

Morning service, 13th December 2020

Who is it that we are waiting for this Advent?

We wait for Jesus, the Immanuel.

(Isaiah 7:14)

Why do we call him Immanuel?

He is God with us, fully human and fully divine.

(John 1:14)

So is he strong, our Immanuel?

He is the Lord of might, the second person of the one true God, before whom every knee should bow!

(Phil 2:10)

He is a king then, our Immanuel?

He is the Rod of Jesse, the promised saviour-King, descended from King David.

(Isaiah 11:1-2)

What does he save us from?

He saves us from the curse of sin and death. He is the Day-spring, he has put death's shadow to flight, like the dawn after a dark night.

(Rom 6:23, Luke 1:78)

But I still see so much darkness in the world, when will it end?

It will end when Jesus comes again to judge and reign. He holds the Key of David and heaven's gates are open to all those who trust in him. Our present sufferings are nothing compared to the glory that will be revealed in us.

(1 Cor 15:23, Rev 3:7, Rom 8:18)

What should we do as we wait for our Immanuel?

We rejoice, for he has saved us!

(Phil 4:4)

1. O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!*

2. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

3. 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.

4. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and
cheer
our spirits by Thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

5. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Latin, 12th cent; tr. by John Mason Neale

1. Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set your people free!
From our fears and sins release us,
Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
Israel's strength and consolation,
born salvation to impart;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born your people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us for ever,
now your gracious kingdom bring.
By your own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit
raise us to your glorious throne

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*Charles Wesley; © in this version Jubilate Hymns
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1. **Once in royal David's city**
stood a lowly cattle-shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable,
and His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, and mean, and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. And through all His wondrous
childhood
He would honour and obey,
love, and watch the lowly mother
in whose gentle arms He lay.
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as He.
4. For He is our childhood's pattern:
day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless;
tears and smiles like us He knew;
and He feeleth for our sadness,
and He shareth in our gladness.
5. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
through His own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and He leads His children on
to the place where He is gone.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see Him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars His children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95

1. **You're the Word of God the Father,**
from before the world began;
every star and every planet
has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
by the power of Your voice:
let the skies declare Your glory,
let the land and seas rejoice!

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man;
and Your cry of love rings out
across the lands.*

2. Yet You left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost,
and exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer You fed the hungry
with a word You stilled the sea;
yet how silently You suffered
that the guilty may go free.
3. With a shout You rose victorious,
wrestling victory from the grave,
and ascended into heaven
leading captives in Your wake.
Now You stand before the Father
interceding for Your own.
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

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