



# Advent 2021

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



PARK CHURCH

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**PARK CHURCH**

# Welcome.

This Advent season at Park Church, we're letting the Advent and Christmas hymns of old lead us.

## WHY HYMNS?

Although these centuries-old hymns may be familiar for some of us, the truths they present will be no less astonishing to a listening heart. Using language and poetry that has transcended generations, Advent and Christmas hymns are excellent marriages of Scripture, storytelling, and felt longing unmediated by the cheap sentimentality so often associated with this season.

## USING THIS GUIDE

We'll use a simple weekly and daily rhythm over the next four weeks of Advent, taking us to Christmas Eve:

### **Weekly Rhythm**

Each week will start with a hymn to sing on Sunday. You can sing as a household or on your own, at a mealtime or in the morning, with backing music or a cappella. However you choose to sing, make space to be present with the lyrics.

After singing the hymn for the week on Sunday, the next five days will each include a 5-10 minute devotional based on a stanza or section of the hymn for individual, group, or family reflection.

## Daily Rhythm

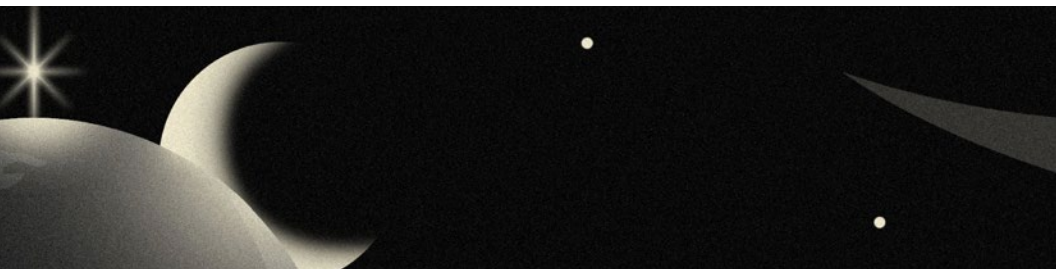
Each day includes the following:

1. A stanza or section from the week's hymn
2. A short passage of Scripture
3. A reflection question or two

You can choose how you want to use these daily elements. There is a little space to write on each day's page, but for some, using a journal on the side will be helpful for more processing space. For others, it may be better not to write at all—simply listen and pray or discuss with others. Families may consider listening to the hymn throughout the week and/or discussing the reflection questions together at a meal time. Most reflections are applicable to all ages, but some days also include specific questions for children.

There is no content on Saturdays—choose your own adventure! You can spend your time in silence and solitude, praying through a different beloved song, catching up on weekday readings that you missed, going deeper with certain passages from the week's readings, or something else entirely.

However you engage with this devotional guide, our hope is that Jesus meets you in those places, bringing weariness to rejoicing.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

# Week One: Hope

## COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Robert J. Hughes, Charles Wesley addl. verse JD Raab

Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in Thee  
Israel's Strength and Consolation  
Hope of all the earth Thou art  
Dear Desire of every nation  
Joy of every longing heart

Come with justice e'r increasing  
Just as we have heard from old  
Lift the needy from the ashes  
Bring the orphan safely home  
Though we hear the whisper faintly,  
"Lo, I'm making all things new"  
Every tribe and tongue and race  
Will shout "His word has all been true!"

Born Thy people to deliver  
Born a child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne



*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
Advent Hymn Sing 2020

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29

**COME, THOU LONG  
EXPECTED JESUS**

**Today's Lyrics:**

Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in Thee

**Today's Scripture Passage:**

“For still the vision awaits its appointed time;  
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.  
If it seems slow, wait for it;  
it will surely come; it will not delay.”  
(Habakkuk 2:3)

**Reflection Question:**

Re-read the lyrics above and sit with each of the longings expressed. What are you waiting for most? Next, consider Habakkuk's words about the sureness of God's promises—can you put your hope in God's promises?

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

# COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

**Today's Lyrics:**

Israel's Strength and Consolation  
Hope of all the earth Thou art  
Dear Desire of every nation  
Joy of every longing heart

**Today's Scripture Passage:**

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.”  
(Luke 2:25-26)

**Reflection Questions:**

What is it like to wait for something exciting? Consider Simeon waiting to see his Savior in the flesh. He had hope. What would his joy be like when holding that baby? What does your hope feel like when you consider being with Jesus in person?

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

# COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

**Today's Lyrics:**

Though we hear the whisper faintly,  
"Lo, I'm making all things new"  
Every tribe and tongue and race  
Will shout "His word has all been true!"

**Today's Scripture Passage:**

"And He who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' Also He said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'"  
(Revelation 21:5)

**Reflection Questions:**

How does it feel to consider that this promise from Jesus, "I am making all things new," is an unchangeable truth toward which our world is moving?

**Kids,** Jesus promises to make all things new. Describe what it is like to get something new.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

# COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

**Today's Lyrics:**


 Born to reign in us forever  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring

**Today's Scripture Passage:**

“But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, ‘No! But there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.’”  
(1 Samuel 8:19–20)

**Reflection Questions:**

As Israel set their hope on a human king, rejecting God as their king, so our hearts are quick to find a stand-in “king” to validate us and fight for us. How does the impotence and betrayal of these rulers make you feel about the hope of a good king?

 **Kids,** think about a good King. What is he like, what would he do, and how would he lead his people? Jesus is the good, perfect, King we long for.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

**COME, THOU LONG  
EXPECTED JESUS**

**Today's Lyrics:**

■ By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

**Today's Scripture Passage:**

“For not by their own sword did they win the land,  
nor did their own arm save them,  
but Your right hand and Your arm,  
and the light of your face,  
for you delighted in them.”  
(Psalm 44:3)

**Reflection Questions:**

Close your eyes and use your imagination to consider how glorious and holy the throne and ruling place of Jesus must be. What does it sound like there? How do you feel? What is it like knowing that, because of Jesus’ work, this place is not only welcoming to you, but a home?

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

# Week Two: Peace

## O COME O COME EMMANUEL

John Neale, Henry Coffin

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

O come Thou Day-Spring come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
And drive away the shades of night  
And pierce the clouds & bring us light

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel**

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 come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of Hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave

O Come, Thou Wisdom from on high  
And order all things far and nigh  
To us the path of knowledge show  
And cause us in her ways to go



*O Come O Come Emmanuel*  
Advent Hymn Sing 2020

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

# O COME O COME EMMANUEL

**Today's Lyrics:**

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

**Today's Scripture Passage:**

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call His name Immanuel’

(which means, God with us).”  
(Matthew 1:21-23)

**Reflection Questions:**

For a variety of reasons, holidays can be one of the loneliest seasons of the year. Where is your heart lonely right now? What are you mourning? What might it look like to invite Emmanuel, God With Us, into those places of felt “captivity” and “exile?”

**Kids,** what makes you feel sad or alone? Jesus is the one who brings us peace. When we feel like God is far from us, we can ask Him to come close.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

Today's Lyrics:

O come Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
And drive away the shades of night  
And pierce the clouds & bring us light

Today's Scripture Passage:

“...because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the  
shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”  
(Luke 1:78-79)

Reflection Question:

“Day-spring” is another word for dawn or morning. As we wait for the coming of the dawn in Christ, we recognize the reality that we often sit in darkness. How might the reality of God’s coming dawn cheer your heart in the midst of these current clouds and shadows?

**Kids,** think about what it’s like when a light comes on in a dark room. Turn off the lights and sit in the dark for a moment. Then, light a candle or turn on a lamp. What happened? Remember that Jesus is the light of the world!

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

Today's Lyrics:

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

Today's Scripture Passage:

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”  
(Philippians 4:4-7)

Reflection Questions:

When was the last time you experienced something that really opened the doors of your heart to delight, peace, or rest? What was that? This song calls us back to the reality that Jesus’ first and future coming are a source of great delight. How can you rejoice in faith today, knowing Jesus has come and will return again? Rejoice, celebrate, jump for joy! Jesus is coming! Move your body to celebrate!

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# THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

## O COME O COME EMMANUEL

### Today's Lyrics:

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

### Today's Scripture Passage:

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.”  
(Ephesians 2:14–16)

### Reflection Questions:

In our country and even in the Church, it's hard to picture a time when we were more divided than we are now. We need a Divine binding; we need the King of Peace to bid our innumerable divisions cease. Where have you personally experienced some of those divisions? Ask the Lord to make these divisions cease.

**Kids,** what is it like to disagree with someone? How does it feel? Jesus is our King of Peace. Ask him to give you peace when you disagree with someone.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

# O COME O COME EMMANUEL

**Today's Lyrics:**

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of Hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave

**Today's Scripture Passages:**

"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.  
And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him..."  
(Isaiah 11:1-2a)

"...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy  
Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and  
healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was  
with Him."  
(Acts 10:38)

**Reflection Questions:**

Our world is broken and sinful. These are the effects  
of Satan. Where do you see brokenness in your life or  
the world around you? This is why we need Jesus and  
the whole world needs Jesus. Ask God to restore the  
brokenness in your own life and in the world around you.

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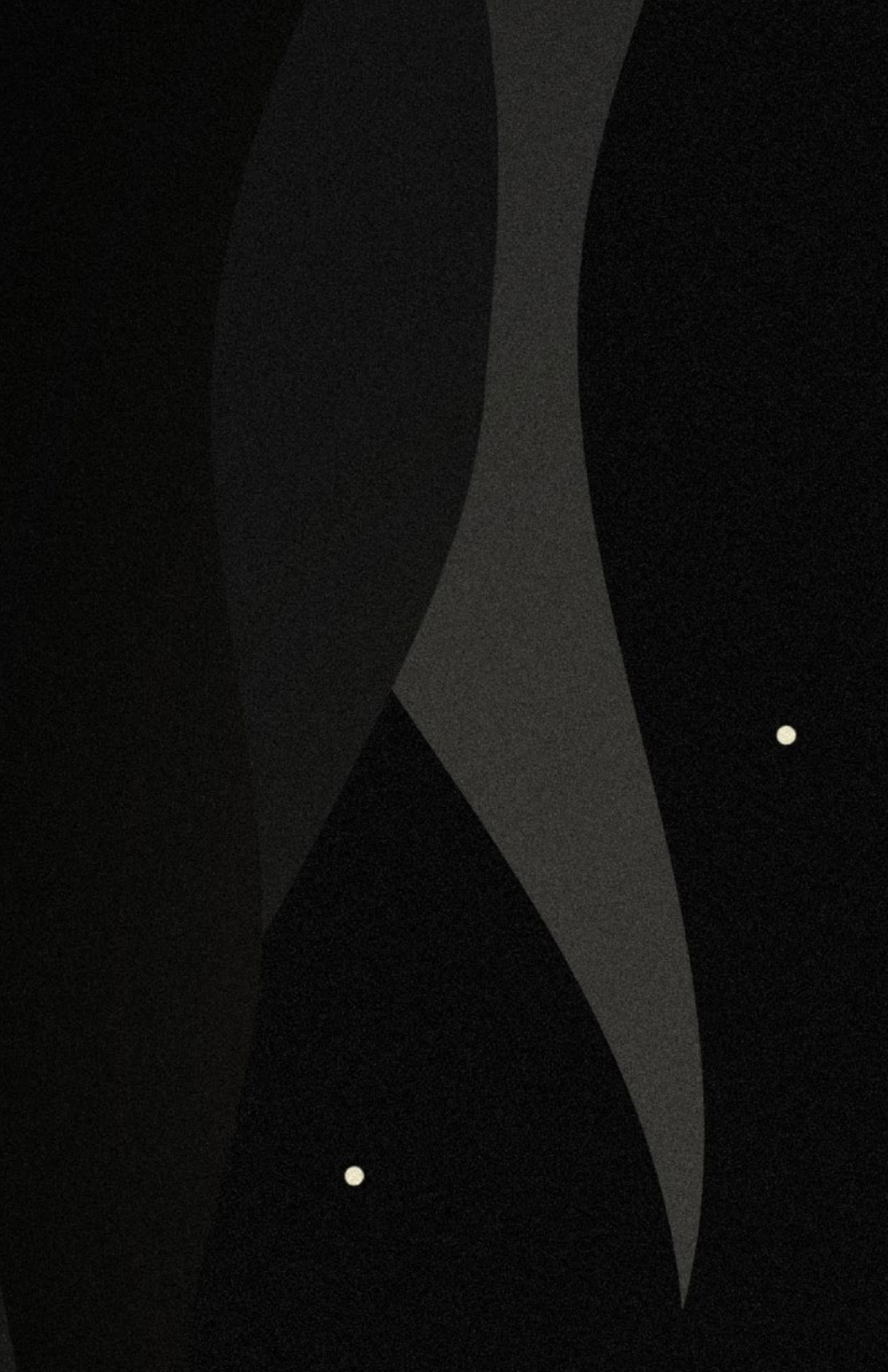
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

# Week Three: Joy

## JOY TO THE WORLD

Isaac Watts addl. verse JD Raab

Joy to the world the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the eye and heart of man  
His planet to enjoy!  
Its heights and depths, are unknown yet  
How beautiful its God, how beautiful its God  
How beautiful, beautiful is its God

No more will sin and sorrow grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
He'll come and make the blessings flow  
Far as the curse was found, far as the curse was found  
Far as, far as the curse was 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



*Joy to the World*  
Advent Hymn Sing 2020

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

**JOY TO THE WORLD**

**Today's Lyrics:**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing  
And heav'n and heaven and nature sing

**Today's Scripture Passage:**

“Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who dwell in it!  
Let the rivers clap their hands;  
let the hills sing for joy together  
before the Lord, for He comes  
to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.”  
(Psalm 98:7-9)

**Reflection Question:**

Sometimes we are surprised by joy, but we can also get ourselves ready for it (to prepare room). How can you get yourself ready to experience the joy of King Jesus?

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

# JOY TO THE WORLD

**Today's Lyrics:**

Joy to the world! The Saviour 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

**Today's Scripture Passage:**

“For you shall go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall break forth into singing,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”  
(Isaiah 55:12)

**Reflection Questions:**

Take a moment to enter into the joy that the good news of Jesus brings. How can I “repeat the joy” to someone else today? Who in my life needs some encouragement today?

**Kids,** play a game of “Repeat After Me.” What are some truths about Jesus? Take turns sharing a Jesus truth and having everyone repeat it. Here are some ideas: Jesus is King! Jesus is Alive! Jesus saved me! Jesus loves me!

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

# JOY TO THE WORLD

**Today's Lyrics:**

Joy to the eye and heart of man  
His planet to enjoy!  
Its heights and depths, are unknown yet  
How beautiful its God, how beautiful its God  
How beautiful, beautiful is its God

**Today's Scripture Passage:**

“The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.  
Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.”  
(Psalm 19:1-2)

**Reflection Questions:**

Briefly consider the outrageously vivid, utterly mysterious planet God made for us to inhabit. Now reflect on a simple creature comfort you happen to enjoy. Across this spectrum, what are a couple gifts from God that you can celebrate with Him?

**Kids,** God is so beautiful and He gives us good, beautiful gifts. Every good and perfect gift comes from God. Can you thank God for those gifts and the joy they bring you?

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

# JOY TO THE WORLD

**Today's Lyrics:**

No more will sin and sorrow grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
He'll come and make the blessings flow  
Far as the curse was found, far as the curse was found  
Far as, far as the curse was found

**Today's Scripture Passage:**

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’”  
(Revelation 21:3-4)

**Reflection:**

Spend a moment imagining what life will be like without sin, disease, pain, and death. Write down or share what you imagine. Thank Jesus that this day will one day come, and ask Him for more joy in hoping for that day to come.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

JOY TO THE WORLD

Today’s Lyrics:

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

Today’s Scripture Passages:

“The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
He will rejoice over you with gladness;  
He will quiet you by his love;  
He will exult over you with loud singing.”  
(Zephaniah 3:17)

Reflection Questions:

God loves you. He loves you. Let that sink in. Spend a minute in silence, resting in the love of Jesus however you can. How has Jesus shown His love to you, in big and small ways? How does this make you feel?

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

# Week Four: Love

## O HOLY NIGHT

Placide Cappeau, Adolphe Adam

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth!  
Long lay the world, in sin and error pining,  
'Till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night  
When Christ was born,  
O night divine; O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another  
His law is love, and His gospel is peace  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother  
And in His name all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us praise His holy name  
Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever  
His power and glory ever more proclaim  
His power and glory ever more proclaim



*O Holy Night*  
Advent Hymn Sing 2020

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

O HOLY NIGHT

Today's Lyrics:

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Today's Scripture Passage:

"The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone."  
(Isaiah 9:2)

Reflection Questions:

Imagine the sudden grandeur of a sunrise or the starkness of a candle in a dark room. What emotions come to mind? How do you see God at work in the messy world around you? What emotions does that stir in you?

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

# O HOLY NIGHT

**Today's Lyrics:**

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night  
When Christ was born,  
O night divine; O night, O night divine!

**Today's Scripture Passage:**

"Know that the Lord, he is God!  
It is He who made us, and we are His;  
we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture."  
(Psalm 100:3)

**Reflection Question:**

Falling on our knees requires stopping. Stop and if you are able get on your knees. This is a posture of awe and surrender. Stop and pay attention to the wonder of God and his love and spend time praising Him for it.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

O HOLY NIGHT

Today's Lyrics:

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth!  
Long lay the world, in sin and error pining,  
'Till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth

Today's Scripture Passage:

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."  
(2 Corinthians 3:18)

Reflection Question:

In His love for us, Jesus created our souls to have worth and value and came to earth to restore our relationship with God. Because He came, we now know the worth of our souls too. This is love. What are some examples of how you have experienced the transformative power of the love of Christ?

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

# O HOLY NIGHT

**Today's Lyrics:**

Truly He taught us to love one another  
His law is love, and His gospel is peace  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother  
And in His name all oppression shall cease

**Today's Scripture Passage:**

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

(John 13:34)

**Reflection Questions:**

Jesus' love changes everything. Chains breaking and oppression ceasing are true results of Jesus' law of love, carried out through His people. We love because He first loved us. What are some ways you have experienced love from others? What are some ways you have loved others?

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

# O HOLY NIGHT

**Today's Lyrics:**

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us praise His holy name  
Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever  
His power and glory ever more proclaim

**Today's Scripture Passages:**

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom He is  
pleased!”

(Luke 2:13-14)

**Reflection Question**

Imagine what it was like to see a multitude of angels on a dark night. The power and glory of a multitude of angels takes a lot of imagination to comprehend! Even so, these angles were there to sing about a greater glory—the glory of Jesus, the newborn baby, in an animal’s feeding box, sent because God so loved the world. This Christmas Eve as you consider His first coming, what does Jesus’ power and glory stir up in your heart?

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**PARK CHURCH**