

*Come and
Behold Him*

ADVENT GUIDE 2017



Zarephath
Christian
Church

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Introduction

Our hearts are so often like that of Bethlehem in the ancient near east during a census: busy, chaotic, occupied and with no room for a Savior.

We find ourselves hungry for satisfaction, chasing this or that, but hardly ever slowing down to seek the Satisfier. Christmastime brings about busy schedules, long to-do lists and so much more that encourages hustle and bustle, leaving us tired and weary. This Advent Guide beckons us to slow down. Together, as God's body of believers at Zarephath, we want to come to the Lord and adore Him. When we come, we give our attention, and when we adore, we slow down and delightfully admire.

This guide is meant for a month of meditation, not just a quick glance. With Scripture, prayers, songs and more, this guide gives us an opportunity to read slowly, digest the words and consider the Jesus that we're celebrating. Christmas is a holiday that commemorates the coming of a King, humbly in a manger, born to set His people free. Let's gaze together upon the glorious reality that God put on flesh to save us.

Focus Passage: The selected passages can be read daily, meditated on, memorized or read together at your dinner table each evening.

Prayer: These old prayers give us another person's words that we can internalize in our own hearts and use as a vehicle for our own prayers during this season.

Devotional: Some thoughts on the focus passages from a few of our church leaders.

Reflection Questions: With meditation, comes calling on God to help give us understanding and clarity.

Songs of the Season: Classic Christmas hymns are poetic, holding deep biblical truth. These can be used to read through a few times that week. Use them to praise the Lord with your voice alone or with your family.

Family Discipleship: Parents, this season provides an opportunity for you to invest in your children in a way that will impact them eternally. Jesus is our gift. This section gives you ideas for family time during this month.

Week 1

EXPECT

December 3 - 9

Focus Passages

Isaiah 9:1-7
Micah 5:1-5a

Prayer

*Let the just rejoice, for their Justifier is born.
Let the sick and infirm rejoice, for their Savior is born.
Let the captives rejoice, for their Redeemer is born.
Let slaves rejoice, for their Master is born.
Let free men rejoice, for the Liberator is born.
Let all Christians rejoice, for Jesus Christ is born.*

-Augustine of Hippo

Devotional "Faithful Anticipation" by Rich Dugan

Christmastime brings us lots of familiar stories of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and wise men and so on. Seldom do we hear of a faithful man named Simeon and his deep desire to see the Christ child. He's not in the nativity, that's for sure. You can find him in Luke 2:25-25. If you haven't read this, take a minute to go back and dig in.

You see, Simeon was "waiting for the consolation of Israel." That's a long wait! When we read Scripture, we can't glance over thing like this. We have to take it for what it really says and know the context. These words point to Simeon's lifetime of waiting but also around four hundred years since the prophets last spoke. This wait for a Savior was long! You also see in the text that Simeon was "righteous and devout" and that he was waiting for Jesus with faithful anticipation. The story continues with a full temple- people everywhere, cooing over babies and religious leaders prominently walking around - and Mary and Joseph walk in with the long anticipated King without anyone noticing. Except for Simeon, that is! The name Simeon means "he who listens." We see the meaning of his name come to life as he listens to the gentle whisper of the Spirit, hopping up with excitement and taking the baby, His King, into His arms. The story of Simeon points to a greater reality!

We see 'waiting' a lot in Scripture:

1. The Hebrews waiting in Egypt under Pharaoh - 400 years
2. Waiting for Jesus
 - a. Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 9:6-7
3. The disciples waiting for the Holy Spirit in the upper room after Jesus ascended.
4. Even now, we wait for the Second Advent. Jesus is coming again!

Week 1

EXPECT

Devotional "Faithful Anticipation" by Rich Dugan - continued

Waiting is tough! Yes, Simeon waited well, but ultimately he is like us. Whether we realize or not, we face this tension between our soul and our flesh consistently. You see this in the God-Man when He is in the Garden of Gethsemane, knowing the sacrifice that He will lay down very soon. In this tension he prays, "I am overwhelmed to the point of death...the Spirit is willing, but the flesh is so weak." The reason that waiting is so tough is because our soul is longing for more, knowing that we were made to glorify God and commune with Him- but we hit this fleshly ceiling! Our flesh gets tangled in the here and now, and therein lies the tension, and we wrestle with it day in and day out.

Waiting is tough, but waiting is best because God is faithful! Isaiah tells us, "Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you" (Isaiah 30:18a). In good times, when God's hand is evident, God is faithful. In mundane times, when we are living on repeat and living the daily grind, God is faithful. In tough times, when we experience loss, heartache and we are hurting, God is faithful!

John Flavel said this, "The delay of your mercies is really for your advantage. Why is that? Delay is preparing your heart to receive mercy- that you may receive it with the greatest advantage of comfort. The foolish child would pluck the apple while it is green, but, when it is ripe, it drops of its own accord, and is more pleasant and wholesome. It is great mercy to have a heart willing to entrust all to God, and to be at His disposal, than to enjoy presently the mercy we are most eager and impatient for."

What if Simeon didn't wait? How much joy would have been stolen from him? When we faithfully anticipate God at work in all things, we aren't surprised by His hand, but in awe of His meticulous work, seen and unseen, and that He allows us to play in those spaces! Simeon knew this truth and diligently waited with faithful anticipation for the greater joy that was to come! We can have joy now too. Jesus grants us this with his life, death and resurrection! But our fullness of Joy is coming. The Second Advent is near. Let's wait with faithful anticipation.

Week 1

EXPECT

Reflection Questions

- Do you feel the tension between your soul, that longs for eternity, and your flesh, that is concerned with the here and now?
- How can you anticipate the second coming of Jesus faithfully like Simeon did?
- What makes you impatient, not desiring to wait on the Lord?

Songs of the Season

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" - Charles Wesley
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" - John Mason Neale

Family Discipleship

- Create an Advent wreath to use throughout the season. Many examples can be found online on sites such as Pinterest.
- Buy a box of ornaments and use a sharpie or glue and glitter to write the different people from Jesus' birth story. As you hang them on the tree, talk about the role each person played in the story. (Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Angels, Inn Keeper, Shepherds, Wisemen, stable animals, etc.)
- Pray this together with your family after you have decorated your home or tree: "A Christmas Prayer for the Home" by Henry Van Dyke

*Father of all men, look upon our Family,
Kneeling together before Thee,
And grant us a true Christmas.*

*With loving hearts we bless Thee:
For the gift of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ,
For the peace He brings to human homes,
For the good-will He teaches sinful men,
For the glory of Thy goodness shining in His face.*

*With joyful voice we praise Thee:
For His lowly birth and His rest in the manger,
For the pure tenderness of His mother Mary,
For the fatherly care that protected Him,
For the providence that saved the holy child
To be the Savior of the world.*

*With deep desire we beseech thee:
Help us to keep His birthday truly,
Help us to offer, in His name, our Christmas prayer.*

*From the sickness of sin and the darkness of doubt,
From the selfish pleasures and sullen pains,
From the frost of pride and the fever of envy,
God save us every one, through the blessing of Jesus.*

*In the health and purity and the calm of mutual trust,
In the sharing of joy and the bearing of trouble,
In the steady glow of love and the clear light of hope,
God keep us every one, by the blessing of Jesus.*

*In praying and praising, in giving and receiving,
In eating and drinking, in singing and making merry,
In parents' gladness and in children's mirth,
In dear memories of those who have departed,
In good comradeship with those who are here,
In kind wishes for those who are far away,
In patient waiting, sweet contentment, generous cheer,
God bless us every one, with the blessing of Jesus.*

*By remembering our kinship with all men,
By well-wishing, friendly speaking and kindly doing,
By cheering the downcast and adding sunshine to daylight,
By welcoming strangers (poor shepherds or wise men),
By keeping the music of the angels' song in this home,
God help us every one to share the blessing of Jesus:*

*In whose name we keep Christmas,
And in whose words we pray together:*

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debt,
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. Amen.*

Week 2

BEHOLD

December 10 - 16

Focus Passage

Luke 1:26-38

Prayer

*What shall I render to You for the gift of gifts;
Your own dear Son, begotten not created,
My Redeemer, my Proxy, my Surety, my Substitute;
Self-emptying, incomprehensible;
His infinity of love beyond the heart's grasp.*

*Herein is wonder of wonders:
He came below to raise me above,
Was born like me that I might become more like Him.*

*Herein is love:
When I cannot rise to Him, He draws near on wings of grace,
To raise me to Himself.*

*Herein is power:
When Deity and humanity were infinitely apart
He united them in indissoluble unity,
The uncreated and the created.*

*Herein is wisdom:
When I was undone, with no will to return to Him,
And no intellect to devise recovery,
He came, God-incarnate, to save me
To the uttermost, As man to die my death,
To shed satisfying blood on my behalf,
To work out a perfect righteousness for me.*

*O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds,
And enlarge my mind;
Let me hear good tidings of great joy,
And hearing, let me believe, rejoice, praise, adore,
My conscience bathed in an ocean of repose,
My eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father;*

*Place me with ox, donkey, camel, goat,
To look with them upon my Redeemer's face,
And in Him account myself delivered from sin;
Let me with Simeon clasp the new-born child to my heart,
Embrace Him with undying faith,
Exulting that He is mine and I am His.*

In Him You have given so much That heaven can give no more.

Week 2

BEHOLD

Devotional "Interruption" by Mark Avery

Mary had probably woken up that morning thinking of many things—her coming marriage, her future home, having children and living a normal life as a woman in Israel. Like all the days she had experienced previously, this was going to be another day of being a faithful daughter of an Israelite family in a country under Roman rule. There were all kinds of conversations going on around her—voices murmuring about another zealot uprising, heated discussions on religious traditions among scholars seeking prestige among peers, and happy conversations among relatives about Mary's own future with Joseph. All of these voices were so very familiar to Mary—she knew who she was here, where she fit and what was going on.

But that morning, there was another voice. This voice spoke of the future as if it was a certainty, of the impossible as if it were designed, and of her as if she mattered. This voice did not seem to be part of the valiant struggle to free Israel from the cruel grip of Rome, nor did this voice seem to be caught up with the endless layers of commentary on scriptures written 1000 years ago. This voice was unthreatened and unthreatening, yet carried a weight of authority Mary had never known. This was the voice of an angel, sent to her with a message—no, a calling—from Yahweh, her God.

Something happens when God's story interrupts our own. At first, we may be fearful, as Mary was. However, that passes once we realize that God is not showing up in our life in order to execute a terrible judgment. But then, once the fear passes, the weight of His purposes begins to sink in, and we often sink with it! "How can that be?" A virgin simply cannot have a child, God—more than that, it's shameful for a lady who claims to be a virgin to suddenly be with child. What will other people think? And finally, as God reveals more of what He is doing and our part in it, we are left standing there with a choice to make. God's purposes are undoubtedly of eternal, universal weight... but once it's clear that He intends to include [me] in that narrative, I have to choose between His will and my own. Let's reflect prayerfully on this during this Christmas season.

Lord God, have I become so familiar with You as my Father that I have lost sight of Your awesome, holy glory? You are the Great "I Am that I Am", the Creator and Sustainer of all things, seated on the throne of Heaven. Thank you for calling me Your child.

Father, give me ears to hear what You are saying to Me—both as I read Your Word and as I walk through life. Give me the ability to discern what is of You, give me courage to speak Your truth and hope even when it seems the whole world is against it.

Lord Jesus, You humbled Yourself, left Your throne in Heaven, to become a baby in the womb. You have good works prepared beforehand for me to walk in. As I go through each day, I choose to begin each of those days as Your bondservant. Jesus, You are worthy, You are beautiful, You are God. You are my God. I am Yours, and You are mine. May it be to me, in me, through me according to Your will.

Week 2

BEHOLD

Reflection Questions

- Have you become numb to the Christmas story? Have you lost sight of the amazing reality that the Father loves you and sent His Son to this earth for you?
- Are you willing to have my life interrupted for God's purposes?
- How can you live a life that is open handed and ready to give God anything that He asks for?

Songs of the Season

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" - John Francis Wade
"O Holy Night" - John S. Dwight

Family Discipleship

- Draw or paint what the shepherds saw in the night sky. After this, talk about the glory of God and how the shepherds must have felt when the angels appeared.
- Use a sock and stuffing to create a baby Jesus doll. Wrap it in fabric scraps and have your preschooler take good care of it. Ask them to retell you the story of Jesus all week long.

Week 3

REJOICE

December 17 - 23

Focus Passages

Matthew 2:1-12

Luke 2:8-20

Prayer

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

- Book of Common Prayer

Devotional "Heaven & Nature Sing" by Danielle Szierer

It's hard to miss the expression of joy. Its qualities are so purely evident: the delight and exhilaration expressed in a little child's voice on Christmas morning, the cheers of a young couple whose baby just took his first step, or in the embrace of a long awaited reunion. Treasured are the photographs that capture joyful moments and memories dear to our soul. Joy can be heard in laughter and shared conversations, seen in tears, felt in a heartwarming embrace, and described in a handwritten note. Joy is not silent! Joy compels us to react. Human nature well knows the response to joy. It is another matter when the Heavens are so moved by joy that they are compelled to respond. When was the last time the angels sang in the night sky; when the glory of God so magnificently lit up the sky and caused earth's residents to bow in fear! When last did a star burn so brilliant that it was used as a GPS to locate a treasure? It was when all of Heaven understood, declared & affirmed that the heart of God was extending Himself in mercy & grace to reconcile us back to Him through His beloved son Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:18). It was a fearless God coming near to us, so that He could partake of our struggles & walk with us so that we might understand His heart and purpose for us. This was the most sacrificial and generous demonstration of love, that embodied all authority in Heaven and on earth to shatter every chain & bondage of darkness - the rescue with an eternal reward that would authorize a peace that transcends all understanding (Phil 4:7). There is no confusion in triumph! It was this great joy celebrated by Heaven that drew earth to its attention.

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests." Luke 2:14

This great joy captured the shepherds and wisemen and caused them to drop everything and find their King, to run in and worship, and to spread the good news. May we be attentive in this season to the great joy that Heaven radiated. Joy is not silent! Let us sing with the angels. All Heaven and earth rejoice!

Week 3

REJOICE

Reflection Questions

- When was the last time you remember experiencing such great joy that you couldn't contain it? What was your response to it?
- Do you remember the first time you understood that you will never receive a greater gift than the one that God extended to you in His Son?
- As a recipient of God's greatest Gift to mankind, Jesus Christ, how will you be a visible demonstration of great joy this Christmas season?

Songs of the Season

"Joy to the World" - Isaac Watts

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" - Charles Wesley

Family Discipleship

- Read the Christmas story found in Luke 2:1-20 together. After reading, make a nativity scene together. Give each child a few pieces of paper to draw or cut out their contribution to the nativity scene.
- Set a night aside where all members of your family will be home. Make cookies together and grab some eggnog or hot chocolate. Watch the Christmas Story from the Beginners Bible together (Animated, 25 minutes): youtu.be/AhuKeFX9HpE
- Go out and look at Christmas lights as a family. Stop for a hot drink on the way. Sing a carol or two. See the 'Songs of the Season' (pp 17 - 21).

Week 4

HERALD

December 24 - 30

Focus Passages

John 1:14
Romans 10:14-15

Prayer

The day of joy returns,
Father in Heaven,
And crowns another year with peace and good will.

Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the wisemen.

Close the doors of hate
and open the doors of love all over the world...

Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil,
by the blessing that Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,
and the Christmas evening bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
For Jesus' sake. Amen.

- Henry Van Dyke

Week 4

HERALD

Devotional "Herald the Good News" by Jamie Damm

A herald is defined as an official messenger bringing news. When I think of heralding, I think of Paul Revere's famous ride to warn American Colonists of the British invading. A man who warned of a life and death situation so that those who heard his message could be prepared and even take an offensive position to choose life.

Another famous Paul was the ultimate herald! Paul, the Apostle of Jesus, was a man whose life was turned right side up when he had a life-changing encounter with Jesus. This was a man who was an accomplice, if not a point man, in the persecution and death of many Christians, but when Jesus intervened in his life he became one of the most powerful forces for spreading the good news. He was unrelenting in spreading the message that we can choose life over death when we choose Jesus. Paul chose to put his trust in Jesus and exchanged a life as a murderer for a life as a missionary. He was an executioner who became an evangelist and he was a hit man who became a herald. Leading up to Christmas, let's recall how Jesus intervened in our lives and recommit ourselves to being the herald that God has called us to be. Let's make a point of sharing the life altering good news of Jesus, in word and action, with all who we encounter... the waiter at the restaurant, the customer who you encounter at work, your co-worker, your boss and your neighbor right next door. Let us unrelentingly herald the gospel of Jesus Christ!!!

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Week 4

HERALD

Reflection Questions

- Like Paul, how does God want to turn your life right side up?
- Have you put your full trust in Jesus and chosen to exchange life for death?
- In what ways are you heralding the good news of Jesus to those you encounter everyday? How can you improve in this area?

Songs of the Season

“Go Tell It On the Mountain” - John W. Work Jr.

“How Firm a Foundation” - John Rippon

Family Discipleship

- Create a luminary using a white paper bag, or an actual luminary with a battery-operated candle inside. Be sure to put rocks in the bottom of your actual luminary so that it doesn't leave you! Once it's lit, gather your family outside to talk about the star that was in the night sky over the place of Jesus' birth!
- Make a Christmas card for someone who doesn't know Jesus. Send it out or give it to them. Tell them that Jesus came to save sinners!

Looking Ahead

LIFE INVENTORY 2018

As we look to begin another year, we can thank God for His faithfulness and take some time to consider our own. With 2018 right around the corner, it's important to reflect on some things in life pertaining to the upcoming year, especially our walk with the Lord. Below are some 'big ideas' to think through as we approach a new season. As believers, we are called to take our lives seriously because our God takes us seriously. Ultimately, life is fleeting and eternity is coming. Let's take an inventory of our own lives and ask these questions together:

- **In 2018, how will I fill my mind with truth?**
 - How will I read my Bible?
 - Countless plans can be found all over the internet. Find some here: ESV.org/resources/reading-plans-devotions
 - How will I memorize God's Word so that I may fill my mind with it throughout the day?
 - This is a challenge for many of us, how do we 'set our minds on things above'?
 - Will I use other resources to help me to hear, experience and apply God's Word?
 - There are plenty of ways to fill our minds with the Word:
 - Some Recommended Books: Radical by David Platt, Gospel Wakefulness by Jared Wilson, The Prodigal God by Timothy Keller, Desiring God by John Piper, Jesus Outside the Lines by Scott Sauls, The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer, Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis, An Unhurried Life by Alan Fadling.
 - Podcast: Daily Radio Bible (Hunter Barnes)
 - Oftentimes Bible reading can become hard and monotonous. We don't want our reading to be like this, but instead, we want it to fuel our love for God.
- **In 2018, how will I fuel my affections for God?**
 - How can I worship as a lifestyle? (Col 3:23, 1 Cor. 10:31)
 - How can I prioritize weekly worship at my local Church?
 - How can I lead my family in worship?
 - Radical provides 'family worship guides' that we can take as an example or use in our families. radical.net/worship_guides
 - How can I pray?
 - When and where can I find time to get alone and talk with my heavenly Father?
 - This will certainly revolutionize any life!
 - How will I fast?
 - Giving up something to spend more time with the Lord.
 - How will I give?
 - Matthew 6 tells us that wherever our treasure is, there our heart will be also. This tells us that wherever our money goes, our hearts will follow.
 - How do I plan to slow down when I need to?
 - It's hard to hear God while we're rushing. God pieced us together to walk at the 'pace of grace' so that we may enjoy Him as we walk through life.

Looking Ahead

LIFE INVENTORY 2018

- **In 2018, how will I share God's love as a witness in the world?**
 - There are people around us that are apart from God, and God has put us in their lives to share His love with them. Let's capitalize in the sphere of influence that God's given us!
 - Who are these people?
 - How do I share the gospel with them?
 - Pray that God will use us to reach at least one!
 - Pray for the world!
 - Many people haven't even heard the name of Jesus.
 - www.operationworld.org allows you to look up prayer guides for different nations of the world. Would you join in praying that the gospel is proclaimed in these places?
 - Am I willing to go where God wants me? Do I have a 'blank check' written for God to use me for whatever purpose He would like?
- **In 2018, how can I be used in the local Church?**
 - God gifted all of us! Let us not squander it.
- **In 2018, how will I intentionally disciple a few people just as Jesus did?**
 - This is beyond a Bible study or Life Group- this is walking through life with someone for the purpose of them growing closer with Jesus and entering into the discipleship process.

With this inventory in mind, here are three quotes from Jonathan Edwards's famous resolutions that we can prayerfully live out together in 2018:

- "Resolved, to live with all my might, while I do live."
- "Resolved, never to lose one moment of time; but improve it the most profitable way I possibly can."
- "Resolved, that I will live so as I shall wish I had done when I come to die."

In this next year, we will face beautiful times and challenging unknowns, but through it all, may we see the Lord and bring Him glory. Amen!

Songs
OF THE
Season

Songs of the Season

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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

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 is all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

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 Dayspring, 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, 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, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bind every, strife, and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

Songs of the Season

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!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

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 Holy Night

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the 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, O holy 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 evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

Songs of the Season

Joy to the World

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 heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth! 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, wonder of His love

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 the Virgin's womb

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th' incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel

Hark! the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n born 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

Hark! the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Songs of the Season

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled

Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent hand

When through the deep waters I call thee to go
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow
For I will be with thee thy trouble to bless
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply
The flame shall not harm thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine

The soul that on Jesus doth lean for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake
I'll never, no never, no never forsake



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