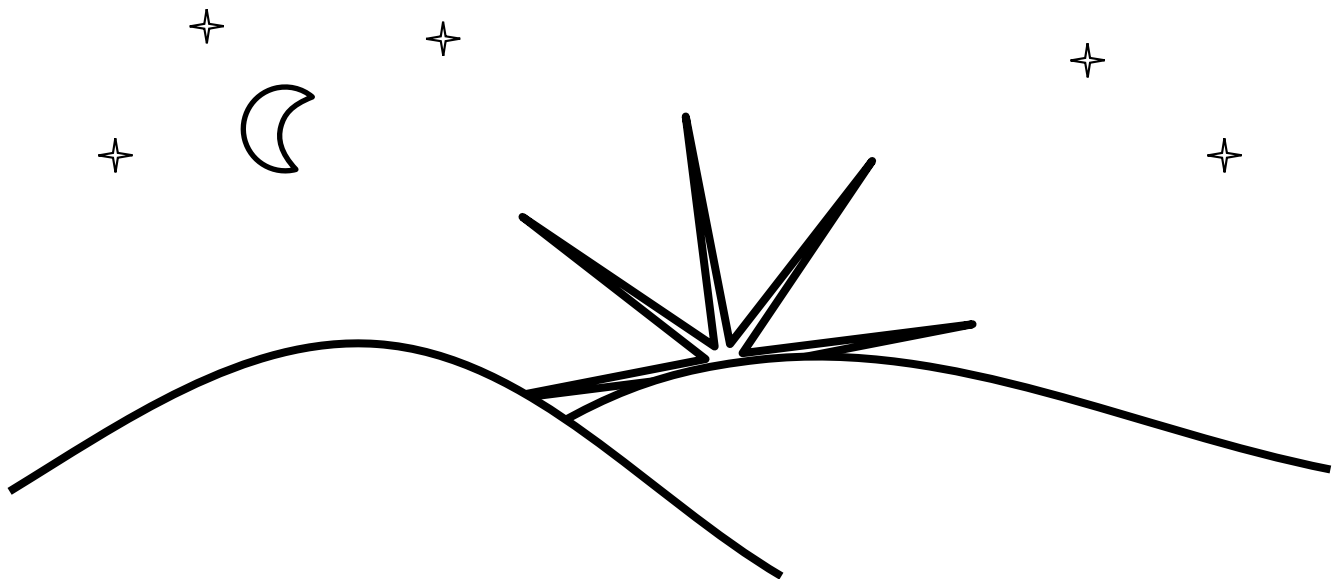


# The Lord is Near

---

*Songs and Prayers of Advent*

for Families and Small Groups



2011 Edition

# Table of Contents

---

<b>Introduction</b>	1
<b>Songs</b>	2
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus	2
Creator of the Stars of Night	3
Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding	4
Lord Christ, Beneath Thy Starry Dome	5
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	6
On Jordan's Banks, the Baptist's Cry	7
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers	8
Watchman, Tell us of the Night	9
<b>Prayers</b>	10
Weekly Collects	10
The Great O Antiphons	11
Preface to Advent I	12
Prayers from The Liturgy of the Hours	12
<b>Scripture Readings</b>	13

---

Questions and comments should be directed to Justin Gregory by email at [jmgregory@gmail.com](mailto:jmgregory@gmail.com).

Music engraving by Lilypond 2.12.3—[www.lilypond.org](http://www.lilypond.org)

All contents of this booklet are public domain, unless otherwise indicated at the bottom of the page.

# Introduction

---

The past decades have seen increased interest among non-liturgical Christians in traditional forms of Christian faith and practice. Ancient customs that were once viewed with skepticism as dead rituals, or with outright hostility as poisonous “traditions of men,” are reappearing in a new light, as powerful aids to spiritual growth and steady defenses against the onslaught of a secular anti-culture.

This is particularly true for the ancient custom of Advent. While the surrounding world prepares for a singular Christmas Day with relentless advertising, shopping and sales, the observance of Advent reminds Christians to watch with prayer, alms-giving, and fasting for the imminent arrival of their Lord. Among the orgies of consumer avarice and gluttony personified in a secular Santa Claus, Christians are once again remembering the real Saint Nicholas and his generosity to the poor. Finally, the observance of Advent reminds us that Christmas Day is not the end, but the beginning of the Christmas season.

To many, fasting and repentance during “the most wonderful time of the year” will appear out-of-sync, even “Scrooge-like.” Yet the Apostle Paul, distilling the gospel to a mere sentence, declared, “For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” (I Cor. 2:2, ESV) Within this verse is contained the seeds for both Christmas and Easter, for the special observances of the incarnation as well as the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord. Both call us to repentance and watchfulness, and both benefit from a time of careful and serious introspection.

This booklet of songs and prayers was compiled to aid families and small groups in observing the important season of Advent. The songs may be used however desired, but the suggested use for families is one per day for a weekly cycle. (This 2011 edition adds *Lord Christ, Beneath Thy Starry Dome*, a song well suited for family use.) The collects from the BCP may be used each night of the designated week, particularly when lighting candles on an Advent wreath. The other prayers may be used as desired. There are twenty-eight Advent scripture readings, enough for one per day on any year. They need not be read in the order they are listed. There are thirteen Christmas scriptures, one for Christmas eve and each of the twelve days of Christmas thereafter. These are partially ordered to give a sense of the chronology of the biblical story.

It is my hope that you will find this a helpful resource in “redeeming the time” from the continual assaults of a society that would gladly wish us to forget our Lord among the bustle of a busy holiday season. May God bless you and your family this Advent.

— Justin Gregory  
November 2011

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

C. Wesley  
87.87D

R.H. Prichard  
*Hyfrydol*

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free.  
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - li - ver. Born a child and yet a King.

From our fears and sins re - lease us. Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - e - ver. Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

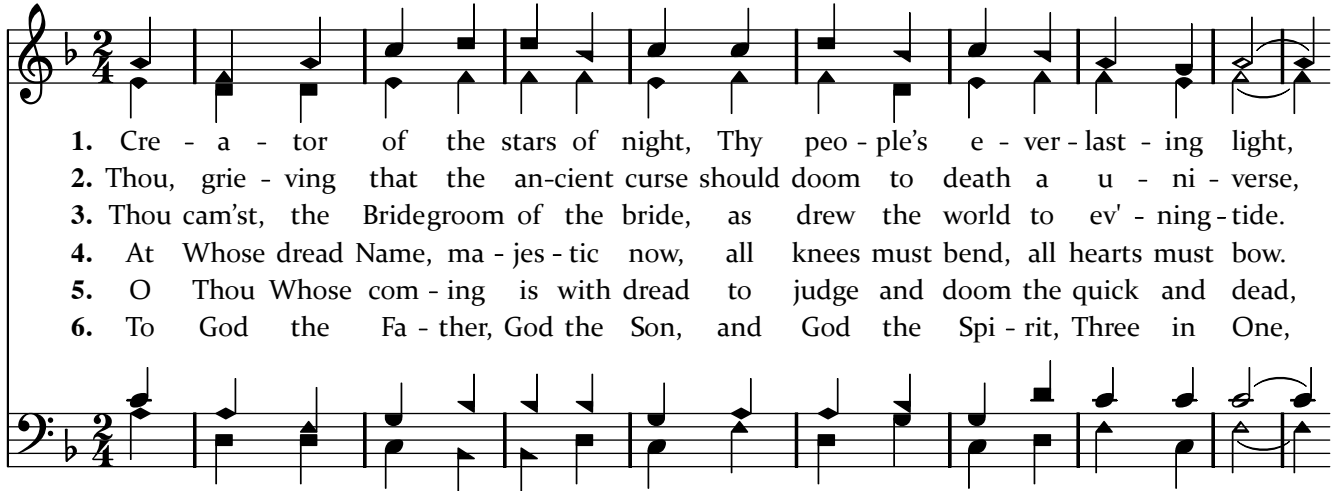
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art.  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone.

Dear de - sire of e' - vry na - tion, Joy of e - vry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all suf - fi - cient me - rit, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

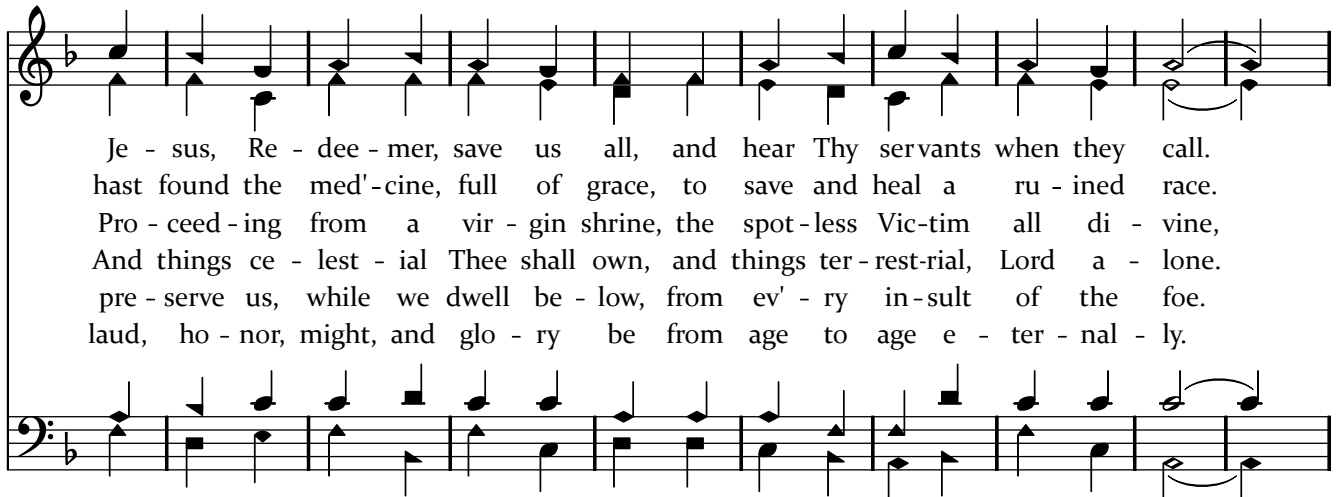
# Creator of the Stars of Night

7th cent. Latin  
tr. J.M. Neale, 1852  
8.8.8.8

*Conditor Alme Siderum*



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Thy peo - ple's e - ver - last - ing light,  
2. Thou, grie - ving that the an - cient curse should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
3. Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride, as drew the world to ev' - ning - tide.  
4. At Whose dread Name, ma - jes - tic now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow.  
5. O Thou Whose com - ing is with dread to judge and doom the quick and dead,  
6. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,

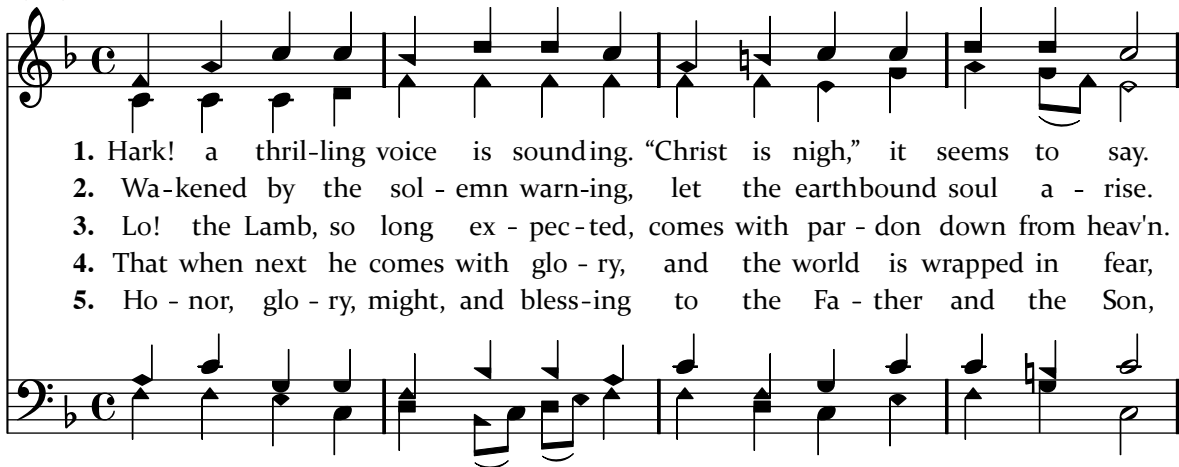


Je - sus, Re - dee - mer, save us all, and hear Thy servants when they call.  
hast found the med' - cine, full of grace, to save and heal a ru - ined race.  
Pro - ceed - ing from a vir - gin shrine, the spot - less Vic - tim all di - vine,  
And things ce - lest - ial Thee shall own, and things ter - rest - rial, Lord a - lone.  
pre - serve us, while we dwell be - low, from ev' - ry in - sult of the foe.  
laud, ho - nor, might, and glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

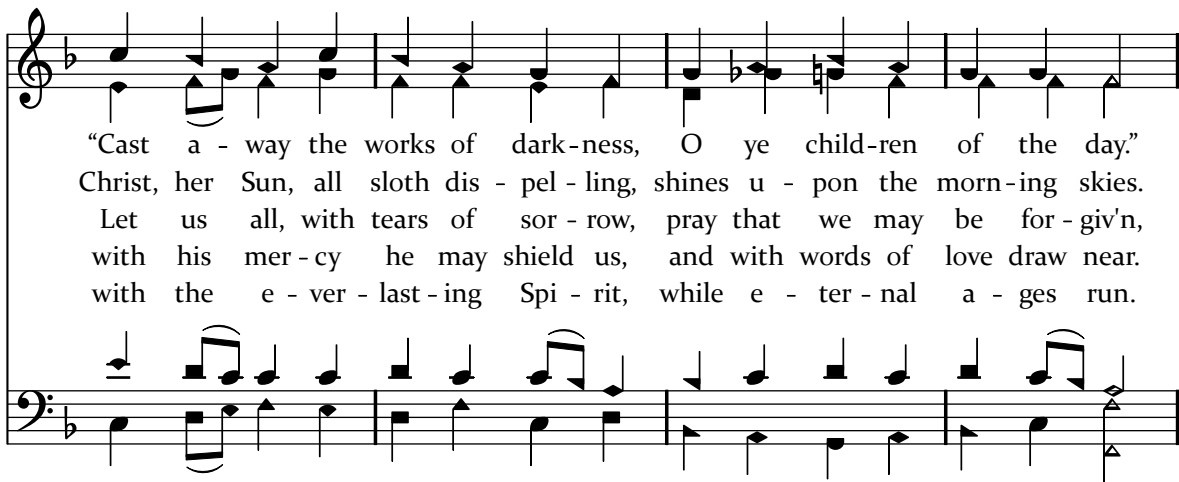
# Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

5th cent. Latin  
tr. E. Caswall, 1849  
87.87

W.H. Monk  
Merton



1. Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say.  
2. Wa-kened by the sol - emn warn-ing, let the earthbound soul a - rise.  
3. Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pec - ted, comes with par - don down from heav'n.  
4. That when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5. Ho - nor, glo - ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

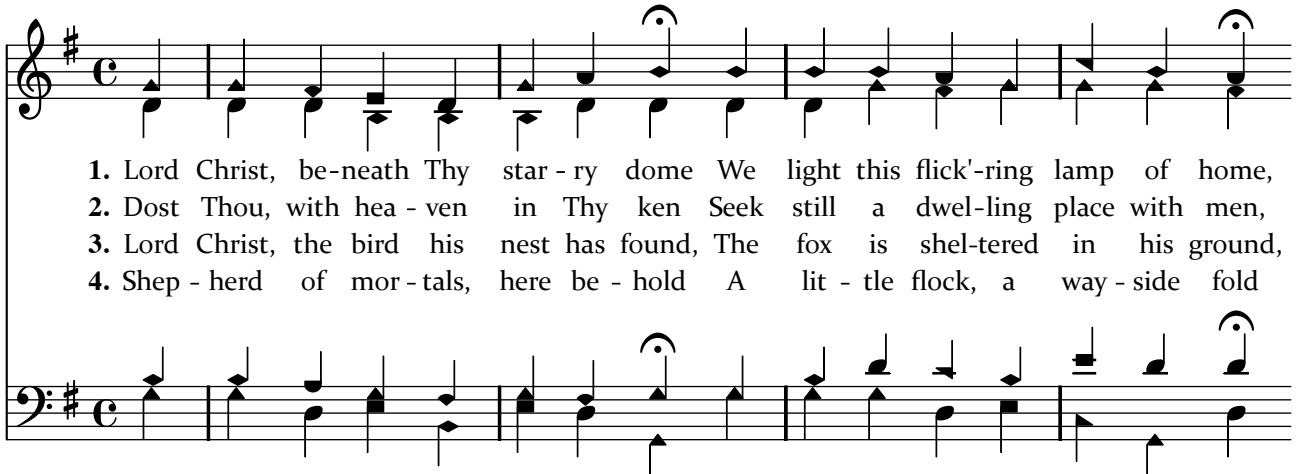


"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."  
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines u - pon the morn-ing skies.  
Let us all, with tears of sor - row, pray that we may be for - giv'n,  
with his mer - cy he may shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
with the e - ver - last - ing Spi - rit, while e - ter - nal a - ges run.

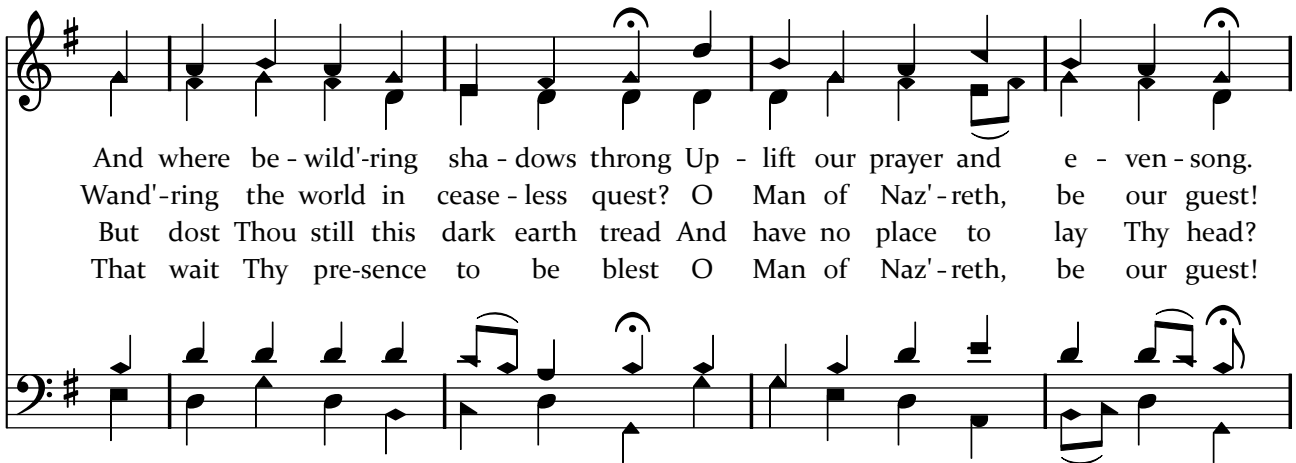
# Lord Christ, Beneath Thy Starry Dome

Daniel Henderson  
LM

Louis Bourgeois, 1551  
*Old Hundredth*



1. Lord Christ, be-neath Thy star-ry dome We light this flick'-ring lamp of home,  
2. Dost Thou, with hea-ven in Thy ken Seek still a dwel-ling place with men,  
3. Lord Christ, the bird his nest has found, The fox is shel-tered in his ground,  
4. Shep-herd of mor-tals, here be-hold A lit-tle flock, a way-side fold



And where be-wild'-ring sha-dows throng Up-lift our prayer and e-ven-song.  
Wand'-ring the world in cease-less quest? O Man of Naz'-reth, be our guest!  
But dost Thou still this dark earth tread And have no place to lay Thy head?  
That wait Thy pre-sence to be blest O Man of Naz'-reth, be our guest!

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

12th cent. Latin  
tr. J.M. Neale  
88.88.88

T. Helmore  
*Veni Emmanuel*

1. O come, O come, Em - ma - nu - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,  
2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who ord' - rest all things migh - ti - ly.  
3. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny.  
4. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by Thine ad - vent here.  
5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home.  
6. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to Thy tribes on Si - nai's height  
7. O come, Thou Root of Jes - se's tree, an en - sign of Thy peo - ple be.  
8. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the hearts of all man - kind.  
\*9. O glor - ious Vir - gin, Sa - lem quakes. What news is this that Ga - briel breaks?

1. that mourns in lone - ly e - xile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2. To us the path of know - ledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
3. From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save, and give them vict' - ry o'er the grave.  
4. Dis - perse the gloo - my clouds of night, and death's dark sha - dows put to flight.  
5. Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to mi - ser - y.  
6. in an - cient times once gave the law in cloud and ma - jes - ty and awe.  
7. Be - fore Thee ru - lers si - lent fall. All peo - ples on Thy mer - cy call.  
8. Bid Thou our sad di - vi - sions cease, and be Thy - self our King of Peace.  
9. Be - hold the sac - red mys - te - ry: for God him - self takes flesh in thee.

## Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - ma - nu - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

\* Stanza 9 written by Gary Kriss for use with the eighth Great O antiphon; copyright © 2005 Gary W. Kriss. Used by permission.



# On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

C. Coffin, 1736  
tr. J. Chandler, 1837

G. R. Woodward, 1904  
*Puer Nobis Nascitur*

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry  
2. Then cleansed be ev' - ry breast from sin.  
3. For Thou art our Sal - va - tion, Lord,  
4. Stretch forth Thine hand, to heal our sore,  
5. To Him Who left the throne of Heav'n

an - noun - ces that the Lord is nigh.  
Make straight the way for God with - in.  
our Re - fuge, and our great Re - ward.  
and make us rise and fall no more.  
to save man - kind, all praise be giv'n.

Come, then, and hear - ken, for he brings  
Pre - pare we in our hearts a home,  
With - out Thy grace our souls must fade  
Once more u - pon Thy peo - ple shine,  
Like praise be to the Fa - ther done,

glad ti - dings from the King of kings!  
where such a might - y Guest may come.  
and wi - ther like a flow'r de - cayed.  
and fill the world with love di - vine.  
and Ho - ly Spi - rit, Three in One.

# Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

L. Laurenti, 1700  
tr. S. B. Findlater, 1854  
76.76D

D. Evans, 1865  
*Llangloffan*

1. Re - joice, re - joice, be - lie - vers, and let your lights ap - pear.  
2. See that your lamps are bur - ning, re - plen - ish them with oil.  
3. O wise and ho - ly vir - gins, now raise your voi - ces high'r,  
4. Our hope and ex - pect - a - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear!

The eve - ning is ad - van - cing, and dar - ker night is near.  
And wait for your sal - va - tion, the end of earth - ly toil.  
un - til in songs of tri - umph ye meet the an - gel choir.  
A - rise, thou Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he draw - eth nigh.  
The wat - chers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Bride-groom near.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand.  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray, and watch, and wres - tle: at mid - night comes the cry.  
Go meet him as he com - eth, with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
Rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that brings us un - to Thee.

# Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

J. Bowring, 1825

L. Mason, 1831

77-77D

*Call:*

1. Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of pro-mise are.  
2. Watch-man, tell us of the night. High-er yet that star as-cends.  
3. Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

*Response:*

Trav'-ler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.  
Trav'-ler, bless-ed-ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.  
Trav'-ler, dark-ness takes its flight, doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.

*Call:*

Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray aught of joy or hope fore-tell?  
Watch-man, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Watch-man, let thy wan-d'rings cease. Hie thee to thy qui-et home.

*Response:*

Trav'-ler, yes; it brings the day, pro-mised day of Is-ra-el.  
Trav'-ler, a-ges are its own. See, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
Trav'-ler, lo! the Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

# Prayers

## Weekly Collects from the Book of Common Prayer (1979)

### Week 1

---

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

### Week 2

---

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

### Week 3

---

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

### Week 4

---

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

# The Great O Antiphons

---

*These antiphons have been used in Western Christian worship from at least as far back as the eighth century. (\*The eighth antiphon appeared in later English use). Each one inspired and corresponds to a verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," as indicated by the numbers to the right. Traditionally, one antiphon is recited each day beginning on December 16<sup>th</sup>, or, if the eighth antiphon is not to be used, December 17<sup>th</sup>.*

1. O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
reaching mightily from one end to the other,  
and sweetly ordering all things:  
*Come and teach us the way of prudence.* v. 2
2. O Adonai and ruler of the House of Israel,  
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush,  
and gave him the law on Sinai:  
*Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.* v. 6
3. O Root of Jesse, who stands as a sign among the peoples,  
before whom kings keep silence,  
and unto whom the nations shall make their prayers:  
*Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.* v. 7
4. O Key of David and scepter of the House of Israel,  
who opens, and no one can shut,  
who shuts, and no one can open:  
*Come and lead the captives from prison,  
those who sit in darkness, and the shadow of death.* v. 5
5. O Day-Spring, splendor of light eternal and Sun of righteousness:  
*Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness, and the shadow of death.* v. 4
6. O King of the nations, and their desire,  
the Cornerstone making both into one:  
*Come and save mankind,  
whom you fashioned from clay.* v. 8
7. O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,  
Hope of the nations, and their Savior:  
*Come and save us, O Lord our God.* v. 1
- \*8. O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be?  
For never were there any like you before,  
nor shall there be after.  
*Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel at me?  
The mystery you perceive is divine.* v. 9

## Preface for Advent I

---

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.

For he assumed at his first coming  
the lowliness of human flesh,  
and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago,  
and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, that,  
when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest,  
we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise  
in which now we dare to hope.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory,  
as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest.

## Prayers from the Liturgy of the Hours

---

Lord our God, grant that we may be ready to receive Christ when he comes in glory  
and to share in the banquet of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord our God, help us to prepare for the coming of Christ your Son. May he find  
us waiting, eager in joyful prayer. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your  
Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

God our Father, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son to free  
us from the ancient power of sin and death. Help us who wait for his coming, and  
lead us to true liberty. Amen.

---

*Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.; the English translation of the Advent prayers from The Liturgy of the Hours © 1974, ICEL. All rights reserved.*

# Scripture Readings

## Advent

---

### Old Testament

Psalm 24  
Psalm 72  
Isaiah 2:1-5  
Isaiah 9:1-7  
Isaiah 11:1-10  
Isaiah 35  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
Isaiah 52  
Isaiah 60:1-3  
Jeremiah 33:12-16  
Micah 5:2-4  
Malachi 3:1-5

### New Testament

Matthew 1:18-24  
Matthew 3:1-12  
Matthew 25:1-13  
Mark 13:33-37  
Luke 1:26-38  
Acts 1:6-11  
Romans 8:18-25  
Romans 13:11-14  
I Corinthians 1:3-9  
Ephesians 5:6-16  
Philippians 4:4-9  
Titus 2:11-14  
I John 3:1-3  
Revelation 3:7-13  
Revelation 21:1-8  
Revelation 22

## Christmas Season

---

Dec. 25. Luke 2:1-20  
Dec. 26. Galatians 4:3-7  
Dec. 27. John 1:9-14  
Dec. 28. John 3:16-21  
Dec. 29. I Timothy 1:15-17  
Dec. 30. Hebrews 1:1-12  
Dec. 31. Luke 1:46-55

Jan. 1. Philippians 2:5-11  
Jan. 2. Luke 2:21-40  
Jan. 3. I Timothy 3:14-16  
Jan. 4. Matthew 2:1-12  
Jan. 5. Matthew 2:13-23  
Jan. 6. I John 4:7-14