

Devotions for the Advent-Epiphany Season

Year A

Bible texts adapted from the New Revised Standard Version.

Hymns from *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

Prayers are written anagram style.

First letters of each line form a message.

by

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Sunday, November 28

Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Beat their swords into plowshares. Nations shall not learn war any more (v. 4).

Prayer:

Bear with us, O God,
Else how will we ever learn to live
At peace with you and your creation?
Tear open our
Sinful hearts.
Wound us with darts of love until we
Open ourselves to
Receive your
Divine
Salvation.

(into)

Prepare us to receive the
Light of the World.
Open us to your
Wisdom. Create
Shalom in our
Hearts
As we pray to be
Reconciled with the whole
Earth at the coming of our
Savior. Amen

Hymn: "Beyond a dying sun," 323

Monday, November 29

Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Wake from sleep for salvation is nearer (v. 11).

Prayer:

Wonderful Son of God!
Awaken our spirits to
Know you as our
Earthly brother and eternal
Savior!
Accept our
Lowly offerings,
Valueless in comparison to your
All-encompassing gift. We
Tremble in awe at the very
Idea of
One who comes for all
Nations on earth
In order to bring
Salvation to all people.
Now is the time to rejoice!
Eagerly we open our hearts
And receive our
Redeemer and Lord!

Hymn: "From heaven above to earth I come," 205

Tuesday, November 30

Reading: Psalm 122

*Let us go to the house of the Lord. Peace be within you
(vv. 1, 8).*

Prayer:

Precious Lord, whose word is from
Everlasting to everlasting, yet who
Allows even the weakest and humblest to
Come close to your heart,
Enter into us so that we may know your peace.
Walk with us as we come
Into your house.
Take our hands and lead us,
Heavenly Parent,
Immanuel, God with us
Now and forever.
Only you can quiet
Us and calm our
Rebellious lives.
Hear our prayers for
Eternal life with you.
And grace us with
Rest and peace
Through your precious blood.
Save us, O Lord! Amen

Hymn: "There is a place of quiet rest," 5

Wednesday, December 1

Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

Keep awake. Your Lord is coming (v. 42).

Prayer:

Knowing you are coming
Elates my soul,
Energizes my spirit,
Prepares me for the
Angels' songs! My eyes are
Wide open!
And I shall
Kneel before my Lord
Emmanuel!
Love Divine,
Our hearts
Rejoice that you draw near!
Down on our knees we
Come with
Only our lives to offer.
Make of us
Everything you have ordained.
Save us in the day of reckoning. Amen

Hymn: "I know not why God's wondrous grace," 338

Thursday, December 2

Reading: Luke 1:67-80

*The dawn will break upon us, to give light and guide our feet
into the way of peace* (vv. 78-79).

Prayer:

Guide of my life,
Until I learn to walk in your steps
I cannot find peace.
Don't give up on me, Lord.
Eagerly I wait for your
Mercy to shine on
Your servant; that I may see to
Follow your light, wherever it leads:
Even to a manger;
Even to a cross! In you I
Trust.

(in the)

With complete
Acceptance, O
Yahweh, I

(of)

Prepare to give
Everything in
Adoration to Jesus
Christ, my
Eternal Salvation. Amen

Hymn: "Guide my feet," 546

Friday, December 3

Reading: Colossians 1:13-20

Through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, making peace through his cross (v. 19).

Prayer:

Redeemer of the
Earth!
Come into our hearts.
Open us to receive you
Now!
Consider our sins no more.
Instead, teach us to
Love you forever and
Ever!
There is a
Holy place for all your
Redeemed!
Only when your spirit comes
Upon us can we receive
Gifts from your
Hands—hands scarred on a
Cross!
Redemption!
On us let your light
Shine, let your light
Shine. Amen

Hymn: “In the cross of Christ I glory,” 566

Saturday, December 4

Reading: Mark 1:1-8

The good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (vv. 1, 8).

Prayer:

Save us from
Ourselves
Now as we
Offer the ashes of our
Failures to you, our
God. Make
Our hearts altars of
Devotion.
Bring us to an
Awareness of your
Pity for
The sin
In our lives.
Zero in on it. Help us
Experience your
Holy Spirit.
Omniscient presence,
Loving One,
Your grace covers all our
Sinfulness. Wash us.
Purify us
In the water of baptism.
Restore our souls.
Inspire us to live out
Thy will. Amen

Hymn: “Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit,” 28

Sunday, December 5

Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Prepare the way of the Lord. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed (vv. 3, 5).

Prayer:

Prepare us for your coming!
Release our selfish fears and desires.
Enter our hearts.
Prod us into
Action to make
Ready to receive you!
Expectantly let us await
The
Hour of your coming. Let us be
Ever vigilant as we watch and wait.
Love is coming into
Our tattered world! Help us
Receive our King!
Day by day he comes, no
Surprise to those
Whose hearts and minds are
Always ready. To
You, O Lord, we sing our praises! Amen

Hymn: "Open my eyes that I may see," 517

Monday, December 6

Reading: Romans 15:7-13

The root of Jesse shall come. In him the Gentiles shall hope (v. 12).

Prayer:

Jesus, Savior,
Eternal Light!
Shine on all people.
Save us from our sins
Evermore.
Christ reigns
Over us and
Moves in our hearts
Expectantly.
Revealer of
Ultimate reality,
Light up our world
Enveloped in darkness.
Grant your mercy for
Everyone. All
Nations belong
To you. Justice
Is yours.
Love and mercy shall
Envelop us all,
Savior of the World! Amen

Hymn: "All hail the power of Jesus' name," 106

Tuesday, December 7

Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15

We wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home (v. 13).

Prayer:

Now is the time fulfilled.

Earth receives a Savior.

We have seen the coming of

His light.

Early in the morning we sing

Alleluias. The

Vault of heaven rings!

Earth trembles!

Now is the time of salvation.

Now is the time fulfilled . . .

Earth is renewed

With heaven's light.

Early in the morning we sing

Alleluias! Let them

Ring! Praise

The rule of

Heaven and earth forever! Amen

Hymn: "New earth, heavens new," 299

Wednesday, December 8

Reading: Psalm 72:1-8

In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound (v. 7).

Prayer:

Rule our hearts.

Inflame our desires.

Grant us peace.

Hear our prayers of

Thanks for your

Everlasting love.

Only you can

Understand our needs,

Sustain us in our woes, remain

Near us in our trials.

Even as you send your

Son to

Save us,

Fill our hearts with your peace.

Let us live together in righteousness.

Open our minds to

Understand your ways.

Rule our lives.

Impress us with your

Saving

Hands. Amen

Hymn: "Jesus shall reign," 319

Thursday, December 9

Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

Prepare the way of the Lord. Bear fruit worthy of repentance
(vv. 3, 8).

Prayer:

People of God,
Rise up in
Exultation!
Prepare for the
Advent of the Savior!
Repent!
Eternity awaits us!
Time is fleeting.
Hearts open to receive; all of
Earth
Wait for his
Advent.
Yahweh draws near!
Receive God's
Everlasting Gift, all
People of the
Earth.
Nations fall at his coming.
There will be peace forever. Amen

Hymn: "On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry," 183

Friday, December 10

Reading: Luke 1:5-25

He will be great to make ready a people prepared for the Lord
(vv. 15, 17).

Prayer:

Heavens opened
Eternally
When you anointed
Immanuel's prophet.
Live for him and
Love has the final word.
Many came then
And
Kept their vigils,
Ever hoping for
Peace on
Earth.
Oh, how deeply
People
Longed for
Everlasting redemption. Now
Revive us and
Enter our hearts
As we prepare to receive your
Divine Son, O Lord,
Yahweh! Amen

Hymn: "Joy to the world," 318

Saturday, December 11

Reading: Isaiah 51:1-8

My salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended (v. 6).

Prayer:

Stealthily, silently God enters my heart
And I become new!
Lovingly God molds me after divine will,
Values me as an adopted child.
Always I hope to remain
True to my God
In whom I have found salvation.
Only God can save.
Now is the
Day of my joy! I will sing for-
Ever of God's burning
Love for this child. God
Intentionally and freely
Vindicates me. I am for-
Ever free!
Redeem me,
Ancient of Days.
Now I
Come,
Eagerly waiting for the Deliverer! Amen

Hymn: "To God be the glory," 102

Sunday, December 12

Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The ransomed shall return with singing. Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads (v. 10).

Prayer:

Restore us, O God.
Answer our prayers for justice.
Never let us be afraid!
Soon you will come to free us.
Overcome our fears,
Move our hearts to
Enter into your kingdom.
Deliver us. Let us
Sing a new song
In God's house, a song that
Never ends, the song of
God's salvation!
Welcome our Savior, as
Into our lives God comes bringing
Truth and justice. Let us all
Honor the Christ
Jesus who has
Overcome the world!
You shall sing praises forever! Amen

Hymn: "With happy voices singing," 83

Monday, December 13

Reading: James 5:1-10

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near (v. 8).

Prayer:

Sometimes I falter
Tired and weary.
Revive my Spirit,
Eternal One.
Nothing can keep me from my
God, the One who comes down
To live among us.
Heaven has opened
For God's coming.
Open our hearts and minds to
Receive Christ.
Give glory to the
One who is
Divine.
Stop! Our sins are un-
Covered. Our eyes and ears are
Opened.
Make us
Into your image, our
Now and forever
GOD! Amen

Hymn: "God is here among us," 16

Tuesday, December 14

Reading: Psalm 146:5-10

*Happy are those whose help is in God, whose hope is in the
Lord who keeps faith forever, executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry (vv. 5, 7).*

Prayer:

Truly,
Help comes to
Everyone who holds
Fast to the
Almighty,
In whom we can
Trust.
Help comes
From the faithful One, who
Understands our trials, now
Lives with us and
Loves us, who redeems us with
Open arms, a
Revelation to all
Disciples. With an
Open heart, God
Understands and acts to
Redeem us. O
Hope of the World, free us from
Oppression. Bring your
Peace now and
Eternally. Amen

Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," 37

Wednesday, December 15

Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them (v. 5).

Prayer:

“Suffer little children”

Is your

Guidepost, dear One.

Now we have a

Savior

Of all humanity,

Forever and ever!

God

Opens his arms,

Dwells among us, becomes our

Advocate and

Teacher,

Works miracles

On our behalf.

Rise up and praise our

King!

Go tell!

Only Jesus has

Overcome the world! He has

Done great things for us.

Now praise Christ

Ever and always.

We will sing of

Salvation for all creation!

Hymn: “O young and fearless Prophet,” 374

Thursday, December 16

Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16

I myself will search for my sheep. I will strengthen the weak; I will feed them with justice (vv. 11, 16).

Prayer:

Immanuel is our shepherd. He

Will enter

Into our

Lives with

Loving kindness. He will

Feed us the bread of

Everlasting life and

Eternal salvation. Let the

Dance begin!

Many are coming.

Yahweh has

Saved!

Heaven is opened!

Even angels sing for joy,

Ever watching over God’s

People.

(with)

Joyfully

Utter

Songs of praise and

Thanks for God’s

Intercession!

Come,

Everyone, into God’s sheepfold.

Hymn: “Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,” 352

Friday, December 17

Reading: Luke 21:25-36

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory (v. 27).

Prayer:

Savior
Over the world,
Now is the time to
Open our hearts to receive your
Fullest blessings.
Make us
Awake and aware!
Now is the time!
Come and reign
Over us.
Move in our midst.
Infuse us with your Spirit.
Now is the time to
Give us your peace.
Immortal Savior,
Now is the time!
Act through us. Be
Conceived in us. Bring us to the
Light.
Overshadow us
Until we are
Dead to the old and alive in you! Amen

Hymn: “Jesus came—the heavens adoring,” 297

Saturday, December 18

Reading: John 1:14-18

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory (v. 14).

Prayer:

Welcome Savior!
Our hearts
Rejoice! Never
Depart from us.
Be our
Everlasting hope.
Christ has come.
And we are
Made new.
Everyone can be
Friends of God.
Let God’s Son bring
Eternal
Salvation.
Hallelujah!
Songs of joy for the
Everlasting light shine.
Everything has become new.
He is
Immanuel.
Save us, O
God.
Let our lives be
Open to
Reflect the glory of
Yahweh now and evermore. Amen

Hymn: “From heaven above to earth I come,” 205

Sunday, December 19

Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

The Lord himself will give a sign; the young woman shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (v. 14).

Prayer:

Loving God
Of all creation,
Redeem us, we pray.
Don't hold our
Sin against us!
Save us from our
Iniquities.
God, help us!
Never let us go. Send your
Sign of salvation.
Open us to receive Christ's
Nativity.
In Christ you have come to
Make us free from sin.
May we rejoice as the
Angels did on the
Night Christ came
Unto the world to defeat
Evil and show us how to
Live!

Hymn: "O come, O come, Immanuel," 172

Monday, December 20

Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Jesus Christ was declared to be Son of God with power (vv. 1, 4).

Prayer:

Divine
Eternal One who
Cares for us
Lowly, meek sinners; who
Acts on our behalf; who is
Ready to give up
Everything for our
Deliverance; O divine
Perfection,
Overarching
Word of God,
Eternal Savior,
Redeem us!
Forgive us through your
Understanding
Love.
Savior!
Omnipotent One!
Now we bring
Our whole beings to you.
Forgive our sin,
Grant us grace, help us
Overcome the world that we may
Dwell with you forever. Amen

Hymn: "Fairest Lord Jesus," 117

Tuesday, December 21

Reading: Psalm 24

Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of hosts . . . (v. 10).

Prayer:

Look! God comes.
Open the door. Make
Room in your heart.
Declare
 (of)
Heaven's descent
On earth.
Sing praises in God's
Temple.
Show honor to the King of Glory.
Kings come and go. Only
Immanuel reigns forever.
Now fall on your knees.
Give him your full homage.
Open your hearts and be
Filled with his presence.
God has come, even to the
Lowliest among us. Let us
Obey God forever. The Lord
Reigns in heaven and on earth.
Yahweh is the King of Glory! Amen

Hymn: "Fling wide the door, unbar the gate!" 186

Wednesday, December 22

Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

They shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us"
(v. 23).

Prayer:

Give Christ the treasures
Of your heart.
Dance for joy! God is
With us now and always!
Into our midst God brings
Tidings of joy!
Heaven's gates have opened.
Unto us a
Son is given.
Follow him
Over the world.
Receive him into your
Earthly home. He will
Vindicate us
Eternally. He will
Redeem us.
 (and)
And we will be
Lifted up
With him
As he brings us to
Yahweh's house of
Salvation. Amen

Hymn: "Hark! the herald angels sing," 201

Thursday, December 23

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

A child has been born for us: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (v. 6).

Prayer:

Will you come to us today, dear God?
Own us to yourself!
Never give up on us sinners.
Deliver us from all our
Evil thoughts and actions.
Renew our
Faith in your promises. Hold
Us up to your
Light so that we may see the face of
Christ who comes!
Overcome our reluctance to
Understand your will.
Now infuse us with your
Spirit. Our very
Existence is in your hands, O
Lord,
Our Strength and
Redeemer!
(Prince of)
Plant in us the
Eternal hope of
Acting as little
Christ.
Engage us in your work of peace. Amen

Hymn: "To us a Child of hope is born," 189

Friday, December 24

Reading: Ezekiel 34:17-31

I will set up over them one shepherd. My servant shall feed them and be their shepherd (v. 23).

Prayer:

Once we claimed
Not to have known you. The
Enemy sneaked in among us, and
Stalked us.
Help came in the
Event of the birth of your
Perfect Son.
He became our
Everlasting Shepherd,
Redeeming us from
Darkness. We shall
Fall on our knees and
Open our hearts to
Receive God's bounty. We
Accept your grace, mercy, and
Loving kindnesses.
Let your Shepherd guide us forever!
Shepherd,
Hear our cries.
Eagerly we cry for sustenance.
Earnestly we plead for
Protection from all evil. Good Shepherd, hear us! Amen

Hymn: "Savior, like a shepherd lead us," 355

Saturday, December 25

Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. The Lord is near and the God of peace will be with you (vv. 4, 9).

Prayer:

Rivers of joy
Engulf our hearts as
Jesus comes!
Only God can bring
Infinite and abiding
Calm.
Even when we meet
Adversity, God's
Love
Will bear us up
And help us feel
Yahweh's sacrificial gift like
Sunshine in our lives.
(in the)
Lift up our hearts,
O God. Let us
Rejoice in your
Divine presence among us.
(The peace of God be with us). Amen

Hymn: "It came upon the midnight clear," 195

Sunday, December 26

Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

He became their savior in all their distress. His presence saved them, his pity redeemed them (v. 8-9).

Prayer:

Shall we sing your praises?
Alleluias ring out!
Verses of song burst from our lips.
Into worship we go,
Our voices lifted to glorify our
Redeemer! The
Lord has become
Our salvation.
Vindicate us, O God.
Eagerly we await your
Epiphany. We
Trust you to bring us
Everlasting salvation.
Restoring our hope in your
Never-ending grace
And mercy, we
Love you with our whole hearts.
Put your arms around us like
Infants who need
Tender loving care. We
Yearn for your compassion. Then
Use us to share in your work of
Salvation! Amen

Hymn: "For God so loved us," 167

Monday, December 27

Reading: Hebrews 2:10-18

[Jesus] had to become like us and to be a merciful and faithful high priest, to make a sacrifice of atonement (v. 17).

Prayer:

Mighty Holy One, we cannot
Enter your presence unless we
Repent and
Call upon the name of
Immanuel—God with us—
Full of glory,
Under whose priesthood
Let us be cleansed of our guilt.
Faithful God,
Always you are with us
In our
Trials and temptations.
Help us to give ourselves to you.
Find in us some seeds of faith
Until we come to the
Last day.
Help us to pray for ourselves and others.
Include us in your
Great work of
Healing humankind.
Prepare us for your
Righteous priest whose
Indignities and suffering set us free
Eternally. He who rose from death to
Save us now sits on the
Throne before us. We adore and praise him. Amen

Hymn: “Joy to the world,” 318

Tuesday, December 28

Reading: Psalm 111

The Lord is gracious and merciful. He sent redemption; he has commanded his covenant forever (vv. 4, 9).

Prayer:

Marvelous are your ways, O God!
Even your lowly servant cannot
Remember all you have done for your
Children. You show us
Infinite mercy. You are
Full of grace and justice.
Unless we stand in wonder,
Lord, we cannot know you.
(and)
God, you
Remain trustworthy in
All your ways.
Covenant with us! Do not
Ignore our cries.
Open our eyes and
Unite us with our
Salvation.
Reconcile all things in heaven and
Earth. Do you
Dare us to believe!
Eternal and
Everlasting
Maker of all life,
Enter our hearts that we may be
Reborn in your image. Amen

Hymn: “Sing praise to God who reigns,” 59

Wednesday, December 29

Reading: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Out of Egypt I have called my son. He will be called a Nazorean
(vv. 5, 23).

Prayer:

Once you had no place to lay your head.
Under foreign skies you
Treked.
Only God went with you. We often
Forget that you were a refugee in
Egypt until
God sent you back to
Your parents' home to bring
Peace and
To share God's own self with us.
(he became a)
Loving us so much
Our God sent you as a baby.
We welcome you!
Let us lift up our heads and receive
You as our savior.
Never has there been such
An event in history! Like
Zacharias we scarcely believe.
Open our eyes. Let us
Receive God's son.
Even now Jesus comes
Again and again to us who
Now receive him. Amen

Hymn: "I stand amazed in the presence," 528

Thursday, December 30

Reading: John 3:1-8

*No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of
water and Spirit* (v. 5).

Prayer:

Become
One with the
Revelation of Christ's
News.
(of)
We wait for your salvation with
Anticipation.
The
Eternal
Redeemer
(and)
Silently comes. Our
Pulses beat
In time to the Spirit who is
Revealed to us
In the water of baptism.
Trusting him we
(for)
Know that
Infinite joy of
Nearing
God's presence,
Doubting no longer that
Our
Messiah lives in us. Amen

Hymn: "Savior of my soul," 549

Friday, December 31

Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

We, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory (v. 12).

Prayer:

Send us out
As sisters and brothers,
Knit together into one family on
Earth.

(of)

Join us together in
Everlasting love.
Show
Us how to
Serve one another.
Let us together and
Individually
Venture into the presence of the
Everlasting King.

(to)

Praising him and
Returning his love
As we
Intercede for all
Sisters and brothers on
Earth in need of

(his)

God's compassion.
Lord,
Open us to
Receive
Your good news! Amen

Hymn: "Blessed Savior, we adore thee," 107

Saturday, January 1

Reading: Colossians 1:15-23

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things (vv. 15, 20).

Prayer:

Reveal yourself to us,
Emmanuel.
Come,
O come.
Now is the time! Our
Creator has chosen to reveal himself as an
Infant, born so
Lowly and humbly. Yet you
Exist for the world's
Redemption.

(of)

All creation now
Lauds your holy name with
Loud songs of joy.
Come as God's
Revelation, let the
Earth cry out. Let
All people
Thank God for such
Infinite mercy.
Openly proclaim our Prince of Peace
Now and forever. Amen

Hymn: "Christ who left his home in glory," 283

Sunday, January 2

Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

The Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you (v. 2).

Prayer:

Longingly we wait for you to
Open our hearts to
Receive your word.
Deliver us from our
Sins.
Give us your
Living presence
Over our lives.
Receive our praise,
Yahweh!
As we prepare to
Press forward,
Promise to
Energize us.
Allow us to
Reflect your
Son in all glory!
Finally, may your light shine
On us, your
Redeemed. We are now
United to the
Son of Glory! Amen

Hymn: “Christ, whose glory fills the skies,” 216

Monday, January 3

Reading: Psalm 72:1-14

He delivers the needy when they call (v. 12).

Prayer:

Dearest Savior.
Eagerly we wait, with
Longing we yearn for deliverance.
Invite us to your table.
Vindicate us.
Ease our pain and
Raise us up to
Eternal life, O
Redeemer God.
(of)
Naked we bow,
Ever in need of
Everlasting forgiveness.
Daily let us come into
Your presence with our supplications.
Pour out your Spirit upon the
Earth that all may be
Offered salvation. May all
People be restored by your
Loving gift of
Eternal life. Amen

Hymn: “Crown him with many crowns,” 116

Tuesday, January 4

Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus (v. 6).

Prayer:

God, we are not always
Eager to share the good
News with
Those who are different from us.
Inside, we
Like to think
Everyone else is not the
Same in your eyes.
(too, are)
Help us learn that there are no
Exceptions
In your eyes. We all need your
Redemption. Your
Son came in
(of the)
Person to
Reconcile all creation.
Only our hard hearts
Make us miss
It, the promise.
Stir us. Ready us to receive the promise made to
Every living being. Amen

Hymn: "In Christ there is no East or West," 306

Wednesday, January 5

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? We have come to pay him homage (v. 2).

Prayer:

We, like the wise men
Of old,
Remember to follow the
Star. We
Have found
Immanuel,
Prince of Peace.
King Jesus,
Infinitely wise,
Noble and
Good, reign
Over us.
Fashion our lives
To follow your own.
Help us to live
Earnestly as your disciples.
Join us into one great
Empire of love, joy, and peace.
With you as our
Savior, we shall live forever! Amen

Hymn: "As with gladness men of old," 218

Thursday, January 6

Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, my chosen, in whom my soul delights. He will bring forth justice to the nations (v. 1).

Prayer:

Can I become like you, Jesus?
Having made
Obedience to God and
Serving others the goal of your life, you
Entered your work and
Never looked back.
Serving all whom you met,
Engaging everyone's attention, you
Revived a jaded world. You
Valued each human being
And fed the hungry.
Now call us to our
Tasks of servanthood.

(of)

Jesus, keep
Us under your care as we
Struggle to
Take up our crosses and follow
In your steps. If we remain faithful, you
Call us to our
Eternal reward. Amen

Hymn: "O Master, let me walk with thee," 357

Friday, January 7

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

We give thanks, remembering your work of faith and labor of love. We are imitators of the Lord (vv. 2-3, 6).

Prayer

When we are
Open to
Receive
Kinship with Christ, our
Faith will
Allow us to
Imitate his
Truth and
Holiness. We can then
Love
Others as ourselves and
Value all creatures on
Earth.

(and)

Indeed we
Must
Imitate
The Master
And only
Then can we
Expect

(the)

Love of God to reign
Over us as
Revealed by God's
Divine hand. Amen

Hymn: "Lord, speak to me," 499

Saturday, January 8

Reading: 1 Peter 2:1-10

Christ has become “a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame” (v. 6).

Prayer:

Christmas lives in our hearts.
Heaven’s gates have opened wide,
Revealing our
Immanuel, God with us!
Stars still shine.
The angels sing their praises.
Our hope is renewed! Let
Us
Remember and give thanks always.
Christ has become our foundation.
Our lives are secure upon the
Rock. We
Need never be afraid again.
Earnestly let us pray to
Remain upright and
Strong. Help us be
True to the
One who upholds us.
Now we praise the Lord
Emmanuel, God with us, forever. Amen

Hymn: “How firm a foundation,” 567