

Christmas Carols

Letter from the Pastor

Advent is a great time of celebration. During the weeks leading up to Christmas we focus on the fact that Jesus - the Eternal Son of God - became human for us and for our salvation. It is an amazing story, worthy of being celebrated throughout the year. Each Sunday during Advent our church will be having special Scripture readings, light an Advent candle, and have special music to help us focus on some aspect of Christ's coming. As many other Christians do, we will focus on a specific topic for each week - hope, peace, love, and finally joy. We pray that each of you will be prepared to worship God and receive His hope, peace, love and joy this Advent season.

To help us celebrate Advent as a church, we have prepared a small devotional guide. You may use it as an individual or as a family. Each week the Scriptures and short devotional thoughts will focus on the theme of the week - the Advent of hope, peace, love, and joy. The devotions were written by different people and will each have their own flavor and thoughts, but all will help us to focus on the coming of Christ. All of them also include a suggested Christmas carol, hymn, or poem that you may read or sing to stir your hearts love for Christ. We pray this devotional will be a blessing and will prepare you to sing with the angels and all of God's people - Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Daily
Devotionals

December 1

The Advent of Hope The Servant Brings Hope

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. ² He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. ³ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; ⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope. Isaiah 42:1–4

This section of Isaiah is known as “the servant song” of Isaiah. In this section Isaiah spoke of “the servant of the Lord” who would serve God faithfully and restore the hope and peace of God’s people. Although Cyrus and Israel were partial fulfillments of the servant of the Lord, the real and true fulfillment is found in Jesus. He is the Christ - the One anointed with the Spirit. He is the One in Whom God the Father delights, the One Who brings justice to the nations, the One Who gently restores the fallen ones. He began this work at His birth, but it continues all the way until today. He will restore this world - and us - from the curse. This is why the islands put their hope in Him. This Advent season, let’s put our hope in Him too!

Suggested Carol

O Come, O Come Emmanuel



December 2

The Advent of Hope Hope For the Downcast Soul

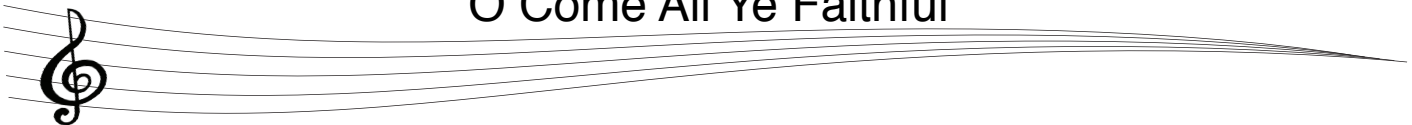
Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my
God. Psalms 43:5

For many, Christmas is a season of joy. But for others, it may be a troubling time when our soul can feel downcast. What do we do in a time like that? In Psalm 43, we read of one who faced such a problem. His soul was troubled and downcast. What did he do? The Psalmist puts his hope in God. He does not simply give in to the despair, but rather calls himself to look to God in hope.

Advent, which occurs for us in the darkest time of winter, is a call to hope. Though everything may seem dark at this season, in Christ the light of hope has come. So whether this season is filled with joy or difficulty, let the light of Christ be a reminder that God has not forsaken us, and we can put our hope in Him. Look to Him today, give Him praise, and let Him fill your soul with hope.

Suggested Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful



December 3

The Advent of Hope Hoping In God's Unfailing Love

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.
⁶My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. ⁷ O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. Psalms 130:5–7

One of the biggest reasons we can become downcast is the fear that God is waiting to pounce on us because of our sin, to judge and condemn us. While it is certainly true that all of us sin, and that God is holy and righteously judges sin, Psalm 130 reminds us that there is more to the story than our sin and God's judgement. There is also the unfailing love of God. This Psalm tells us that God is not like a watchman on the wall waiting for us to slip so He can condemn us. On the contrary, God is looking for a reason to bless us. That is His Father's heart. For this reason, the Psalmist waits for the Lord, and tells us to do the same. He encourages us that we should trust in God's love, for it never fails. This Advent let us hope in God, for His love is unfailing, and He has come to redeem us in Christ!

Suggested Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem



December 4

The Advent of Hope Hoping In God In Our Darkest Times

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: ²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:21–23

For Americans, Advent and Christmas come in the shortest and darkest days of the year. For Israel, the darkest days in her history occurred when Jerusalem was conquered and they were exiled to Babylon. At that very moment, when all seemed lost, Jeremiah wrote these words. Although it seemed like all was lost, Jeremiah found hope. He did not find hope because he was simply an optimistic person (he was not), nor because he thought the exile would be short (he knew he would not live to see it end). Instead, his hope was built on God's character. It was founded on God's great love, His unfailing compassion, His faithfulness. In Advent, we are reminded again that God's love, His compassion for us, never fail. His mercy is indeed new every day, and He is so faithful that even when we are unfaithful, Christ comes to save us. Put your hope in God today, for His mercies never fail, because they are based on His character, not ours!

Suggested Poem or Carol

Grace Comes Softly OR O Come, O Come Emmanuel



December 5

The Advent of Hope Hoping In God's Great Strength

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:28–31

We are often tempted to think that we can survive in our own strength. However, Isaiah the prophet warns us that only God never grows weary; only His strength never fails. Even the strongest people and animals have a limit to their strength. Yet, if we will place our hope in God, He will renew our strength. Each year during Advent we are reminded that our own strength can not save us, but that if we will place our hope and faith in God, Jesus will save us, and give us strength to walk with Him.

Suggested Carol

O Holy Night



December 6

The Advent of Hope Hoping In God Alone

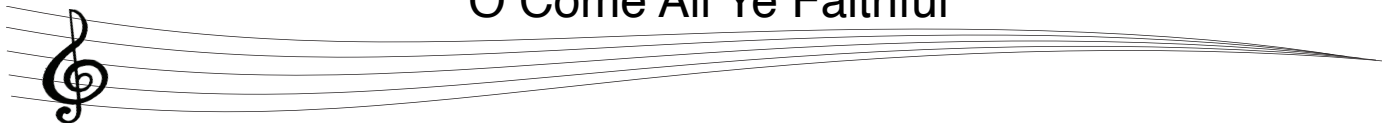
Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not
be shaken. Psalms 62:5–6

Throughout this week we have been encouraged to find hope in God. This is the message of Advent - and it is very important. Here, however, the Psalmist reminds us of something more. Not only is our hope in God; our hope comes from God. It is His gift to us.

But this gift is only received as we find our rest in Him **alone**. God is not one source among many for rest for our soul - He is the only true source of rest for our soul. All others sources of rest will run dry. This Advent let us look to Him alone to find rest, knowing that when we do, He will give us hope.

Suggested Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful



December 7

The Advent of Hope The God of Hope

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:12–13

Hope is a very important word in the book of Romans. In fact, Paul uses it seventeen times! Hope is so central to God's work, that Paul calls Him the God of hope. As we look to the God of hope in faith, we are filled with joy and peace. As we walk by His Spirit, we not only have hope - we overflow with hope. Because we are His children, we are becoming more like our Father. Since God is the God of hope, we are to increasingly become a people of hope.

This week of Advent has reminded us that we are to be filled with hope, for Christ has come. God has not abandoned us. Because He has come to us and given His Son for us, we can live in hope that everything we need will be given to us in Christ. This is the basis for real hope - and it will never be disappointed!

Suggested Carol

Hark The Herald Angles Sing



December 8

The Advent of Peace Peace Has Come

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”
Luke 2:13-14

Peace, peace, the world wants peace. Nations want peace with other nations. The oppressed want peace with the oppressor. The debtor wants peace with the creditor. The sick, the weary, and the outcast want peace from disease, labor, and social stigmas. Those whose lives are slowly ebbing away want peace with eternity. But the primary problem of peace is not with men, it is the peace needed in our enmity, hatred, and fighting against God. We are not capable of offering that peace. The angels are declaring to the shepherds, in Luke, that the glorious God is offering peace to men.

Suggested Carol

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day



December 9

The Advent of Peace Peace Has Come as a Person

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. Isaiah 9:6-7

We could not offer terms of peace to God. God had to offer terms of peace to us and he did it in the form of a person, his Son, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Jesus became God's ambassador of peace, sent to make his residence in a world of hostile sinners. The Prince of Peace paid the price that God set for peace. That peace has taken us from being enemies of God to becoming children of God. God and sinners are now reconciled.

Suggested Carol

Hark! The Herald Angles Sing



December 11

The Advent of Peace The Path of Peace Foretold

"And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, ⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven ⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." Luke 1:76-79

About six months prior to Mary giving birth to the peace child, Jesus, another child was born to Mary's relative Elizabeth. Gabriel, the same angel who would reveal the news to Mary about her child, announced the news of a child to Elizabeth and Zechariah, her husband. Their child would be named John, the prophet of the Prince of Peace. John would preach about the wrath of God to come on those who were enemies of God and who would reject the Son of God. But John would baptize those who sought repentance and forgiveness of sins, and would direct his listeners to "make straight paths" [Luke 3:4-5] that lead "into the path of peace."

Suggested Carol

Tender Mercy



December 12

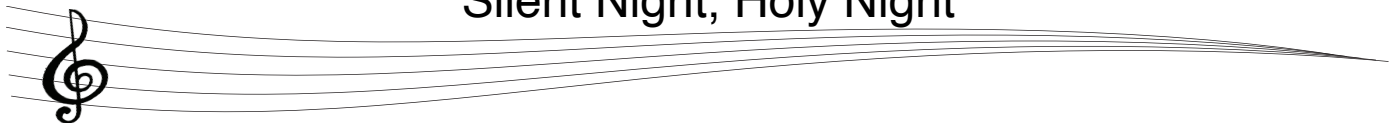
The Advent of Peace
Peace in Place of Fear

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. Luke 2:8-9

Whether it is to Zechariah, Mary, or to the shepherds, the appearance of an angel from God is followed quickly by the exhortation: "Do not be afraid!" Why are we afraid of God? It starts back in the garden when Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. When God came walking in the garden, Adam and Eve hid from him. And we've been hiding ever since. There are those who over time have openly railed at God because they don't see him. But when God makes his presence and glory known, we retreat in fear. We are enemies of God, but in his presence we are cowards and recognize his power. It is God who must offer peace and deal with our fear. He does this with Zechariah, Mary, and the shepherds. The child of peace, who is revealed to them, will lead us to a life of peace in God's presence.

Suggested Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night



December 13

The Advent of Peace A Life of Peace

²⁴ "The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

The Aaronic blessing of peace toward the people of God is complete in Jesus Christ. Christians are meant to live in that peace daily. Jesus told his disciples that he would leave his peace with them, not a peace that the world gives [John 14:26]. In the world they would have trouble, but in Jesus they would have peace [John 16:33]. That expectation of peace is found in the apostolic address to the churches: "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ" [Romans 1:7, Colossians 1:2, 1 Peter 1:2, 2 John 3]. God's announcement of peace on the night of Jesus' birth was not a one-time event, but a blessing of salvation and a reflection of God's presence and nature in us on a day-by-day basis.

Suggested Carol

Peace Child



December 14

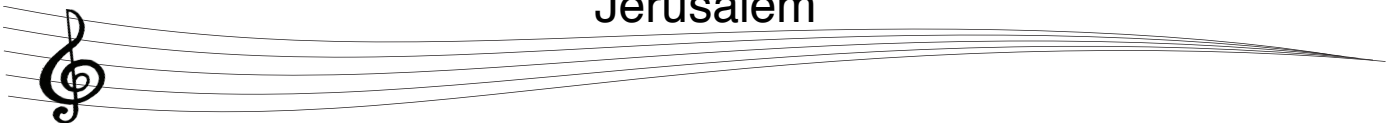
The Advent of Peace City of Peace

² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. Revelation 21:2-3

Jerusalem's name has been interpreted to be "City of Peace" or "Foundation of Peace" and "Possession of Peace." It is difficult to understand how it could be named a place of peace when its history is full of bloodshed and turmoil. It is the city that was left in ruins as the Babylonians ransacked Jerusalem and took its inhabitants to Babylon. Israel returned from exile and rebuilt Jerusalem only to see it later fall to the Romans. Two King Herods exerted authority over the "City of Peace." One Herod sought to kill the child of peace whom the wise men sought, while a future Herod mocked the man of peace on his way to be sentenced to death. Is there a place of peace on earth? There will be a new heaven and a new earth. Both Jew and Gentile Christian will enter the New Jerusalem, where peace will be eternal and God will dwell with men.

Suggested Poem

Jerusalem



December 15

The Advent of Love
The Gift of Love

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16

A large part of our Western population has a perception that the Old Testament God was vengeful and violent; why else would he wipe out whole nations or show his wrath on his own chosen people? He is thought to be aloof from his creation, sitting on the far side of the galaxy, unwilling and unable to resolve the horrors and pain of the human experience. But Scripture shows us a more complete picture of God, one who must judge and punish the continual rejection and animosity of man, but who at the same time offers the only resolution that can save mankind. He gives us his Son, presented in a wrapping of cloths and lying in a manger. Christmas becomes to those who understand, the celebration of the greatest gift of love the world could ever know.

Suggested Carol

Love Came Down at Christmas



December 17

The Advent of Love Love For the Unlovely

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10

It is humbling to know that we don't deserve any love from God. One of our Western-culture Christmas traditions is the giving of gifts to people we know and love. Sometimes we reluctantly give a gift to those whom we tolerate. We might even spend time trying to give to those we would not necessarily like, but we see their need, and besides, it is Christmas. But as Paul writes, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" [Romans 5:8]. There is nothing inherent in us that requires God to love us. He created us in his image, but we rejected him. And yet he looks at down at a wicked, ugly, sick and hate-filled world and offers a pure, unblemished, child of love. It is our response to that love that encourages another Christmas tradition, the singing of Christmas carols. We praise him for his great love and that he is rich in mercy to all.

Suggested Carol

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear



December 18

The Advent of Love
Adopted By Love

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1

At Christmas we celebrate the love of God in sending his Son, Jesus, as a babe in a manger. The shepherds come to get a glimpse of God after the angelic report. Later, wise men will come from the East, looking for the child king. But God's love goes beyond just the sending his one begotten Son; his purpose extends to adopting us as his sons and daughters. "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship" [Galatians 4:4-5]. This adoption includes inheriting God's kingdom and everything that is included with being an heir with Christ. What a wonderful blessing that we can become God's children. Jesus raises us up from being sons (and daughters) of the earth to sons of God.

Suggested Carol

Hark! The Herald Angles Sing



December 19

The Advent of Love Perfected By Love

¹⁷This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the Day of Judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us.
1 John 4:17-19

There is a work that is done through God's love. God initiates his work of love in our lives by sending his Son to live in us, just like he did with the world from Bethlehem. We are to be "rooted and established in love" [Ephesians 3:17]. We are to live in love: "God is love and whoever lives in love, lives in God and God in them" [1 John 4:16]. Love is an attribute of God and also of Jesus Christ. Once they enter our lives, we are to see that same attribute growing in us and reflected in the world. The world was not the same once the child was born in Bethlehem. The fear of death would be removed and the hearts and lives of men and women would be changed by God's love.

Suggested Carol

Good Christian Men Rejoice



December 20

The Advent of Love
An Inseparable Love

³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35, 38-39

We see so much of God's purpose to bring us to the love of Christ in the Christmas story. God announces to shepherd and wise men, near and far to come to Christ. God stops the sword of Herod from separating us from the love of Christ. It does not matter if kings and countries rise up against his Son, God has willed that people not be separate from the love of Christ. When Jesus then places his love in us, we want to share that love in the face of hardship, persecution, and danger. The relationship of that love has enabled Christian brothers and sisters through the ages to stand against death, demons, and anything else that opposes God. The same love that offers Jesus at Christmas will be the love that Jesus offers us at the cross.

Suggested Carol

Oh Holy Night



December 21

The Advent of Love
His Love Endures Forever

¹⁷And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-19

How soon does the Christmas spirit of joy, kindness, and gift giving disappear after Christmas day? Once the wrappings are discarded, the leftovers eaten, and the lights and decorations are put away, people withdraw into the busyness of life. Do we put Jesus and his manger back in the box to be brought out next year? No! The love that God demonstrated in giving his Son at Christmas is permanent, every day, every hour into eternity. Throughout the Old Testament we read that God's love endures forever, and that his is an unending love. How can we grasp the height and depth of God's love in Christ? We have an eternity to know the love of God. In Ephesians we read that in the coming ages he will show us the incomparable riches of his grace expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. He never intended to have his love boxed up and stored in an attic.

Suggested Carol

God Is Love



December 22

The Advent of Joy
The Joy and The Womb

“As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!”

Luke 1:44–45

Even before Jesus’ birth, while he was still growing in Mary’s belly His incredible glory was being powerfully felt by mortal man - even by his cousin John who himself was still in his own mother’s belly. So great and marvelous is the coming of the promised Messiah that even the yet unborn John responded to the coming of Jesus with leaps of joy. How much more should we then, who have full understanding and control of our senses be brought to rejoicing as we consider the wonder of Jesus’ birth this week!

Suggested Carol

What Child Is This



December 23

The Advent of Joy The Joy and The Angel

“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”
Luke 2:10–11

It is no small thing that the Angel should first comfort these poor and frightened shepherds with his words, “Do not be afraid”. Truly God knows the depth of our misery, and the fear which would cover us like a blanket. So, the Angel comes and comforts the shepherds and the world alike.

Here, in a small town not far away is the greatest and most astounding news than has ever yet been proclaimed to mankind. Jesus, the God-man, is born. He is Here, The baby who will be King has arrived. And with Him came a light brighter and warmer than any darkness can withstand. Such great news could not be kept by only a few lowly shepherds nor could it even be contained by the entire world. The Creator has clothed Himself in Creation!

Suggested Carol

Joy To The World



December 24

The Advent of Joy
The Joy and The Wise

“and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.”

Matthew 2:9–11

From unborn babies, to shepherds to wise men. There is almost no similarity between the people who were told that the Christ had come. Nevertheless, they each responded with great Joy! These wise men were overjoyed to see the star which had led them straight to the hope they had looked for for so long. Imagine their relief and the laughter and tears they must have had after studying and traveling for so long. Is it any surprise that they brought gifts for the child to whom they had devoted so much of their study and strength and lives? How great He must be!

Suggested Carol

We Three Kings



December 25

The Advent of Joy The Joy and The Birthday

“Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”” Luke 2:28, 30–32

It's finally here - today we celebrate Jesus' birthday - and what a party it will be! Why are people so happy when a baby is born? Babies are precious and beautiful. They cause us to feel lovingly and tenderly. However, as Simeon held the new born Jesus in his arms and looked down at his tender face he saw and felt much much more.

Simeon saw God's great love for the world. God had made Himself like us. He had come to our world. He had come to bring us salvation. Not only that, but Simeon had waited his whole life looking for this day and God had let Simeon live long enough to see this very special birthday. Can you imagine how full his heart must have been as he welcomed the baby Jesus? What a happy day! Happy Birthday Jesus!

Suggested Carol

Go Tell It On The Mountain



December 26

Advent of Joy

The Joy and The Master's Reward

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

Matthew 25:23

On this first day after Christmas morning we remember that the joy of Jesus birth did not stop at his first birthday. No, the joy that surrounded His coming is still patiently waiting to be felt to it's fullest. For those who walk in faith our joy is still coming. We look forward to the day when Jesus, no longer a baby, but a majestic King will give us His reward. How great our joy will be on that day! No number of presents, or songs, or holiday meals can come close to the boasting and bounty of happiness that is being guarded for the sinner who has known the joy of salvation. May your life be changed both by the joy of Christ's birth and by the joy of your coming reward. And, may you start today to sing of the goodness of Jesus to all the world.

Suggested Carol

A Great And Mighty Wonder



December 27

The Advent of Joy The Joy and The Saved

“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” Luke 15:7

Can you imagine God clapping His hands and dancing? Did you know that while this thought may seem silly and undignified that is how God describes his response to every single person who is saved? Wow! What a picture. The joy of Christmas is so great that it not only extends to mankind, the angels, and the universe, but also to God Himself.

Maybe you don't feel like there is much that God should rejoice over you for. Well, you are right. Left to ourselves all we deserve from God is His anger and judgment. But that is why Christmas is so amazing. God did not wait for us to come to Him, but He came to us to rescue us. And now He goes wild with celebration every time another heart is opened to His Son.

Suggested Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful



December 28

The Advent of Joy The Joy and The Parting Blessing

“When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.” Luke 24:50–53

This passage of scripture is at the very end of Luke’s gospel. Jesus the baby had grown into adulthood and had completed the work that His Father had given Him. He had been punished for all the sin of all the world for all time. And now He was returning home. It must have been bittersweet for his friends to leave Him that day. Yet, they were comforted by his love. You see, a blessing is kind of like speaking a wish for good things to someone. We do this today when we send a “get well” card to a sick friend. When Jesus spoke this blessing over his disciples there was no doubt that it would come true. No wonder they had so much joy!

Suggested Carol

Glory Be To God On High



December 29

The Advent of Joy The Joy and The Finished Work

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
Hebrews 12:2

This season of Advent is now complete. But our lives continue much as the year will soon start back at January. For Paul the Apostle the birth, life, death, resurrection, and total obedience of Jesus was due to the joy that Jesus always kept His eyes on. Because of this, Paul too, kept the same joy in front of his own eyes.

This kind of joy that strengthens us in weakness, and bolsters our hearts in the midst of despair is found only in the promise of eternal life through Jesus. Jesus proved that he could be trusted by keeping His word while He lived on earth. Especially when He came back from the dead. This year put your trust in Him even more. He has prepared an amazing home for you in Heaven where you will have never-ending Joy! Trust in Him!

Suggested Carol

Come Ye Lofty



A Christmas Song

Oh holy night,
Oh special night.
Night that inspires
Songs of delight.
Heralding
The birth of a king.
Over the ages ring.

Many have raised
Voices in praise.
Joy that they cannot contain.
Jesus the babe,
God's Son displayed.
Promises kept and proclaimed.

My heart now longs
To join with the throng,
Adding my hope to
Carols and song.
Melodies bright
Anthems with might.
Celebrate this holy night.

I'll sing with the angelic choir,
Who sang before shepherds and lambs.
I'll sing with the shepherds who sought the child,
Born in Bethlehem.
I'll sing with the prophets and wise men
Who echoed the Heav'n-ly refrain.
Glory to God in the Highest,
Peace on earth, good will to men.

(2x)

Oh holy night,
Oh special night.
Night that inspires
Songs of delight.
Heralding
Jesus my King.
Now and forever ring.

A Great And Mighty Wonder

A great and mighty wonder
Our Christmas festal brings:
On earth a lowly infant,
Behold the King of kings!

The Word is made incarnate,
Descending from on high;
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.

And we with them, triumphant,
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!"

While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains!
Ye oceans, clap your hands!

Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored;
The Infant born in Bethlehem,
The Savior and the Lord!

And idol forms shall perish,
And error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield His scepter,
Our Lord and God for aye.

Come Ye Lofty

Come ye lofty, come ye lowly
Let your songs of gladness ring;
In a stable lies the Holy,
In a manger rests the King:
See in Mary's arms reposing
Christ by highest heaven adored:
Come, your circle round Him closing,
Pious hearts that love the Lord.

Come ye poor, no pomp of station
Robes the Child your hearts adore:
He, the Lord of all salvation,
Shares your want, is weak and poor:
Oxen, round about behold them;
Rafters naked, cold, and bare,
See the Shepherds, God has told them
That the Prince of Life lies there.

Come ye children blithe and merry,
This one Child your model make;
Christmas holly, leaf, and berry,
All be prized for His dear sake:
Come ye gentle hearts and tender,
Come ye spirits keen and bold;
All in all your homage render,
Weak and mighty, young and old.

High above a star is shining,
And the wise men haste from far:
Come glad hearts, and spirits pining –
For you all has risen the star.
Let us bring our poor oblations,
Thanks and love, and faith and praise;
Come ye people, come ye nations,
All in all draw nigh to gaze.

Hark the Heaven of heavens is ringing:
Christ the Lord to man is born!
Are not all our hearts too singing,
Welcome, welcome, Christmas morn?
Still the Child, all power possessing,
Smiles as through the ages past;
And the song of Christmas blessing
Sweetly sinks to rest at last.

Glory be to God on High

Glory be to God on high,
God Whose glory fills the skies;
Peace on earth to man forgiv'n,
Man, the well beloved of Heav'n.

Sovereign Father, heavenly King,
Thee we now presume to sing;
Glad, Thine attributes confess,
Glorious all, and numberless.

Hail, by all Thy works adored!
Hail, the everlasting Lord!
Thee with thankful hearts we prove
God of power, and God of love.

Christ our Lord and God we own,
Christ, the Father's only Son,
Lamb of God for sinners slain,
Savior of offending man.

Bow Thine ear, in mercy bow,
Hear, the world's atonement, Thou!
Jesus, in Thy Name we pray,
Take, O take our sins away!

Powerful Advocate with God,
Justify us by Thy blood;
Bow Thine ear, in mercy bow,
Hear, the world's atonement, Thou!

Hear, for Thou, O Christ, alone
Art with God the Father One,
One the Holy Ghost with Thee,
One supreme, eternal Three.

God is Love

Come, let us all unite to sing:
God is love!
Let Heav'n and earth their praises bring,
God is love!
Let every soul from sin awake,
Let every heart sweet music make,
And sing with us for Jesus' sake:
God is love!

God is love! God is love!
Come let us all unite to sing that God is love.

O tell to earth's remotest bound,
God is love!
In Christ we have redemption found,
God is love!
His blood has washed our sins away,
His Spirit turned our night to day,
And now we can rejoice to say:
God is love!

How happy is our portion here,
God is love!
His promises our spirits cheer,
God is love!
He is our sun and shield by day,
Our help, our hope, our strength and stay;
He will be with us all the way;
God is love!

In Canaan we will sing again:

God is love!

And this shall be our loudest strain:

God is love!

Whilst endless ages roll along,
We'll triumph with the heavenly throng

And this shall be our sweetest song:

God is love!

Good Christian Men Rejoice

Good Christian men rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say
News! News!

Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before Him bow
And He is in the manger now
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Now ye hear of endless bliss
Joy! Joy!

Jesus Christ was born for this
He hath ope'd the heav'nly door
And man is blessed evermore
Christ was born for this
Christ was born for this

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace!

Jesus Christ was born to save
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain His everlasting hall
Christ was born to save
Christ was born to save

Go Tell It On The Mountain

While shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens,
There shone a holy light:
Go, Tell It On The Mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, Tell It On The Mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Saviour's birth:
Go, Tell It On The Mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, Tell It On The Mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And God send us salvation,
That blessed Christmas morn:
Go, Tell It On The Mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, Tell It On The Mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

When I am a seeker,
I seek both night and day;
I seek the Lord to help me,
And He shows me the way:
Go, Tell It On The Mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, Tell It On The Mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

He made me a watchman
Upon the city wall,
And if I am a Christian,
I am the least of all.
Go, Tell It On The Mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, Tell It On The Mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Then grace came softly, softly down
A gift from the Father above.

Pure and spotless sacrifice
The Son's desire and love.

His grace comes softly, softly down

A hope in life that's sure.
A veil to hide my ugliness,
An eternal cleansing cure.

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 th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”
Christ, by highest Heav’n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hail the heav’nly Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n 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.

Come, Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us Thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring Seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head.
Now display Thy saving power,
Ruined nature now restore;
Now in mystic union join
Thine to ours, and ours to Thine.

Adam's likeness, Lord, efface,
Stamp Thine image in its place:
Second Adam from above,
Reinstate us in Thy love.
Let us Thee, though lost, regain,
Thee, the Life, the inner man:
O, to all Thyself impart,
Formed in each believing heart.

It Came Upon The 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, good will 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 over its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing.

And 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!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."

Till, ringing singing, on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Jerusalem

Jerusalem,
City of the Kings
Jewish and Gentile
Over centuries reigned.
The pride of Israel
And hope of David's line
Bound to a prophecy
A King would come in time
To Jerusalem.

Jerusalem,
City of our God
Chosen sanctuary
Where priest and prophet trod.
The place where God would dwell
In a temple with his Name
Wise men and worshipers
Would seek the God who came
To Jerusalem.

Many times she's fallen
When rejecting God's Holy name.
Jerusalem would become a curse
And her glory turned to shame.
God's desire was to comfort her
And draw her people to His side.
So He gave them this promise:
A virgin will be with child...

Jerusalem,
City of our tears
Longing of exiles
The remnant hides in fear.
A day will come again
When Zion is the home
For God's Immanuel
And those He calls his own
In Jerusalem.

Jerusalem shall be built again,
With the temple for his Name.
There the people will reject their God,
Though he walks with them as man.
Peace he'll bring which they will not see
Peace announced when he comes as babe
A strong foundation and cornerstone
For the New Jerusalem is laid.

Jerusalem,
City from above.
Sent down from heaven
Eternal throne of God.
Where angels sing with joy
Giving glory to the Lamb
Praises shared with shepherds
For God will dwell with men
In Jerusalem.

Joy To The World

Joy to the World , the Lord is 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.

Love Came Down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love shall be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit;
Let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

O Come All Ye Faithful

O Come All Ye Faithful
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

O Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all that hear in heaven God's holy word.
Give to our Father glory in the Highest;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

All Hail! Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
O Jesus! for evermore be Thy name adored.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

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 appear.

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

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave.

O come, Thou Day-spring, 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 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 giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.
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 in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Peace Child

Who could have dared to dream it
Who would have dared to hope?
That the author of creation
Should become as one of us
The God who is everywhere
Chose to be confined
To a moment in history
The birth of a child
And an ocean of love poured out
A fountain of grace sprang up
And the voice of God could be heard in a baby's cry

Come to the Peace Child
Let him still your soul
He was the only one
Who could bring hope to this world
As the centuries have passed
And our search for peace goes on
It's still to be found in the heart of a child

And as we mark each New Year
We give thanks for the past
For we know our God is faithful
He is worthy of our trust
And through the world's suffering
Through all the pain
He knows what it feels like

He knew it as a man
And an ocean of love is ours
A fountain of grace still flows
And the voice of God whispers into our hearts once more

Unto us a child is born
Unto us a son is giv'n
He'll be called Wonderful Counselor
Mighty God, Eternal Father
Prince of Peace

Silent Night, Holy 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.

Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Tender Mercy

With permission from Rob Reed, <http://www.makerofmusic.com>

Praise to the Lord, the God of Israel
He's come to redeem His people!
Raise the horn, salvation has come
From the House of David!

The rising sun will come from heaven
To shine on those in darkness;
And in the shadow of our deaths,
He'll guide our feet towards peace...
He'll guide our feet towards peace.

He forgives our sins...
The tender mercy, tender mercy of God.
He forgives our sins...
The tender mercy, tender mercy of God.

The Lord showed mercy to our fathers,
He remembered His holy promise.
He said He'd save us from all evil,
And take away all our fears...
Take away all our fears.

He forgives our sins
The tender mercy, tender mercy of God
He forgives our sins
The tender mercy, tender mercy of God

He'll guide our feet towards peace
He'll guide our feet towards peace

He forgives our sins
The tender mercy, tender mercy of God
He forgives our sins
The tender mercy, tender mercy of God

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

O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

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

O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes of life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia
Earth to heav'n replies

O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap lay 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.
Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.