

Advent & Christmas

2018 - 2019



RESURRECTION

BROOKLYN

Cover Art: The Adoration of the Magi, 1526

Quentin Metsys

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

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THE LITURGICAL YEAR

As another calendar year draws to a close, a new church year is just beginning. The church, or liturgical, year was developed during the first centuries of the early church as a tool to help the people of God remember and celebrate the mystery of the Gospel. Each season of the liturgical year calls us to focus on different aspects of the Gospel, from Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, as well as his ascension, the day of Pentecost and his promised return. To that end, each season has its own colors, prayers, rituals and moods to aid in our remembrance and celebration. By marking the passage of time redemptively, the liturgical year reminds us that God has acted and continues to act in history, redeeming for himself his people. Taken altogether, we see that the liturgical year acts in concert with Scripture and our weekly and daily worship, amplifying the invitation to lose ourselves in the good news of Jesus so that we might truly find ourselves and live.

ADVENT

The four-week season of Advent starts the new church year, preparing the people of God for the celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany. Advent means "coming" and its mood is that of longing, expectation and waiting. The color purple is used because of its association with repentance, preparation and sacrifice.

Appropriately during this time, the church remembers Jesus' first coming and anticipates his coming again. This world is broken, and so we yearn for Jesus to come back as our King and to make all things new. The cry of Advent is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin. It is the cry from those who still have hope of deliverance because they believe in a God who hears the cries of the oppressed and delivers them.

Of course, Scripture teaches us that we need redemption from our broken world because we broke it! Advent calls us to wait and prepare for Jesus' return by repenting and believing. We are to turn away from the false hopes and desires that twist our hearts and destroy our relationships. Instead, we are to turn toward Jesus, who frees us to love and serve one another in grace and truth. Just as John the Baptist was born to prepare the way for Jesus' first coming, so we are given to each other in the community of the church to encourage each other and challenge the world around us to prepare for his coming again.

So, what exactly do we do during Advent? We wait and prepare by re-committing ourselves to the Christian practices: weekly worship, daily prayer, gathering with brothers and sisters in Christ for mutual encouragement, hospitality, sacrificial giving, and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. We re-commit to experiencing God anew and to praying with the final prayer of the Bible with new hope: “Come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20)

CHRISTMAS

At Christmas, we remember the birth of Jesus. Derived from “Christ Mass,” Christmas is a feast of fulfillment and future fulfillment. The mood is that of celebration. The colors white and gold are used because of its association with the glory, royalty, joy, holiness and the light of God.

With all of our past, present and future waiting answered in Jesus, we continue the song sung by the chorus of angels present at Jesus’ birth: “Glory to God in the highest!” (Luke 2:14). And it’s not a one-day affair. It’s actually a 12-day celebration beginning at sunset on Christmas Eve! How could it not be a multi-day, extravagant and joyous feast? Our King of Kings, the Prince of Peace, Creator and Redeemer has come to make all things new!

So what do we do during Christmas? We rejoice, celebrate and give gifts.

In some traditions, gift giving occurs on each of the 12-days of Christmas. Regardless of your gift giving practice, it is one that emulates and points to God’s great sacrificial generosity towards us. Thus, celebrating Christmas is an exercise in humility and care of others. As Paul says, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit...In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness” (Philippians 2).

So while we celebrate, we also look for ways to be united with Jesus in his humiliation so that others in our lives can know the joy of the Incarnation, God with us. In other words, we continue to cultivate the Christian practices to be shaped into the people of God.

THE ADVENT WREATH & THE PRAYER GUIDE

Many celebrations of Advent include the use of an Advent wreath. The Advent wreath is a relatively new tradition (19th century), but an increasingly popular one. The wreath consists of evergreen boughs encircling five candles. Four candles represent each week of Advent and the fifth represents Christmas. One candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent. Two are lit on the second Sunday, and so on. All four candles and the remaining fifth candle are lit either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. It's worth noting that in some traditions, the candles also represent different themes of the seasons:

THE FIRST CANDLE / purple / Hope.

Throughout the Old Testament, God tells his people that He will fulfill his promise to conquer sin and all its effects by sending a Savior.

THE SECOND CANDLE / purple / Peace.

One of Jesus' many titles is the Prince of Peace. He is the means for reconciliation between the Righteous God and His unrighteous people. He is also the means of peace between people, within families, across cultures, generations, classes, and nations.

THE THIRD CANDLE / pink / purple / Joy.

It is through Jesus Christ that we participate in eternal, abundant life. One of the fruits of His Spirit dwelling in us is joy. How could it be otherwise since nothing can separate us from the love of God through the Savior? A pink candle is sometimes used to help us mark the midpoint of Advent.

THE FOURTH CANDLE / purple / Love.

God's love is shown by this—while we were yet sinners, His Son Jesus died for us. And now we have been redeemed and adopted into His family as His children. Experiencing God's love for us, we are now made free to love others.

THE FIFTH AND CENTER CANDLE / white / Jesus Christ, the light of the World.

In Him we find truth and purpose. He not only died to purchase us as a people for His own possession, He rose from the dead as the pledge that we also shall be raised to a new and everlasting life.

We recommend using the wreath because it offers a visual way to mark our Advent waiting and the fulfillment of our expectations in Jesus Christ. Lighting the candles also offers a moment in our busy days, whether we are alone or with others, to pause and to reflect on our longings and to offer them to the one who created us, knows us and comes to us.

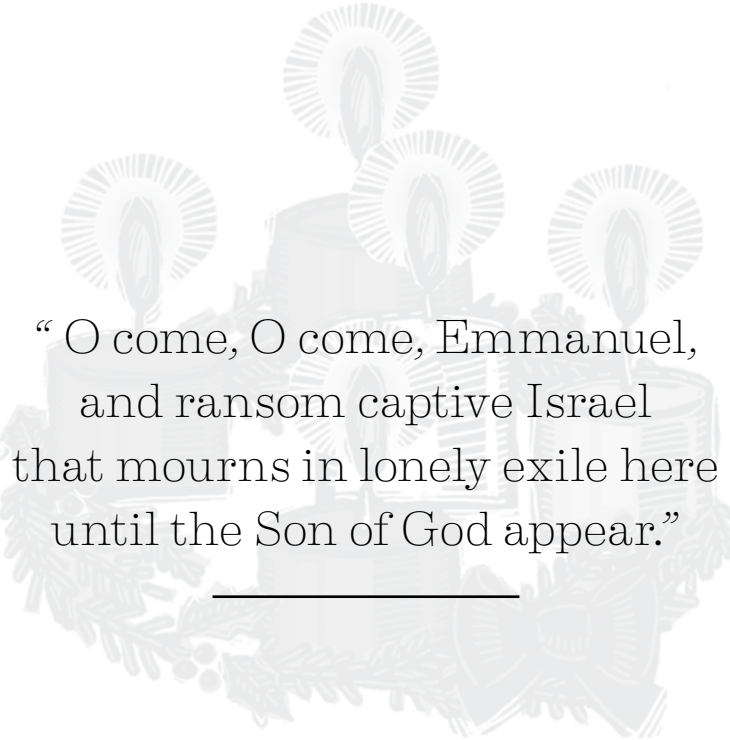
This daily guide offers daily prayers, readings and hymns for Advent and Christmas. Many of the prayers and scripture readings reflect the Advent theme of the week. We believe this guide, along with the wreath, will help you as individuals, roommates, groups, and families to enter into the story of the gospel in new and deeper ways. Our goal is not to load you down with more tasks in an already busy life, but rather to provide you with tools to help you experience God's goodness more fully this season and beyond.

It is a great joy for us to be your pastors. We are so thankful that God has brought us together and we are honored to be able to worship and serve our Lord together with you. May Christ grant us all a blessed Advent and Christmas!

WITH GREAT LOVE FOR YOU ALL,

The Pastoral Staff of Resurrection Brooklyn

** Portions of this guide have been adapted from materials from our friends at Christ Church Berkley (CA) and Trinity Presbyterian Church (VA).*



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

-HOPE-

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / *Sunday, December 2*

OPENING PRAYER

Unexpected God, your advent alarms us. Wake us from drowsy worship, from the sleep that neglects love, and the sedative of misdirected frenzy. Awaken us now to your coming, and extinguish our fears with your hope. *Amen.*

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE 1

Q. Why do we light the Advent candle?

A. To remember this truth: Jesus is the Light of the World and we who follow Him do not walk in darkness but have the Light of Life. In him the nations will put their hope. (based on John 8:12 & Matthew 12:21)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are captive and exiled, O God, because we have, each in our own way, chosen to walk away from you. We confess that we have placed our hope in lesser things. We are lost and in need of your help. Come, Lord Jesus. Forgive and restore us. Guide and deliver us. Renew our hope. *Amen.*

READINGS FOR WEEK 1

Sunday	2 Peter 3:1-10
Monday	Isaiah 1:10-20
Tuesday	Isaiah 1:21-31
Wednesday	Isaiah 2:1-11
Thursday	Isaiah 2:12-22
Friday	Isaiah 4:2-6
Saturday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

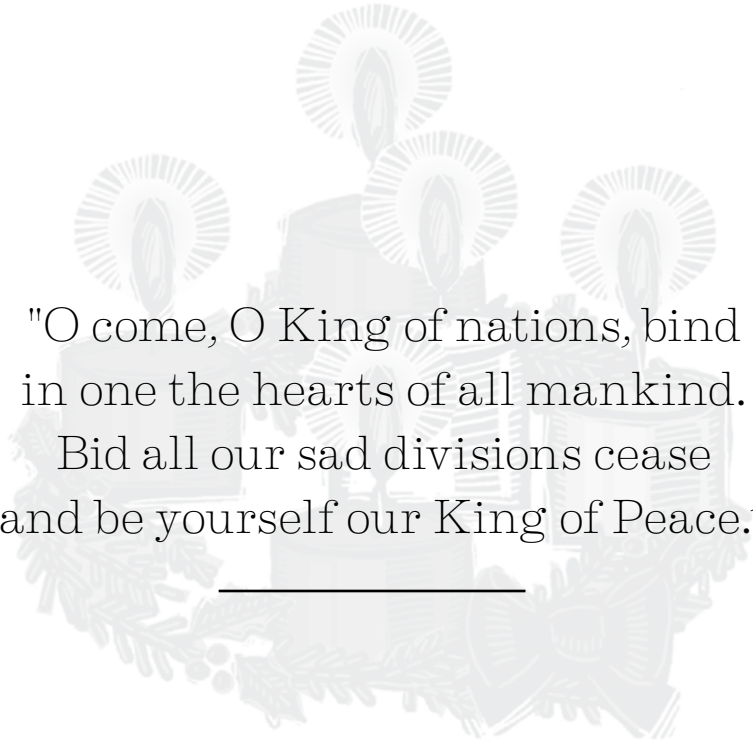
PRAYER OF FAITH AND RESPONSE

The Lord's Prayer or The Apostles' Creed

SONG FOR THE WEEK: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

CLOSING PRAYER

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 life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



"O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace."

-PEACE-

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / *Sunday, December 9*

OPENING PRAYER

Our gracious God, in this season of waiting, draw your people together in renewed peace and unity, that our praise and worship might echo through our lives. In this season of expectation, draw us together in renewed mission, that we may be peacemakers as you have commanded. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the true Prince of Peace. *Amen.*

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE 1-2

Q. Why do we light the Advent candle?

A. To remember this truth: Jesus is the Lord our God who lights our candle and lightens our darkness. For Jesus himself is our peace, the one who has broken down the dividing wall of hostility. (based on Psalm 18:28 & Ephesians 2:14)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have, O God, each in our own way, forgotten your Law and your love for us. We have, too often, given ourselves to powers and practices that would destroy peace. We are lost, in need of your help. Come, Lord Jesus. Forgive and restore us. Guide and deliver us. Renew our peace. *Amen.*

READINGS FOR WEEK 1

Sunday	2 Peter 3:11-18
Monday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Wednesday	Isaiah 6:1-13
Thursday	Isaiah 7:1-9
Friday	Isaiah 7:10-25
Saturday	Isaiah 8:1-15


PRAYER OF FAITH AND RESPONSE

The Lord's Prayer or The Apostles' Creed

SONG FOR THE WEEK: Come Thou Fount

CLOSING PRAYER

Merciful God, you 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.*



“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”

-JOY-

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / Sunday, December 16

OPENING PRAYER

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE 1-3

Q. Why do we light the Advent candle?

A. To remember this truth: Jesus is the Word through whom all things were made. In him is life and his life is the light of all people. If we receive his light, our joy is made complete. (based on John 1:1-3 & John 15:11)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we have neglected Advent disciplines. We've crowded them out with Christmas celebrations that arrive too early and with our anxieties, selfishness and lack of trust. Because of this, we have forgotten you and we are joyless. We need of your help. Come, Lord Jesus. Forgive and restore us. Guide and deliver us. Renew our joy. *Amen.*

READINGS FOR WEEK 1

Sunday	Isaiah 13:6-13
Monday	Isaiah 8:16; 9:1
Tuesday	Isaiah 9:2-7
Wednesday	Mark 1:1-8
Thursday	Matthew 3:1-12
Friday	Matthew 11:2-15
Saturday	Isaiah 10:20-27

PRAYER OF FAITH AND RESPONSE

The Lord's Prayer or The Apostles' Creed

SONG FOR THE WEEK: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

CLOSING PRAYER

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.*



“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel”

-LOVE-

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / *Sunday, December 23*

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, strengthen our hearts to believe your advent promise that one day we will walk in the way of Christ in the new heaven and new earth, where sorrow and sighing will be no more and all will be renewed by your all consuming love. *Amen.*

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE 1-4

Q. Why do we light the Advent candle?

A. We welcome God's light into our lives and we welcome the full revelation of God's unfailing love for us and for all of creation. For Jesus is the Word of God, the lamp to our feet and the light to our path. (based on Psalm 119:105)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have wrought discord, O God. Each of us, in our own way, has locked ourselves out of relationships and we have filled our lives and world with darkness because we lack love. All too often, we have put our own judgment and desires before yours. Come, Lord Jesus. Forgive and restore us. Guide and deliver us. Renew our love. *Amen.*

READINGS FOR WEEK 1

Sunday Isaiah 42:1-12

Christmas Eve Isaiah 11:1-9

PRAYER OF FAITH AND RESPONSE

The Lord's Prayer or The Apostles' Creed

SONG FOR THE WEEK: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CLOSING PRAYER

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.*

CHRISTMASTIDE / THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Starting Tuesday, December 25th

OPENING PRAYER

Shout for joy the whole earth, and everything within. Rejoice! For Light has come into the world! The mountains sing, the seas resound to the praise of your name. Salvation once promised is here on earth! The angels' song rings in the air, a child has been born. Hallelujah! The Savior of the world is here!

LIGHTING OF ALL FOUR ADVENT CANDLES + THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Q. Why do we light the Christmas Candle?

A. With joy we remember Christ's coming and with joy we look forward to his coming again when night will be no more and lamp and sun will no longer be needed because he will be our light forever and ever. (based on Revelation 22:5)

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS:

1st day of Christmas	John 1:1-18
2nd day of Christmas	John 3:16-21
3rd day of Christmas	John 3:31-36
4th day of Christmas	John 7:37-52
5th day of Christmas	John 7:53--8:11
6th day of Christmas	John 8:12-19
7th day of Christmas	John 10:7-17
8th day of Christmas	John 14:6-14
9th day of Christmas	John 15:1-16
10th day of Christmas	1 John 1:1-5
11th day of Christmas	1 John 2:12-17
12th day of Christmas	1 John 4:7-16

PRAYER OF FAITH AND RESPONSE

The Lord's Prayer or the Apostles' Creed

SONGS FOR CHRISTMAS

Joy to the World; or
Come All Ye Faithful; or
Go Tell it on the Mountain

CLOSING PRAYER

God, we are as confounded as Joseph and Mary,
as busy as the innkeepers,
as lonely as the shepherds,
as frightened as Herod,
as wayfaring as the Magi.
Turn us again to the place where,
with quietness,
you wrap up your truth and promise,
your love and salvation in the child born in a crude barn.
We ponder these things as the noise and clamor of the world
are stilled for a time,
and there is a peace that settles deep within us.
Bring us to Bethlehem,
to the place where Jesus was homeless,
but where we are truly at home.
Amen.

APPENDIX

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
for thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. *Amen.*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



1. Come, thou long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, born a



set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re -
child and yet a King, born to reign in us for -



lease us, let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's
e - ver, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine



strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the
own e - ter - nal spi - rit rule in all our



earth thou art; dear de - sire of ev - ery
hearts a - lone; by thine all suf - fi - cient



na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
me - rit, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Come Thou Fount

Words: Robert Robinson / Music: Ashael Nettleton

1. Come thou fount of ev-ery bless-ing Tune my heart to sing thy grace Streams of
2. Here I raise my Eb-ē-ne-zer, Hi-ther by Thy help I'm come And I
3. O to grace how great a debt-or Dail-y I'm con-strained to be Let that

6
mer - cy, ne - ver ceas - ing Call for songs of loud - est praise Teach me
hope by Thy good plea - sure Safe - ly to ar - rive at home Je - sus
grace now like a fet - ter Bind my wand - ering heart to Thee Prone to

10
some mel - o - dious son - net Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the
sought me when a strang - er, Wan - dering from the fold of God Here to
wan - der, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love Here's my

14
mount, I'm fixed up - on it Mount of God's un - chang - ing love
res - cue me from dang - er In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood
heart, O take and seal it Seal it for Thy courts a - bove

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Words: James Montgomery / Music: Sandra McCracken

Chorus

F/C C F/C C F/C C Am G F/C C

Hail to the Lord's a - nointed great Da - vid's great-er Son! Hail in the

6 F/C C G Am F G F/C C

time ap - pointed, His reign on earth be - gun! His reign on earth be - gun!

Verses

11 F/C C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm

1.He comes to break op - pres-sion, to set the cap - tive free;
2.He comes with com - fort speed-y to those who suf - fer wrong;
3.To give them songs for sigh-ing, their dark-ness turned to light,
4.He shall come down like show-ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
5.The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

16 F C/E F C/E G Am F G

to take a - way trans-gres-sion and rule in eq - ui - ty. (vss. 1, 3, 4, 5 to chorus)
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong.
whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
love, joy, and hope, like flow-ers, spring in His path to birth.
his name shall stand for - ev - er, that name to us is Love.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

John Mason Neale

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.

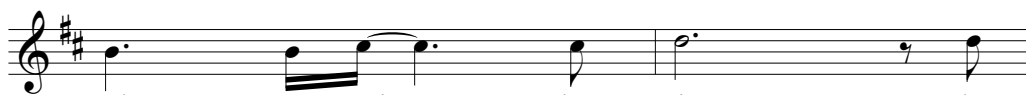
man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Joy to the World

George Frederick Handel / Isaac Watts



1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns; let
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and



earth re - ceive her King; let
 men their songs em - ploy; while
 thorns in - fest the ground; He
 makes the na - tions prove the



ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room, and
 fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re -
 comes to make His bless - ings flow far
 glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness and



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



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

Come All Ye Faithful

John Francis Wade

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;
in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let
late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

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

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev' - ry - whe - re; Go, tell it on the

6
moun - tain that Je - sus Chr - ist is born. 1. While shep - herds kept their
2. The shep - herds feared and
3. Down in a low - ly

10
watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be - hold, through - out the
trem - bled when, lo! a - bove the earth rang out the an - gel
man - ger our hum - ble Christ was born, and God sent us sal -

14
heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light. _____
cho - rus tht hailed our Sav - ior's birth. _____
va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn. _____

NOTES

NOTES



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