

**Worship Guide**  
**Sunday, November 29, 2020**  
**10:00 AM**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

*“Therefore keep watch  
because you do not know  
when the owner of the  
house will come back—  
whether in the evening, or  
at midnight, or when the  
rooster crows, or at dawn. If  
he comes suddenly, do not  
let him find you sleeping.  
What I say to you, I say to  
everyone: ‘Watch!’”*

Mark 13:35-37

**SING TO THE KING**

Billy Foote, Charles Home, 2003, worshiptogether.com songs/sixsteps Music, CCLI #101544

**Verse 1**

Sing to the King who is coming to reign  
Glory to Jesus the Lamb that was slain.  
Life and salvation His empire shall bring  
Joy to the nations when Jesus is King.

**Chorus**

So come let us sing a song  
A song declaring we belong to Jesus  
He is all we need  
Lift up a heart of praise  
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus  
Sing to the King

**Verse 2**

For His returning we watch and we pray  
We will be ready the dawn of that day  
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed  
Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King

## **OPENING PRAYER**

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,  
we trust in the Lord's goodness.

**We rely on his mercy.**

**We find shelter in his steadfast love.**

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,  
we walk in the Lord's way.

**We follow his example of love.**

**We keep our covenant promises.**

In this Advent season of waiting,  
Lord, forget our sins.

**Remember your love.**

**Remember each one of us.**

**Remember your people everywhere.**

In this Advent season of waiting,  
Lord, we wait for your salvation.

**We wait for your leading.**

**We wait for your coming.**

—based on Psalm 25:1-10

**Sing: We are waiting, we are waiting;**

**We are waiting for You.**

**We are waiting, we are waiting;**

**We are waiting, Lord, for You.**

## **ADVENT WREATH**

One: Advent means coming. We light this candle  
as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**ALL: We are preparing for the full coming of God's  
kingdom. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Scripture: Mark 13:24-37

Eternal God,

You taught us that the night is far spent  
and the day is at hand. Keep us awake and alert, watching for  
your kingdom, and make us strong in faith,  
so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth,  
we may joyfully give him praise; who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

**Sing: We are waiting, we are waiting;**

**We are waiting for You.**

**We are waiting, we are waiting;**

**We are waiting, Lord, for You.**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

“Prepare the way of the Lord.” (*Is. 40:3*)

Let us confess our sins to God:

Lord, we have not kept watch for you.

We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.

We have not waited to find your will for us.

We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.

We have not acknowledged the love

that has been shown to us.

Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.

Help us to wait to know your will.

Help us to look out for the needs of others.

Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

**ALL: 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.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

ONE: The gospel of Advent and Christmas is this:

Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins. (Isaiah 40:1-2)

ONE: In the name of Jesus Christ,

**ALL: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

**Sing: 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" Charles Wesley, Rowland H. Prichard,  
Public Domain. Arr. Shane Ohlson, CCLI #101544*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & ILLUMINATION

Eternal God,  
as you led your people in ages past,  
you direct our journey into the future.  
We give you thanks that  
you came to us in Jesus Christ,  
and we eagerly await his coming again  
that his rule may be complete  
and your righteousness reign over all the world.  
Then we will feast at his royal banquet,  
and sing his praises with the choirs of heaven.  
By your Spirit,  
open our eyes to the generosity of your hand,  
and nurture our souls in all spiritual gifts.

Illumine us now as we hear your Word proclaimed,  
that we may open our hearts to Jesus Christ,  
yearn for his coming in glory,  
and serve him with joy. Amen.

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

As followers of Jesus Christ,  
living in this world—  
which some seek to control,  
but which others view with despair—  
we declare with joy and trust:

### **Our world belongs to God!**

God remembered his promise  
to reconcile the world to himself;  
he has come among us in Jesus Christ,  
the eternal Word made flesh.

**He is the long-awaited Savior,  
fully human and fully divine,  
conceived by the Spirit of God  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

We long for that day  
when Jesus will return as triumphant King,  
when the dead will be raised  
and all people will stand before his judgment.  
We face that day without fear,  
for the Judge is our Savior.

Our daily lives of service aim for the moment  
when the Son will present his people to the Father.

**With the whole creation  
we wait for the purifying fire of judgment.**

**For then we will see the Lord face to face.**

**He will heal our hurts,  
end our wars,  
and make the crooked straight.**

**Then we will join in the new song  
to the Lamb without blemish  
who made us a kingdom and priests.  
God will be all in all,**

**and righteousness and peace will flourish.**

**Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus.**

—from *Our World Belongs to God*, st. 1, 24, 57, 58

## **EVEN SO, COME**

Chris Tomlin, Jess Cates, Jason Ingram. 2015 sixsteps Songs, Worship Together, S.D.G. Publishing, Go Mia Music, Chrissamsongs Inc. CCLI #101544

### **Verse 1**

All of creation, all of the earth,  
Make straight a highway, a path for the Lord;  
Jesus is coming soon.  
Call back the sinner, wake up the saint;  
Let every nation shout of Your fame;  
Jesus is coming soon.

### **Chorus**

Like a bride waiting for her groom,  
We'll be a Church ready for You;  
Every heart longing for our King,  
We sing: Even so come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come.

### **Verse 2**

There will be justice, all will be new;  
Your name forever, "Faithful and True."  
Jesus is coming soon.

### **Bridge**

So we wait, we wait for You.  
God, we wait, You're coming soon.

*He who testifies to these things says,  
"Surely I am coming quickly."  
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

- Revelation 22:20 NKJV

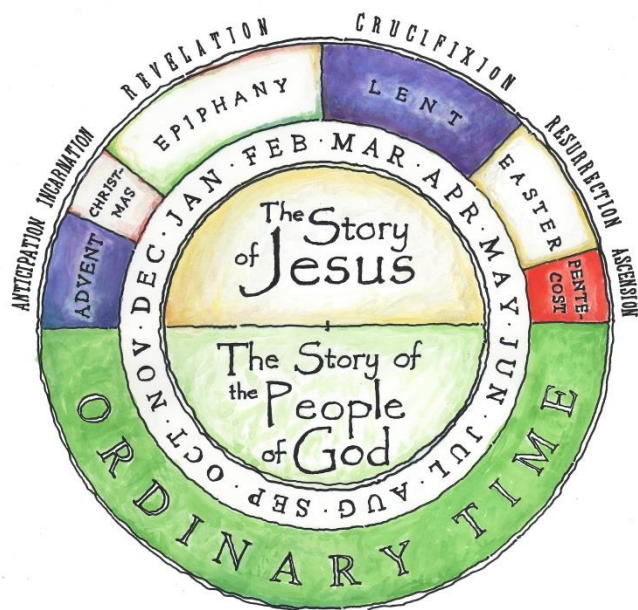
What Time Is It?

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT IN THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

Advent is the time of preparation for the birth of Christ. Historically, however, Advent was not the beginning of the Christian year, but the end. The original themes of Advent focused on the second coming of Jesus.

Gradually Advent also came to mean preparing for the coming of Christ. Today we inherit both themes: the end of the Christian year and the expectation of the second coming of Christ as well as the beginning of the Christian year and the expectancy of the birth of Christ, the Redeemer.

Source: *Introduction to Advent Worship*, Robert E. Webber  
The Complete Library of Christian Worship, Vol. 5



The great proclamation “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14) assures us that God has entered into human history through the incarnation of the Son. The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God’s actions—past, present,

and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us—people who wait for the second coming. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. In this way Advent highlights for us the larger story of God's redemptive plan. A deliberate tension must be built into our practice of the Advent season. Christ has come, and yet not all things have reached completion. While we remember Israel's waiting and hoping and we give thanks for Christ's birth, we also anticipate his second coming at the end of time. For this reason Advent began as a penitential season, a time for discipline and intentional repentance in the confident expectation and hope of Christ's coming again. The Advent season includes the four Sundays preceding Christmas. Worship on these Sundays helps people see the tension between celebrating and hoping.

Adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*,  
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