

Worship Guide
Sunday, December 20, 2020
10:00 AM

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Then Mary said:

*“I am the Lord’s servant;
let it be to me according to your word.”*

Luke 1:38

CALL TO WORSHIP

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his Word I hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plenteous redemption.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

—based on Psalm 130:5-7

COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS

Sandra McCracken, 2014 Drink Your Tea (ASCAP), Admin by Music Services. CCLI #101544

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

Truly our hope is in You,

Truly our hope is in You.

O Lord of life, our only hope,
Your radiance shines
On all who look to You in the dark.
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

Oh Joy above, all other loves,
In You we find more than enough.
We come as we are, O heal and restore,
Come light our hearts.

ADVENT LITANY

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,
we trust in the Lord's goodness.

We rely on his mercy.

We find shelter in his steadfast love.

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,
we walk in the Lord's way.

We follow his example of love.

We keep our covenant promises.

In this Advent season of waiting,
Lord, forget our sins.

Remember your love.

Remember each one of us.

Remember your people everywhere.

In this Advent season of waiting,
Lord, we wait for your salvation.

We wait for your leading.

We wait for your coming.

—based on Psalm 25:1-10

Sing: We are waiting, we are waiting;

We are waiting for You.

We are waiting, we are waiting;

We are waiting, Lord, for You.

ADVENT WREATH

One: Advent means coming. We light this candle
as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**ALL: We are preparing for the full coming of God's
kingdom. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Prayer:

Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us?
Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son.
As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for
joy at the sound of your word, and move us by your Spirit to
bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose
coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord
Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Sing: We are waiting, we are waiting;
We are waiting for You.
We are waiting, we are waiting;
We are waiting, Lord, for You.**

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Text: Latin Hymn, Trans. John M. Neale (1851). Music: VENI IMMANUEL
Prayers from *The Worship Sourcebook*, 2004 CRC Publications

O WISDOM,
coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
pervading and permeating all creation,
you order all things with strength and gentleness:
Come now and teach us the way to salvation. (silence)
In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Come, Lord Jesus.

SING: *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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O ADONAI,
ruler of the house of Israel,
you appeared in the burning bush to Moses
and gave him the law on Sinai:

Come with outstretched arm to save us. (silence)

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Come, Lord Jesus.

SING: *O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O ROOT OF JESSE,

rising as a sign for all the peoples,
before you earthly rulers will keep silent
and nations give you honor:

Come quickly to deliver us. (silence)

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Come, Lord Jesus.

SING: *O come, thou Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto thine own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O KEY OF DAVID,

scepter over the house of Israel,
you open and no one can close,
you close and no one can open:
Come to set free the prisoners
who live in darkness and the shadow of death. (silence)

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Come, Lord Jesus.

SING: *O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O RADIANT DAWN,

splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
Come, shine on those who live in darkness
and in the shadow of death. (silence)
In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Come, Lord Jesus.

SING: *O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O RULER OF THE NATIONS,

monarch for whom the people long,
you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity:
Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay. (silence)
In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Come, Lord Jesus.

SING: *O come, desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O EMMANUEL,

our sovereign and lawgiver,
desire of the nations and Savior of all:
Come and save us, O Lord our God. (silence)
In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Come, Lord Jesus.

SING: *O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

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

For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

Truly our hope is in You.

Truly our hope is in You.

Truly our hope is in You.

GRACE

Niki Shepherd, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, 2016. CityAlight.
CCLI #101544

Your grace that leads this sinner home
From death to life forever,
And sings the song of righteousness
By blood and not by merit.

Your grace that reaches far and wide,
To every tribe and nation,
Has called my heart to enter in
The joy of Your salvation.

*By grace I am redeemed,
By grace I am restored,
And now I freely walk into
The arms of Christ, my Lord.*

Your grace that I cannot explain,
Not by my earthly wisdom;
The prince of life, without a stain,
Was traded for this sinner.

Let praise rise up and overflow,
My song resound forever;
For grace will see me welcomed home
To walk beside my Savior.

PREPARE HIM ROOM

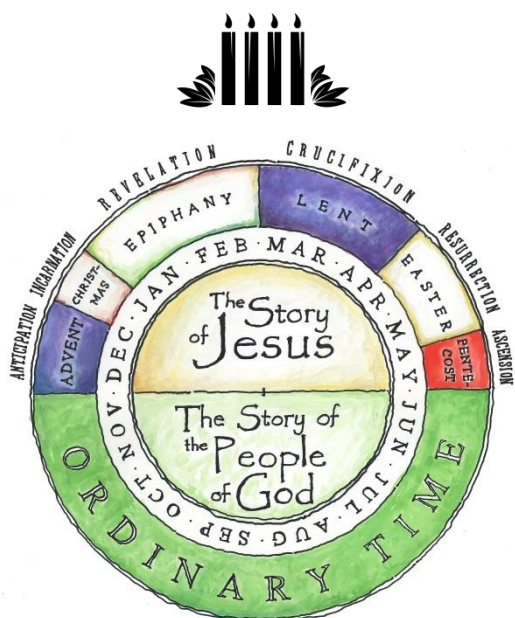
Music and words by Rebecca Elliott and Dave Fournier. © 2014 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI). Sovereign Grace Music

God with us, the promise has come to be;
This, the one the prophets were longing to see.
In the darkness a blazing light,
To the hungry the words of life;
His kingdom now is near
For those with ears to hear.

*Prepare Him room,
Prepare Him room;
Let the King of glory enter in.*

Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem;
Hear Him knock, don't say there's no room in the inn.
Through the cradle, cross, and grave,
See the love of God displayed.
Now He's risen and He reigns;
Praise the Name above all names!

THE SEASON OF ADVENT IN THE CHRISTIAN YEAR



The great proclamation “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14) assures us that God has entered into human history through the incarnation of the Son. The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God’s actions—past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah’s coming as addressed to us—people who wait for the second coming. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. In this way Advent highlights for us the larger story of God’s redemptive plan. A deliberate tension must be built into our practice of the Advent season. Christ has come, and yet not all things have reached completion. While we remember Israel’s waiting and hoping and we give thanks for Christ’s birth, we also anticipate his second coming at the end of time. For this reason Advent began as a penitential season, a time for discipline and intentional repentance in the confident expectation and hope of Christ’s coming again. The Advent season includes the four Sundays preceding Christmas. Worship on these Sundays helps people see the tension between celebrating and hoping.

Adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*,
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