



With the beginning of Advent, the church year begins again, and we get ready to enter into the mystery of Christmas. We journey together into this time of dark winter, waiting for the Light to be born.

In the midst of everything that is happening in our world, in Advent we are watching and waiting for signs that God's light is breaking into the darkness, and guiding us in the way of hope.

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2

Advent and Christmastide 2020

Advent 1 November 29 *Hope*

Advent 2 December 6 *Peace*

Advent 3 December 13 *Joy*

Advent 4 December 20 *Love*

Christmas Eve December 24

The Nativity of Christ December 25

Twelve Days of Christmas Dec 25 – Jan 5

Epiphany (the arrival of the Magi) Jan 6

How to Use This Booklet

Decide what day of the week and time of the day you will gather with your household or homegroup to celebrate the four weeks of Advent. It could be on the Sabbath but another day of the week that works for everyone is also good.

Candle lighting liturgy: Prepare four advent candles and one candle for Christmas day. You can make an advent wreath or just set up a place for your candles which will be lit as you prepare to read the Bible passage.

Singing: See **page 26** for a collection of Advent songs recorded by musicians in our congregation. You can listen here: <https://www.gcbchurch.ca/pages/advent-songs>

On the Grandview Church website go to Resources/
Songs/Advent Songs

Scripture reading: The readings tell the Advent and Christmas story of Mary, Elizabeth, the angel Gabriel, Joseph, the shepherds, the angel choir, and the Christ child himself. You can look the passage up in your home Bible or read it in the version provided in this booklet (NirV).

Wondering and Reflecting Together: After you have read aloud the bible passage for the week, take the time to ponder together. Ask these questions to each other and bring your own wonderings. The focus is to share in the wonder, not on finding the “right” answer. For younger children, you might want to only do the first two questions (I wonder if you have a favourite part. I wonder which part you think is the most important.). See where these conversations take you together.

Response and Action: During the week take time to do one or more of the suggested actions to live into the Advent journey. You could also think of your own ways to respond to the passage. One weekly action is to act out the bible passages that tell the story of getting ready for Christmas.

Some Ideas for the Advent Season

- Consider not putting up all your Christmas decorations until it is *actually* Christmas (the evening of Dec. 24). Don't put the magi in the nativity scene yet – they don't come into the story until later so save them for the Christmas season and for Epiphany (Jan. 6). Keep baby Jesus out of the scene too. Through this season we're *waiting* for the child to be born! Listen to Advent music during Advent and (mostly) save the Christmas music for Christmas.

Anticipation is an important part of waiting, especially for children. Leaving the nativity set with an empty manger or keeping the tree bare (or only minimally decorated) until Christmas can help children learn about the excitement and the difficulty of getting ready and waiting for God's love to be born into the world. And the celebration can be all the more joyous if you aren't already burnt out from holiday festivities by the time you get to the 25th.

- Make a Jesse Tree. This tradition incorporates all of the biblical story into the anticipation of waiting for Christ. The Reformed Church has an excellent resource for creating a Jesse Tree as a family: faithward.org/jesse-tree/
- Incorporate an Italian Advent tradition called *Il Presipio* – The Christmas Crib. This is a very old tradition that

people believe was started by St. Francis in Italy about 850 years ago. Put up a nativity scene with Mary, Joseph, and the animals gathered around an empty manger. In some Italian families, every time children do good deeds (like an extra chore or listening really well), their parents will give them a piece of straw (or shredded paper) to put in the manger. The kids try to do lots of good deed through Advent so that they can make the manger soft and cozy for when baby Jesus is placed in it on Christmas Eve. You could do that or just add a new piece of straw every day when you family gathers to light the Advent candles.

- Liturgical church colours help us to visually orient to the seasons of the church year and the Christian story. In churches around the world the colours purple (royalty) or blue (waiting, anticipation, hope) are used during the Advent season and the colour white (celebration, holiness) for the Christmas season which follows. At Grandview we use the colour blue for Advent.

Find ways to incorporate liturgical colours into your celebration at home this season. Some ideas:

- Decorate a wreath with blue and add white to it on Christmas Eve
- Use blue candles for Advent
- A blue table cloth or piece of blue fabric in the middle of your table for the Advent candles to sit on
- Cut shapes (hearts, doves, stars) out of blue construction paper and put them up around your home. On Christmas Day decorate the blue paper with white crayons – Draw pictures and write words of praise to God for the gift of Jesus.

Advent 1

Watching and Waiting for Hope



Candle Lighting & Song:

One: Why do we light one candle?

All: **This light reminds us to watch and wait for signs of hope.**

Light the first Advent candle as you sing one of the Advent songs found beginning on page 26.

Scripture reading: Luke 1:26-38 (NIRV)

In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee.²⁷ He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary.²⁸ The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

²⁹ Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be.³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you."³¹ You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago.³³ The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."

³⁴ “How can this happen?” Mary asked the angel. “I am a virgin.”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. ³⁷ That’s because what God says will always come true.”

³⁸ “I serve the Lord,” Mary answered. “May it happen to me just as you said it would.” Then the angel left her.

Wondering and Reflecting Together:

- *I wonder if you have a favourite part of this story.*
- *I wonder which part you think is the most important.*
- *I wonder how Mary felt when the angel spoke to her.*
- *I wonder what it would be like to have God’s special child, the Son of God.*
- *Name together some places in the world, your neighbourhood/city, or your life where you are waiting and hoping for God’s love to be born.*

Response and Action

- **Draw a picture of a big heart** in the middle of a piece of paper. On the outside of the heart draw things that you are afraid of or things that worry you. On the inside of the heart draw what might be like for your heart to be full of joy, waiting in hope, trusting in God’s holiness and faithful love. On the back of the paper you could write a prayer to God asking for help or thanking God for his rescue in the world.

- **Look for a way** that your family or household can show a sign of God’s love being born into the world. Then do it!
- Have everyone in your household lay down or sit on the floor with all the lights out except for the one advent candle. Quietly **experience the light in the darkness** for 2 minutes.
- On December 5th or 6th **tell the story of St. Nicholas** (the original Santa). See **pages 22-25** for the history of this tradition, some of the story, and a gingerbread recipe. The public library also has a collection of St. Nicholas storybooks for children.
- **Read and act out** the “getting ready for Christmas” story in Luke 1:26-38

Advent 2

Watching and Waiting for Peace



Candle Lighting and Song:

One: Why do we light two candles?

All: This light reminds us to watch and wait for signs of peace.

Light two Advent candles as you sing one of the Advent songs found beginning on page 26.

Scripture reading: Luke 1:39-45 (NIRV)

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in Judea's hill country. ⁴⁰ There she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby inside her jumped. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she called out, "God has blessed you more than other women. And blessed is the child you will have! ⁴³ But why is God so kind to me? Why has the mother of my Lord come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as I heard the sound of your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ You are a woman God has blessed. You have believed that the Lord would keep his promises to you!"

Wondering and Reflecting Together:

- *I wonder if you have a favourite part of this story.*
- *I wonder which part you think is the most important.*
- *I wonder why Elizabeth's baby jumped for joy inside of her when Elizabeth heard Mary's voice.*
- *I wonder how God has blessed us this week and kept his promises of peace for the world.*

- *I wonder if there are people in the world or in your neighbourhood who need to hear (or be shown) the good news of God's blessing.*

Response and Action:

- **Draw a picture of the world.** Where are you in the world? Where are the people and places and animals and plants that you care about? Now imagine what it is like for God to be watching over and blessing the world with love. What might that look like? Is there a symbol you can draw (Dove? Cross? Hands? Wind? Heart? etc.) that can show God watching over all of creation? Can you imagine what God is doing in the places he is watching over?
- **Look at a map of the world** and find the countries where the Global Workers from our community are living and working.
 - Steve, Elly, Ellen, Janine – Home assignment in BC
 - David, Susannah, Sofia, Andres, Ana Laura – Central & South America
 - Jasmine – South East Asia
 - Emmanuel and family – Burundi
 - Kristin, Matt, Judson, Ezra – Colombia

Choose a different Global Worker family or individual each day during the week and pray that they would see signs of God's light during this Advent season. You could pray something like this:

God, we trust that you are watching over _____ in _____. Bless them and bless the community that they are in with peace. Keep them from every kind of harm. Watch over them no matter where they go, both now and forever. Amen.

Consider writing or emailing the people you have prayed for to tell them that you are praying for God's peace to watch over them.

- Is there someone in your family or in your community who has done something recently that shows a sign of Christ's peace? **Write a note** to that person telling them that you appreciate how they shine God's light of peace in the world.
- **Read and act out** the "getting ready for Christmas" story in Luke 1:39-45. For older children, you could also include verses 46-56.

Advent 3

Watching and Waiting for Joy



Candle Lighting and Song:

One: Why do we light three candles?

All: This light reminds us to watch and wait for signs of joy.

Light three Advent candles as you sing one of the Advent songs found beginning on page 26.

Scripture reading: Matthew 1:18-23 (NIRV)

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph was faithful to the law. But he did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That’s because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet, ²³ “The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.” (*Isaiah 7:14*) The name Immanuel means “God with us.”

Wondering and Reflecting Together:

- *I wonder if you have a favourite part of this story.*
- *I wonder which part you think is the most important.*
- *I wonder what it would be like to have a dream from God.*
- *I wonder if you have ever had a dream where God spoke to you.*

The angel in the dream gave God's special child two names: Jesus, which means "rescue" or "save," and Immanuel, which means "God is with us."

- *I wonder if you know a story of how Jesus has rescued his people.*
- *I wonder if you know a story of how God is close with us in Jesus.*

Response and Action:

- Give each person in your home or family two pieces of paper. Write "Jesus rescues his people" on one, and "God is with us" on the other.

On the first page **draw about where we, and our neighbourhood, and our earth need rescuing.** On the second page draw about where you have noticed God's good presence in your life, and your neighbourhood, and the world. (In youth group, they call this "shadows and sparkles.")

After you have all had enough time to draw and wonder, gather together again and say a short prayer:

Jesus, you are rescuing the world. You are saving your people from their sins. Thank you for being Emmanuel, 'God with us.' Thank you for bringing joy into the world. Amen.

- Is there anyone in our congregation or community who you think would appreciate a **sign of God's joy**? Perhaps someone who is sick or lonely? Maybe someone who has shown you what God's joy is like? What could you do (in a covid-safe way) to show them that you appreciate them and that they are a special part of the Body of Christ? (Making a card? A socially-distanced visit if this is safe? A phone or video call?) Ask God to help you think of a way to show them a sign of joy and then do it!
- In your household, **draw names** and think of one way that you can bring joy to that person this week, then do it!
- **Read and act out** the "getting ready for Christmas" story in Matthew 1:18-23

Advent 4

Watching and Waiting for Love



Candle Lighting and Song:

One: Why do we light four candles?

All: **This light reminds us to watch and wait for signs of love.**

Light four Advent candles as you sing one of the Advent songs found beginning on page 26.

Scripture reading: Luke 1:46-55 (for young kids read v 46-49)

⁴⁶ Mary said, “My soul gives glory to the Lord.

⁴⁷ My spirit delights in God my Savior.

⁴⁸ He has taken note of me

even though I am not considered important.

From now on all people will call me blessed.

⁴⁹ The Mighty One has done great things for me.

His name is holy.

⁵⁰ He shows his mercy to those who have respect for him,
from parent to child down through the years.

⁵¹ He has done mighty things with his powerful arm.

He has scattered those who are proud in their deepest thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

But he has lifted up people who are not considered important.

⁵³ He has filled with good things those who are hungry.

But he has sent away empty those who are rich.

⁵⁴ He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him.

He has always remembered to be kind

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his children down through the years.

He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago.”

Luke 2:1-5 (NIRV)

In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world.² It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria.³ Everyone went to their own town to be listed.

⁴ So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David.⁵ He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby.

Wondering and Reflecting Together:

- *I wonder if you have a favourite part of Mary's song.*
- *I wonder if you have a favourite part of the story of Mary and Joseph.*
- *I wonder which part you think is the most important.*
- *I wonder if you have ever had to travel on a long journey.*
- *I wonder what it was like for Joseph and Mary to travel on a long journey when Mary was pregnant.*
- *I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt about the baby that they were waiting for.*
- *I wonder if you have ever waited for something so special.*

Response and Action:

- **Take a walk** around your neighbourhood with your household or family. Where are the places in your community where you see signs of God's love? Where do you see sadness, places where people or creation are waiting for God's love? Thank God for the love

that you see. Ask God to do “great things” for people who are sad or people who aren’t considered important, so that they will know his love for them.

- Look up and **learn about Kinbrace** or another organization that supports refugees. What is one thing you could do this week to extend love and welcome to a refugee to Canada?
- Look up and **learn about A Rocha**, Earthkeepers, or another group that does creation care. What is one thing you could do as a sign of God’s love for the earth?
- **Read and act out** the “getting ready for Christmas” story in Luke 2:1-5.

Christmas Day

The Incarnation: A Light in the Darkness



Candle Lighting and Song:

One: Why do we light the Christmas candle?

All: **This light reminds us that Jesus the king has been born as the light of the world. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome the light!**

Light all four Advent candles and then the Christmas candle as you sing one of the Advent songs found beginning on page 26.

Scripture reading: Luke 2:6-20

While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

⁸ There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said,

¹⁴ “May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!

And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!”

¹⁵ The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem. Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. ²⁰ The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

Wondering and Reflecting Together:

- *I wonder if you have a favourite part of this story.*
- *I wonder which part you think is the most important.*
- *I wonder what is one thing that you praise God for.*

Response and Action:

- **Read and act** out the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-20.

Celebrating Christmas through the whole season: Dec 25 – Jan 5

- Put up **the special decorations** you were reserving for this day.
- **Listen to Christmas music** and sing Christmas songs.
- **Light the Christmas candle** each morning or evening during this season and take a moment to share with each other where you have seen a sign of Christ's love and light in the darkness. Praise God for these glimpses of hope.
- **Give small gifts** each day.
- If you have a nativity scene, **place the Christ child in the manger** on Christmas Eve or before your children wake up on Christmas morning. Bring the magi into the scene – But not right at the manger. Place them somewhere in your house (window ledges, counters, bookshelves) on the journey towards the holy family. Every day you (or your kids) can move them a little bit closer to their encounter with the Christ child until they finally arrive on Jan. 6.
- **On Epiphany** (Jan. 6) read Matthew 2:1-15. Bake star shaped cookies to remember the star that the magi followed. Take down and pack away your Christmas decorations – You can make this a meaningful ritual if you do it together as a household, perhaps each naming one favourite memory of the Christmas season.

Celebrating St. Nicholas Day

(December 6th)

Find ways to reframe and revive our children's understanding of Santa by letting them know the historical roots of our seasonal gift-giving traditions: Saint Nicholas gave gifts to the poor, usually in secret, because he loved Jesus and because his eyes had been opened to see both the many needs in the world and the many opportunities he had been given to show generosity and mercy.



The Story of Saint Nicholas

The story of this saint can inspire us to reflect on the nature of our gift-giving celebration – to move us from consumerism to compassion.

Saint Nicholas has been known and loved for centuries. He was born in Asia Minor (now Turkey) in the fourth century C.E., and it was believed he became a bishop in the church at a very young age. Throughout his life, Nicholas was known for his compassion, kindness, and generosity. Many stories of his good works circulated throughout the towns and villages in the area in which he lived. Some of them have been passed down through the ages. The most familiar story of Nicholas involves the family with three daughters:

There was a family that was so poor that the eldest daughter was going to be sold into slavery to pay for the dowries for her two younger sisters. Nicholas heard about this and secretly dropped a bag of gold one night through

an open window of the family's house, thus providing a marriage dowry for the eldest daughter. In time, he dropped another bag of gold through an open window for the second daughter's dowry. Again, no one saw Nicholas. But when he tried to secretly leave a bag of gold for the third daughter, he was seen. Nicholas begged the person not to tell, but the story of his generosity spread.

Nicholas demonstrated the spiritual gift of mercy. Throughout the remainder of his life he consistently cared for the poor. He employed people to make clothing for the needy, distribute food to the hungry, and craft toys for children, requesting that his identity be kept a secret.

By his example of generosity, St. Nicholas continues to be a model for a Christ-like compassionate life.

Mary Dickau's Saint Nicholas Gingerbread

St. Nicholas is said to have given gifts of gingerbread cake. This has become a traditional food in the celebration of the life of St. Nicholas on December 6th.

Ingredients:

- **1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened**
- **1/2 cup sugar**
- **1 egg**
- **1 cup molasses**
- **3/4 cup buttermilk**

- **2 cups all-purpose flour**
- **1 tsp baking soda**
- **1 tsp. ground ginger**
- **1 tsp ground cinnamon**
- **1/2 tsp salt**

Directions:

- **Preheat oven to 325°F**

- **Grease and flour a 9 x 9 inch baking pan.**
(If you double the recipe it fits well into a 9 x 13 pan)

- **Into large bowl, cream butter and sugar with a mixer on medium until well-blended, constantly scraping bowl with rubber spatula.**
- **Add eggs and blend.**
- **Add molasses and blend.**
- **Gently stir in buttermilk.**

- **In a medium bowl, mix together the dry ingredients.**
- **Slowly add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and once blended, increase speed to high.**
- **Beat 2 minutes occasionally scraping bowl.**

- **Pour batter into pan.**
- **Bake 1 hour or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.**

- **Cool gingerbread in pan on wire rack or in pan. Dust with icing sugar if you wish.**

Songs for Advent

Chords and audio of these song can be found on the Grandview website at <https://www.gcbchurch.ca/pages/advent-songs>

At gcbchurch.ca go to Resources/Songs/Advent Songs

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 Thy own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thy all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

COME TO US, EMMANUEL

Come to us, Emmanuel
We wait for thee with bated breath
And hope-filled hearts
And anxious minds,
Longing to see your face
And worship at your feet.

Isaiah's vision didst unfold
When you descended into this world
To bring good news
And set the prisoners free.
You set aside eternity
So that we might live.

So come to us, Emmanuel.
We live in hope of your return
To bring new life
To this old world
To end all wars and heal all hearts
And to reign forevermore,
To reign forevermore.

EVERY DITCH, EVERY VALLEY

A voice says cry out, "People are like grass
And their time of glory so on shall pass
But the word of God, it will never die
Surely it will stand for eternity."

Every ditch and valley shall be raised up
Every hill and mountain be made low
Every rugged place will be made flat
Everybody shall see the glory of the LORD

You who bring good news, raise your voice and shout
Do not be afraid to speak the name of God
The hard days are gone, the debt has been paid
And the time has come to walk the righteous way

HE SHALL REIGN

Come broken, come captive
Come all you who mourn
Oh groaning creation, rejoice
A child, a saviour, our healing he brings
What freedom! What consolation!

He shall reign (He shall reign) He shall reign
He shall reign (He shall reign) He shall reign

He'll order his kingdom
With justice and peace
Oh merciful one, oh Lamb of God
All nations, all people, all heaven and earth
Will bow down and to Him proclaim

El reinara (El reinara) El reinara
El reinara (El reinara) El reinara

MAGNIFY

He has done mighty things with his arm
He has scattered the proud
He has brought down the rulers from their thrones
He has lifted up the lowly

He has filled the hungry with good things
He has sent the rich away
Empty
He will show his people mercy

My soul magnifies x 3
Magnifies the Lord

Rejoice

MARANATHA

In joyful expectation of His coming
We pray to Jesus
Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus

Come to the world as king
Of the nations.
Break into our lives!

Where we wage war against the empires
And kingdoms of this world
Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus
Come into our suffering as Saviour and Comforter.
Break into our lives!

Where we languish in sickness and sorrow
Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus
Come into our conflict as Prince of Peace.
Break into our lives!

Where we sorrow with quarrel and strife
Maranath, come, Lord Jesus
Come to our families Heavenly Father and Mother.
Break into our lives!

Where we wrestle with relationships broken and ragged
Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus

We are a people waiting in darkness
Lord, let there be light
We are a people waiting in the shadow of death
Lord, let there be light
We are a people waiting
Lord, let there be light

Lord, bring in your kingdom with justice and mercy
Bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick
And raise up all who have fallen
Let the light of God's coming break forth upon us

Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus)x3)
Let there be light

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, 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.
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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou King of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

VENI DOMINE

There is a way through barren land
Deserts and fires, death's scheming hand
There is a way through barren land
Prepare the way of the Lord

There is a voice, O crying out
Make straight the way, make straight the way
There is a voice, O crying out
Make straight the way of the Lord

Every crooked way, every crooked way
Every crooked way made straight
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
in the presence of the Holy One
 Veni Domine, veni Domine
 Veni Domine, veni Domine Christe (2x)

There is a hope in a kingdom come
When justice shall reign, justice will reign
There is a hope in a kingdom come
When justice shall reign without end

WE WATCH FOR THE LIGHT

We watch for the light
We watch for the light
(repeat)
We wait, we trust, we hope.
We wait, we trust, we hope.
Your light will come;
It is greater than our fears. *(we wait, we trust)*
Your light will come;
it is greater than our darkness. *(we watch, we hope)*

WHEN THE LORD BRINGS US BACK

Gracious God, bring us back
Captive of our false gods
We have eyes yet cannot see
We have ears yet cannot hear

Those who sow in tears
Will one day reap with joy
Restore us, O Lord
Praise God all you saints
Who plod through the dark of night
Joy comes with the dawn

When the Lord brings us back
We'll be like those who dream
Laughter will grace our hearts
Songs will spill off our tongues

Joy comes with
Joy comes with
Joy comes with the dawn