

CELEBRATING WEEK TWO of ADVENT

**He came unto His own and His own received Him not
but those who did receive Him became daughters and sons of God.**

John 1: 11-12

**We, who are the ransomed of the Lord, shall return and come to Zion with
songs and everlasting joy. We shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and
sighing shall flee away.**

Isaiah 35: 10



Light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath.

**We pause and remember that our God continually walks with His people
and is never far from us.**

Lord, we are the people who long to see Your face.

ISAIAH 61: 1-3, 10-11

**The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the Lord has anointed me to
preach good tidings unto the meek; He has sent me to bind up the broken-
hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison
to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and
the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto
them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy
for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they
might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He
might be glorified. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful
in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has
covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorned with
a diadem, and as a bride dressed with her jewels.**

**For as the earth brings forth her bud, and as the garden causes the things
that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness
and praise to spring forth before all the nations.**

Wait, my soul, silent for God,
God is my glory and safety,
for God alone, my hope,
my stronghold, my haven.

alone my rock, my safety,
People, give your hearts to God,
my refuge: I stand secure.
trust always! God is our haven.

You hollow us out, God,
Make smooth our inward spaces
so that we may carry You, and sturdy,
and You endlessly fill us
that we may hold You
only to be emptied again.
with less resistance
and bear You with deeper grace.

– Jan Richardson, *Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent*



Lord, we wait with eager expectation for the coming of Your kingdom
when the humble will be exalted and the hungry fed.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Lord, we prepare for Your advent with searching minds and contrite hearts,
trusting in Your healing spirit and redemptive love.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Lord, we watch with those who wait and weep,
longing to see the rule of justice and the reign of peace.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Lord, we seek You among the despised and rejected,
knowing that there we will find Your light shining in the dark.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Lord, we proclaim sight to the blind and liberty to the oppressed,
trusting in Your tender mercy and passion for justice.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Lord, we work with others to proclaim Your truth,
challenging the mighty and raising the meek.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Lord, we wrestle with our hopes and our fears, our struggles and our joys
laboring with creation to come to new birth.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

– Annabel Shilson-Thomas

Reflection

Our hearts become frozen when we forget God's covenant to rescue and redeem us, when we cut ourselves off from God's help.

Even in our struggles and deepest longings God is with us.

During Advent God calls us away from the material riches to find the need for Him in the poverty of our own hearts.

Christ's coming also calls us to take Advent to the world as we realize that the Kingdom of God is among us. Advent is ours, now, and it articulates hopes that belong to all our years. Its hopes belong to all peoples and generations. God does not want anyone to perish, and God gives all His people space and time to change.

God's love and grace are strong, slow and persistent, as they rescue the world from its brokenness. May God use this Advent to connect us through Christ, to the poverty of our own hearts and the poverty that afflicts the world.

- Aaron Ratcliffe



Here in this world where darkness surrounds us

We seek a sign that You are among us

Show us Your face, O Promise of Dawn

Where is the peace You promised the widow?

Show us Your face O Promise of Dawn.

Where is the road You promised the exile?

Show us Your face, Lord Jesus and come.

Where is the home You promised the orphan?

Show us Your face, Lord Jesus and come.

Where is the Good News preached to the lowly?

Where is the heart whose "yes" is salvation?

Show us Your face, Lord Jesus and come

Where is the child whose life is our future?

Show us Your face, Lord Jesus and come

Come, O Hope of Your people.

Come among us and stay

Lead us in mercy up from the shadows

Come among us and stay

Shine in our darkness, be here today.

- Rory Cooney, 1993, GIA Publications

Reflective Questions for the second week of Advent:

How is your heart frozen?

Why do you fear the coming of the Lord in your life?

How do you really trust in the Lord?

What can you do to bring unity and peace to our world?

Let us pray:

**Come, O long expected Jesus born to set Your people free;
From our fears and sins release us, free us from captivity.
Israel's strength and consolation, You the Hope of all the earth,
Dear Desire of every nation, come and save us by Your birth.
Born Your people to deliver, born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, now Your gracious kingdoms bring.
By Your own Eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone,
By Your all-sufficient merit raise us to Your glorious throne.**

**Saint John the Baptist,
help us to make way for God in our own hearts
and in the hearts of others.**

**Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
aid us in proclaiming that Jesus is our Great Reward.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!