

The Advent Rose

Like a rose blooming in the winter, like a candle burning bright,
like a star shining in the shadows, like a love song in the night,
hope comes softly, hope comes gently like a promise over all;
falling graceful as a snowflake from the loving heart of God.

Like a lark singing to the silence, like a fragrance in the air,
like a wind moving through the forest, like the whisper of a prayer,
peace comes softly. Peace comes gently, bringing mercy, bringing grace;
heaven’s blanket of assurance, warming touch of love’s embrace.

Let the valleys ring with music. Let the desert bloom and thrive;
for a Rose opens in the moonlight, bringing hope and joy and life;
bringing love to heal the nations, bringing comfort to the soul,
bringing truth to light the darkness, bringing grace to make us whole.

Like a rose blooming in the winter, bringing grace to make us whole.

Reader: Let there be HOPE. *O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with God there is steadfast love, and with Him is abundant redemption. Be strong and be of good courage, all you who wait upon the Lord* [Psalms 130:7, 31:24 paraphrased]! *But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint* [Isaiah 40:31].

The Divine Expectation

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.
Come, Lord Jesus. Come today. Veni Emmanuel!

Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth, Thou art.
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.
Come, Lord Jesus. Come today. Veni Emmanuel!

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King.
Come, Almighty to deliver. Let us all Thy grace receive.
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.

By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.
Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us Thy humble dwelling. All Thy faithful mercies crown.

Come to us, O Child of wonder. Come and sing redemption’s song.
Come, O come, and break our bonds asunder.
Come and bring a glorious dawn.
Come, Lord Jesus. Come today. Veni Emmanuel!
Come, Emmanuel! Alleluia!

Reader: Let there be PEACE. Unto you, Bethlehem, though you are small
among the tribes of Judah, out of you will come one who will rule over all
Israel. He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in

the majesty of the name of the Lord; and they will live securely, and
His greatness will reach the ends of the earth. And He will be our
peace. (*Micah 5:2-5 paraphrased*)

Tithes and Offerings

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 all on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is given.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
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 on 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.

Reader: Let there be LOVE. *This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph; but before he knew her, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son; and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with Child and will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel” – which means, “God with us.” When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a Son. And he gave Him the name Jesus* [Matt. 1:18-25].

Carols from a Quiet Manger

Still, still, still, come see the child so still.
As Mary gently rocks her Baby, angels softly sing His praises.
Still, still, still, come see the child so still.

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, holy Star its vigil keeping.

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.
Fairest Lord Jesus, born in a manger, God with us, Emmanuel.
Hope of the nations, Joy of creation, You are my glory and my King.

Sleep, sleep, sleep. Close your eyes, my love and dream.
No crying as I gently hold You. Let my tender arms enfold you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep. Close your eyes, my love, and dream.

Reader: Let there be JOY. *And there were shepherds, living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them; and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were very terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a Baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel; praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about* [Luke 2:8-15 paraphrased].

Arise!

Arise, ye sleepers. Awake from the night.
Come and see the Savior’s everlasting light.
The Child who in a manger lay,
has wakened the dawn to a glorious day!
Hodie Christus natus est. (*Today Christ is born.*)

Arise, ye sleepers. Awake from your rest.
Come and see the Child who evermore will bless.
Through Him, the battle of sin will be won.
Awake from the darkness. Your Light now has come!
Hodie Christus natus est. (*Today Christ is born.*)

Arise, sleepers; awake. This is the day the Christ is born.
Arise, sleepers; awake. Life high your praise this glorious morn.

Arise, ye sleepers. Awake from the night.
Come and see the Savior’s everlasting light.
The Child who in a manger lay,
has wakened the dawn to a glorious day!
Hodie Christus natus est. (*Today Christ is born.*)

Reader: Let there be WONDER. *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him”* [Matthew 2:1-2].

Bleak Midwinter's Gift

In the bleak mid-winter, Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter, Long ago.

Heaven cannot hold Him, Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away, When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a Shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart.

Reader: Let there be GRACE. *In the beginning was the Word; and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God* [John 1:1-5, 9-13].

Let There Be Christmas

Let there be music. Let there be praise.
Let there be singing to fill every space.
Let there be starshine, dazzling and white.
Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas tonight.

Let there be carols. Let there be song.
Let there be angels to sing loud and strong.
Let there be candles, gentle and bright.
Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas tonight.

Christmas, come now, and fill us with love.
Bring your spirit of grace from above.
Christmas, come let our hope be restored.
Bring us news that a Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Let there be glory. Let there be peace.
Let there be promise. Let justice increase.
Heaven has spoken, "Let there be Light!"
Come, all ye faithful. Let there be Christmas tonight.

Let there be music. Let there be singing.
Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas tonight.
Come to the manger. Kneel and adore Him. Silent night.

Reader: Let there be LIFE. Now may the faith of the prophets,
the hope of the Scripture, the peace of the Christ Child, the love of
His parents, the joy of the shepherds, the wonder of the wise
men, the grace of the season, and the life everlasting be yours this
Christmas. May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

A Joyful Gathering of Carols

(Congregation, please join in singing the words in **bold**.)

**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 earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing; Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, Angels singing, Noels ringing,
Tidings bringing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.**

**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!**

**The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel; Born is the King of Israel!**

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!**

Let there be hope! Let there be peace!
Let there be love! Let there be joy!
Let there be music! Let there be singing!
Let there be Christmas!

Let There Be Christmas

A Service of Carols by Joseph Martin

December 16, 2018 11:00 a.m.

The Third Sunday in Advent

Trinity Chime

Welcome and Concerns of the Congregation

Prayer

Introit

“Christmas Overture”

(Congregation, please join in singing the words in **bold**.)

**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**

Sing, choirs of angels; Sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God; all 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

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee; born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.
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**

Come, all ye faithful. Let there be song!

Reader: Let there be FAITH. *Who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He shall grow up like a tender plant, and like a root out of parched ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him* [Is. 53:1-2]. *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit* [Is. 11:1]. *This is what the Lord Almighty says, “Here is My Servant whose name is ‘THE BRANCH,’ and from this place, He will build My church* [Zech. 6:12].

Lighting the Third Advent Candle: Joy

Members of the Scripture Explorers Sunday School Class