



WORSHIP NOTES
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7; 7:14
SUNDAY November 29, 2020

PREPARATION MUSIC ***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 you, O Israel.
O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

O Come, Emmanuel was originally used in the medieval church liturgy as a series of antiphons—short musical statements that were sung for services during the week preceding Christmas Eve. Each of these antiphons greets the anticipated Messiah with one of the titles ascribed Him throughout the Old Testament: Wisdom, Emmanuel, the Lord of Might, The Rod of Jesse, Day-Spring, and the Key of David. Christ came not only to be the Emmanuel—“God with us”—but even in a more personal way, God in us!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them has light shined.

Leader: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

People: And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

This is from Isaiah 9 and 11. Here’s a prayer: Who is this child? Who is this Wonderful Counselor? He is a son of man who has walked in our shoes, felt our pains and struggled with our temptations. Moreover, he walks with us now, every step of the way. How could we not love him? O Light of the World, prophesied deliverer of Israel, you have truly come. You are my deliverer and the light of my world as well.

With joy I acknowledge your right of every righteous and holy title and to every place of authority. Come, Lord Jesus, Messiah and rule over us with justice and peace. Do it even now in me. I welcome you gratefully to the throne of my life.

SONG OF WORSHIP

Here I Am to Worship

Verse 1

**Light of the world You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You**

Chorus

**Here I am to worship Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me**

Verse 2

**King of all days Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor**

Chorus

**Here I am to worship Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me**

Bridge

**I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross (x 4)**

Chorus

**Here I am to worship Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me**

Jesus, who is the Light that came to a darkened, sin-stained earth, paid the penalty for our transgressions. He spiritually awakened His followers, who now possess the Holy Spirit and walk in the same light as Jesus. In response to Christ's great love for us, we respond bowing before him, worshipping Him because He is worthy of our praise. Though we cannot fully understand the depth of Christ's sacrifice, we see Him as beautiful, wonderful, and lovely.

Light of the world

Jesus is light (John 1:1-8, John 8:12, and Ephesians 5:14).

You step down into darkness

He left His throne and glory to enter into a world marred by sin (John 1:14, Romans 8:3, 2 Corinthians 8:9, Galatians 4:4, and Philippians 2:7).

Opened my eyes let me see,

That is, a spiritual awakening (John 3:3, John 9:25, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:5, Ephesians 5:14, Titus 3:5, and 1 Peter 1:3). We were once dead in our trespasses, but are now made alive in Christ (Romans 6:1-11, Romans 7:4-6, Galatians 2:19-20, 2 Timothy 2:11, and 1 Peter 2:24).

Beauty that made this heart adore you

The beauty of Jesus is found in his actions, that while we were sinners, He died for us (Romans 5:6-8). This might also reference Psalm 27:4.

Hope of a life spent with you,

That is, eternal life with God (Mark 10:29-30, John 3:15-16, John 3:36, John 4:14, John 5:24, John 5:39-40, John 6:27, and others).

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON

Advent 1---Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; 7:14 KJV *A Great Light*

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. **6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

In a time of great darkness, God promised to send a Light who would shine on everyone living in the shadow of death. He is both “Mighty God” (all-powerful) and “Counselor” (all-loving). This message of hope was fulfilled in the birth of Christ and the establishment of his eternal kingdom. He came to deliver all people from their slavery to sin.

SONG OF RESPONSE

God of Wonders

Verse 1

**Lord of all creation, of water earth and sky
The heavens are your tabernacle, Glory to the Lord on High**

Chorus 1

**God of wonders beyond our galaxy, you are Holy, Holy
The universe declares your majesty, you are Holy, Holy
Lord of Heaven and earth, Lord of Heaven and earth**

Verse 2

**Early in the morning, I will celebrate the light
And when I stumble in the darkness, I will call your name by night**

Chorus 1

**God of wonders beyond our galaxy, you are Holy, Holy
The universe declares your majesty, you are Holy, Holy
Lord of Heaven and earth, Lord of Heaven and earth**

Bridge

Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth (x 3)

Chorus End

**God of wonders beyond our galaxy, You are Holy, Holy
Precious Lord, reveal your Heart to me, Father Holy, You are Holy
The universe declares Your majesty, You are Holy, Holy
Holy, Holy**

Read these words from Psalm 40.

**Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.**

**Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done,
the things you planned for us. None can compare with you;
were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to
declare.**

**Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—
but my ears you have opened—
burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.
Then I said, “Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the
scroll.**

I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.”

**I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;
I do not seal my lips, Lord,
as you know.**

**10 I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;
I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help.
I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness
from the great assembly.**

**11 Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord;
may your love and faithfulness always protect me.**

**12 For troubles without number surround me;
my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.**

They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me.

13 Be pleased to save me, Lord; come quickly, Lord, to help me.

CLOSING MUSIC

Long Ago, Prophets Knew

Teri McKibben

***Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new; bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.***

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes, who will make him welcome?***

Read Matthew 2:5. Matthew often quoted Old Testament prophets. This prophecy from Micah was delivered seven centuries earlier. The words here are slightly different from those in Micah because Matthew paraphrased the thought of this Old Testament passage in applying it to Christ. Most religious leaders believed in a literal fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecy; therefore, they believed the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Ironically, when Jesus was born, these same religious leaders became his greatest enemies. When the Messiah for whom they had been waiting finally came, they didn't recognize him.