are you most looking forward to being transformed?

Prayer: Lord, thank you that you conquered death and that very soon I will leave behind my current brokenness.

Suggested Songs: “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear,”
“Angels We Have Heard On High”

HOPE for December 6

Colossians 1:9-14

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding; ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

As Christians, our place of residence has not been just slightly altered, it's been radically changed. Before, we belonged to the domain of darkness; we were enslaved and experienced nothing but injustice and oppression; our ruler exploited us and cared for nobody but himself. But now we are in a new kingdom, the kingdom of God's beloved Son. We have a benevolent ruler who cares deeply for his subjects and is willing to give all of himself for them. We have a king whose rule is characterized by peace and justice. We no longer fear our authority, but gladly follow him.

Reflection: Have you ever been delivered from a very difficult situation and brought into a satisfying one?

Prayer: Lord, fill us with the knowledge of your will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Remind us that we have been delivered from darkness and now reside in light.

Suggested Songs: "What Child is This," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

HOPE for December 7

Colossians 3:1-4

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

It's interesting how the Bible describes what it means to be a Christian. Actually, the word "Christian" is used very little in the Bible. The much more common phrase is "in Christ" or "with Christ." We see that in this passage. We have been raised with Christ. Our lives are hidden with Christ. We will appear with Christ. Christianity is not only about adopting certain beliefs; it's about being fully united with the person of Jesus Christ. His life becomes ours, and where he is we will be. In this case, Paul calls us to seek and to set our minds on heavenly things because that's where Christ is (and therefore where our life is). Earthly things become less valuable because they're no longer a part of who we are. Of course, at Christmas time it's very easy to set our minds on earthly things. But let it be our intention this year to renew our minds in the reality of our union with Christ and our future home with him.

Reflection: What do you think it means to set our minds on things above? What might those things be?

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for uniting yourself with me. Your life, your righteousness, your joy and your home are now mine as well. Remind me this year of my union with you and my future home.

Suggested Songs: "The Holly and the Ivy," "Away in a Manger"

HOPE for December 8

Romans 8:18-25

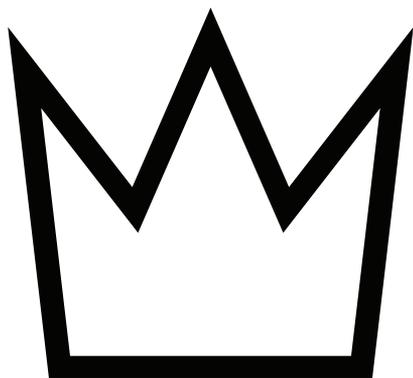
¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Jesus has been given all authority and is currently reigning as King, but there is coming a time in the future when he will fully reign in a very obvious way. Theologians talk about his kingdom being “already and not yet.” Likewise, those of us in Christ have already been adopted into God’s family, but we’re still eagerly awaiting the completion of our adoption. Imagine you’re an orphan in an abusive orphanage, but one morning you are told that you have been adopted by a kindly king who is coming to pick you up later in the afternoon. You only have to endure a few more hours of ill-treatment before seeing the face of your new father. That is the hope we have in Christ.

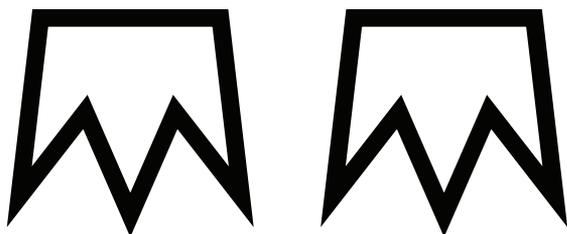
Reflection: When have you felt relief after a long trial?

Prayer: Father, thank you for adopting me. I long to see your face and live forever in your presence.

Suggested Songs: “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear,”
“Do You Hear What I Hear?”



WEEK
TWO:
PEACE



PEACE for December 9

Isaiah 9:6-7

*⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷Of 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.*

This is a remarkable passage. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, Isaiah spoke about a human being—a child—who would be given such lofty titles as “Mighty God” and “Everlasting Father.” Long before the birth of Christ, the Old Testament was dropping hints about the incarnation. God himself was going to come to earth. One of the things most associated with his coming, though, would be peace. He would be known as The Prince of Peace and reign in such a way that peace would be constantly increasing. In Jesus, God has made peace with his former enemies. So when we think of the incarnation, we should think of peace.

Reflection: How often have you considered yourself to be a natural enemy of God?

Prayer: King Jesus, I admit that I had rebelled against my rightful king and my rebellion deserved to be crushed. Thank you for instead making peace with me.

Suggested Songs: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,”
“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

PEACE for December 10

Mark 4:35-41

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

The men on this boat were not strangers to the sea. They had likely experienced many storms on the water, but this one was different. They were certain that they were perishing. We can't assume they were overreacting. This storm really was terrifying. And yet Jesus seems disinterested in this storm. After all, he's asleep! In reality, this storm, although overwhelming even to experienced fishermen, was nothing compared to the Power that was asleep on the cushion. Compared to the greatness of Jesus, even terrifying storms seem tame. He is the One to fear. Yet when he came to this earth, he showed that he was willing to use his power not to crush us but to cover and protect us.

Reflection: In what way would you like Jesus to say, “Peace! Be still!” in your life currently?

Prayer: Jesus, convince my heart that you are more powerful than any storm I am experiencing, that you have made peace with me and that you offer me protection.

Suggested Songs: “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,” “Silent Night”

PEACE for December 11

Luke 1:67-79

⁶⁷ *And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,*

⁶⁸ *“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,*

for he has visited and redeemed his people

⁶⁹ *and has raised up a horn of salvation for us*

in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰ *as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,*

⁷¹ *that we should be saved from our enemies*

and from the hand of all who hate us;

⁷² *to show the mercy promised to our fathers*

and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ *the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us*

⁷⁴ *that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,*

might serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ *in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.*

⁷⁶ *And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;*

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷ *to give knowledge of salvation to his people*

in the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸ *because of the tender mercy of our God,*

whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

⁷⁹ *to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”*

For centuries the Jews had waited for God’s promise of salvation and deliverance to be fulfilled in order that we “might serve him without fear.” With Jesus it is fulfilled!

Reflection: What fears has God delivered you from?

Prayer: God, thank you that in your strength we have peace.

Suggested Songs: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence,”
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

PEACE for December 12

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying: "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

*²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"*

(which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Joseph did not sign up for this. He was a good man and assumed he was marrying a good woman. But now his reputation would be tarnished, and he would likely be ostracized from the only community he had ever known. He understandably decides to walk away. But then God does what he often does. He reassures and promises his presence. God with us. And that is enough. Having God with us means comfort and reassurance even when it seems like we are unfairly losing everything.

Reflection: When has following God cost you?

Prayer: God, you are worthy of my allegiance...always.

Suggested Songs: "O Come O Come Emmanuel," "Away in a Manger"

PEACE for December 13

Micah 5:2-5a

*² 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.*

*³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.*

*⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.*

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

Micah, like Isaiah, prophesied about the coming Christ 700 years before Jesus was born. What does Micah say about the Christ? A couple things stand out. First, he was to shepherd his people in strength. He would guide with a strong, steady hand and direct his people where they needed to go. Secondly, he would be their security and peace. His strength and guidance would not be a burden, but instead would be freeing and settling. Isn't that what we all want? In a confusing world, we want somebody to lead us, but to do so in a way that brings a peace-filled freedom. That's what we have in Jesus.

Reflection: When have you received guidance that brought you peace?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. Help me to trust your direction and lean not on my own understanding.

Suggested Songs: "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Silent Night"

PEACE for December 14

Luke 2:10-15

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

The angels prompted fear and trembling in the shepherds. After all, they were brilliant beings of light, often mistakenly worshiped and thought of as God himself. These great creatures terrified the shepherds, but their message brought peace. They were heralds of “good news of great joy.” A Savior had been born. Because of Jesus, God is at peace and is pleased with those who were rightfully condemned as unholy. The good news of Jesus transforms terrifying holiness into peace. The shepherds are no longer quaking. They are going to see this Savior.

Reflection: When has God’s holiness terrified you?

Prayer: God, thank you that you are holy and set apart in all that you are and do. Thank you that through Jesus I can enter into your holiness.

Suggested Songs: “O Holy Night,” “The First Noel”

PEACE for December 15

Psalm 37:1-7

*¹Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!*

*²For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.*

*³Trust in the LORD, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.*

*⁴Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

*⁵Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.*

*⁶He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noontide.*

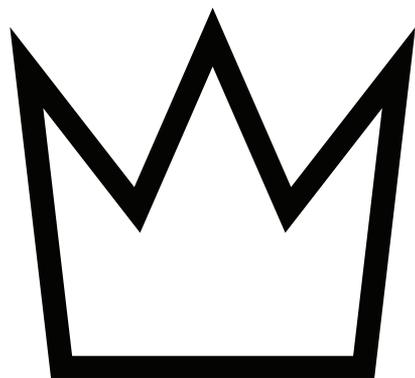
*⁷Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!*

It's easy to fret over injustice, whether it's personal injustice or the injustice in the world that we read about every day. And yet God's promises are clear: he will bring about righteousness and justice. All of the unjust gain we see right now is a mirage that will fade in time. In light of that, what does God ask us to do? Trust. Delight. Commit. Be still. Wait. As we celebrate Christmas, we have opportunity to remember that God is bringing about complete justice. Christmas is not a time to fret, but to remember to wait patiently for God's justice.

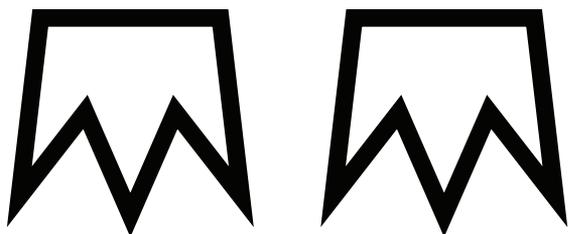
Reflection: In what ways do you see “evildoers” prosper?

Prayer: Lord, I am so easily unsettled. Remind me of your justice this season and lead me into stillness of heart.

Suggested Songs: “O Come O Come Emmanuel,”
“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”



WEEK
THREE:
JOY



JOY for December 16

John 3:26-30

²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” ²⁷ John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.

³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease.”

John the Baptist gives us an unusual example. He finds great joy in taking the lesser position. We typically assume that as we increase in fame or talent or wealth, we will experience a corresponding increase in joy. We therefore spend a lot of energy trying to make it to the top. But John shows us that we’re going in the wrong direction. He found complete joy when he allowed Jesus to take the highest position. It highlights a principle found throughout the Bible. When we search for joy by exalting ourselves, we find only despair. But when we search for joy by exalting Jesus, we find true delight.

Reflection: Describe a time when you have felt great joy on the behalf of another person.

Prayer: Jesus, decrease my desire for my own glory and increase my desire for you.

Suggested Songs: “Joy to the World,” “Go Tell It On The Mountain”

JOY for December 17

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Mary’s Magnificat is a song of joyful praise, but her praise is rooted in what she had just discovered about God: God blesses the humble. She had experienced God’s blessing despite her low position. Although she was to have an incredible legacy, it was not based on incredible accomplishment. It was based on God’s grace toward the humble. This is indeed cause for great joy. No longer must we feel the need to work tirelessly for blessing. We only need to humbly receive it.

Reflection: In what ways do you feel like you’re in “humble estate”?

Prayer: God, thank you that you oppose the proud but give grace to the humble. Please guard my heart from pride.

Suggested Songs: “Do You Hear What I Hear?,” “O Come All Ye Faithful”

JOY for December 18

John 15:8-11

⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Obedience and joy—two words that don't often seem like they go together. But in Christ, they do. Jesus wanted us to abide in his love, and we do that in large part by obeying his commandments, specifically his command to love. The reason, though, that he urged us to abide and obey was so that he could give us his own fullness of joy. Too often we think that following God's rules keeps us from doing what we would really enjoy. That's where God wants to change our thinking. God's commandments are given not to enslave us, but to release us to experience the joy that has always existed in the relationship between the Father and Son. Disobedience brings misery. Obedience brings relationship and joy.

Reflection: When has the keeping of God's commandments brought you joy?

Prayer: God, you know best. Your ways are better than mine. Thank you for your guidance. Help me to see the joy that you offer as I walk according to your will.

Suggested Songs: "Good Christian Men Rejoice," "What Child Is This?"

JOY for December 19

Psalm 16:5-11

⁵ *The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.*

⁶ *The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.*

⁷ *I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.*

⁸ *I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.*

⁹ *Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.*

¹⁰ *For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.*

¹¹ *You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

David understood something that we often miss: in God we find pleasure. Sometimes we think that being with God is important and good for our lives but not necessarily desirable. David knew otherwise. He knew that being with God brought life, fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore. Jesus didn't die only to forgive us and deliver us from hell, but he died in order to bring us to God—the source of life, joy and pleasure. This Christmas season, may we not get distracted from true joy, but instead find pleasure in the presence of the One who makes our hearts glad.

Reflection: What is likely to keep you from enjoying time with God this Christmas season?

Prayer: God, there is nothing more enjoyable than you. Please help me to seek and find pleasure in you.

Suggested Songs: “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,”
“Angels We Have Heard on High”

JOY for December 20

Matthew 2:7-12

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

When God comes to earth, who is it that first gets to meet him? Initially, there were the shepherds. Lowly outcasts, not respected by anyone, yet they were shown perhaps the most awesome display of angelic power that anyone has ever seen. After that, God chooses these pagan foreigners. It doesn't seem like they should be likely candidates for such an honor, but that's how God works. He doesn't seek the ones we would typically imagine, but instead seeks those who will worship him in spirit and truth. These wise men knew what was before them and they responded with joyful worship.

Reflection: When you consider that God chose shepherds and foreigners as some of the first people to meet their Savior, how does that shape your view of God?

Prayer: King Jesus, you are worth all my adoration. I freshly give you my heart and my life.

Suggested Songs: "The First Noel," "We Three Kings"

JOY for December 21

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

We understand that Jesus died a brutal and gruesome death. The Roman soldiers knew how to torture, and they knew how to make a statement with an execution. Jesus endured unimaginable pain on the way to the cross and while he hung on the cross. Yet he could endure it with a simple motivation: joy. He knew that on the other side of the cross awaited not mere relief, but immeasurable delight. He would be reunited with his Father in perfect love and communion. We too are all experiencing pain with our own crosses to bear. Yet we are called to mimic Jesus as we run with endurance because we also will share in his joy. God is not only promising us relief from pain, but overwhelming joy.

Reflection: When have you endured because of the joy that awaited you?

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for enduring the cross. We look to your example of perseverance as we anticipate the joy that we will one day receive with you.

Suggested Songs: “Joy to the World,” “What Child is This”

JOY for December 22

Psalm 100:1-5

¹ *Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!*

² *Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!*

³ *Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

⁴ *Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!*

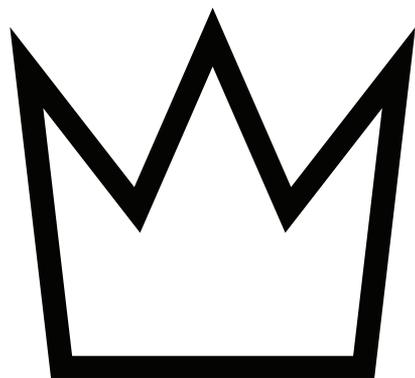
⁵ *For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.*

Worshipping God should not be an emotionless experience. Instead, as this psalm suggests, it should include joyful noises, gladness, singing, thanksgiving and praise. Why should we have such animated joy? The reason the psalmist gives is that God is good and his steadfast love endures forever. And isn't that what we all truly long for? Someone to love us with a love that doesn't weaken over time. In God, we have a sure, unfading love that should compel us to respond with joyful singing.

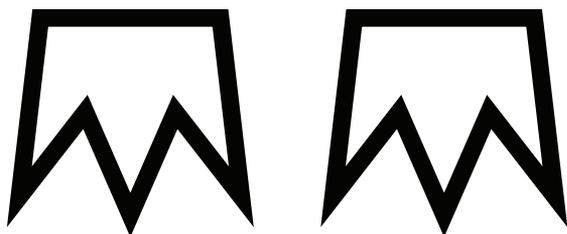
Reflection: Describe a situation when you couldn't help but shout or sing with joy.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for your enduring love! I gladly sing to you with joy.

Suggested Songs: "I Saw Three Ships," "We Three Kings"



WEEK
FOUR:
LOVE



LOVE for December 23

1 John 3:1-2

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Formerly, we were God's enemies, but in Christ he has made us his children. What an incredible transformation! God intentionally designed the parent-child relationship so that every generation would have a picture of the relationship that he wanted to have with us. Every parent understands the incredible love that wells up inside for a child. Even a helpless and demanding infant stirs an affection that is hard to put into words. Yet that is the picture that God wanted us to have when we consider who we are in him. What love, that we should be called children of God.

Reflection: We all have imperfect fathers, but we still know what a father is supposed to be like. What characteristics come to mind when you think of what a father is supposed to be?

Prayer: Father, thank you for making me your child. I know that your love for me is greater than I understand. Help me to see you more and more as my loving Father.

Suggested Songs: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "Silent Night"

LOVE for December 24

Micah 7:18-20

¹⁸ *Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over transgression
for the remnant of his inheritance?*

*He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in steadfast love.*

¹⁹ *He will again have compassion on us;
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.*

*You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.*

²⁰ *You will show faithfulness to Jacob
and steadfast love to Abraham,
as you have sworn to our fathers
from the days of old.*

Do you ever think about what pleases God? Or even more so, what delights him? This passage plainly says that God “delights in steadfast love.” He doesn’t just reluctantly love us because he’s obligated. He takes joy in pouring out his affection on us. He wants to love us.

Reflection: This passage describes God’s love in several ways. What stands out to you about the description? What do you have trouble believing?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for casting my sins into the depth of the sea and continuing to show me compassion and steadfast love.

Suggested Songs: “O Holy Night,” “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LOVE for December 25

Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

*“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God did not spare his own son for us. That deserves repeating. God did not spare his own son for us. There is no higher price that could be paid than the life of the Son of God. And if God did not waver when offering such a high price, he will never waver. His love is guaranteed. What relief there is in knowing a love that will never be withdrawn!

Reflection: Read verses 38-39 again, but add to the list something you are tempted to believe that separates you from the love of God.

Prayer: Father, thank you for offering your son in my place. I know that your love is the most certain thing I could even know.

Suggested Songs: “Joy to the World,” “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Glo - o - o - o - ria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King

See Him in a manger laid
Jesus Lord of Heaven and Earth
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
With us sing our Savior's birth

Away in a Manger
Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask you to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

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.

Come Thou Fount

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love
Here I raise my Ebenezer
Here there by Thy great help I've come
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

Oh, that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Clothed then in the blood washed linen
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Take my ransomed soul away
Send Thine angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless day

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let that goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Said the night wind to the little lamb
Do you see what I see
Way up in the sky little lamb
Do you see what I see
A star, a star
Dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear
Ringing through the sky shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear
A song, a song
High above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king
Do you know what I know
In your palace wall mighty king
Do you know what I know
A child, a child
Shivers in the cold
Let us bring him silver and gold
Let us bring him silver and gold

Said the king to the people everywhere
Listen to what I say
Pray for peace people everywhere
Listen to what I say
The child, the child
Sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light

The First Noel

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star
Three Wise men came from country far
To seek for a King was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both Pause and stay
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those Wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind has bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our savior
Was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heavenly father
The blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

Now to the Lord sing praises
All ye within this place
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

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 host proclaim “Christ is born in Bethlehem”
Hark the herald angels sing “Glory to the newborn King”

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the favored one.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King”

Hail! the heaven-born Prince of Peace. Hail the son of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings, risen 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”

The Holly and the Ivy

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown
O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir

The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flower
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour
O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir

The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good
O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir

The holly bears a prickle
As sharp as any thorn;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.
O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir

The holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.
O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir

The holly and the ivy
Now both are full well grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.
O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing of the choir

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

I Saw Three Ships

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning

Wither sailed those ships all three
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
Wither sailed those ships all three
On Christmas Day in the morning

Oh they sailed into Bethlehem
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
They sailed into Bethlehem
On Christmas Day in the morning

And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas Day in the morning

And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas Day in the morning

Then let us all rejoice again
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
Then let us all rejoice again
On Christmas Day in the morning

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the Earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the Earth, goodwill to men
From heaven's all gracious king
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

O ye beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow
Look now for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord has 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 World, 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.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and be -hold Him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us a -dore Him,
O come, let us a -dore Him,
O come, let us a -dore Hi - m, Christ the Lord.

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
O Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

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 appears

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

O come desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind
Bid thou our sad divisions cease
And be thyself our King of Peace

O Holy Night

O Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'til he appeared and the soul felt it's worth
The thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees
Oh, hear the angels voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
Oh, night divine,
O night, O night divine

Truly he taught us to love one another
His law is love and his gospel is peace
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother
And in his name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise his holy name

Christ is the Lord
Oh praise his name forever
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim

Fall on your knees
Oh, hear the angels voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
Oh, night divine,
O night, O night divine

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

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,
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.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

Chorus

Frankincense to offer have I.
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high.

Chorus

Myrrh is mine: Its bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Chorus

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Sounds through the earth and skies.

Chorus

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

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



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