

ADVENT 2020 REFLECTION – WEEK 2



A - **awaiting** the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ, both past and future.

D - **darkness** will never overcome the light of the Lord.

V - **voices** raised to him in praise.

E - **Emmanuel** 'God with us'.

N - **nativity** preparations as we await his birth.

T - **true** meaning of Christmas-the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome to this Advent time of reflections, to spend a short time each week to relax, refresh and to put the true meaning of Christ into Christmas. The word advent means coming or arrival, a time to reflect on the preparing for the birth of our saviour, and a time of preparation for his return to earth. A time of hope, that will bring peace, justice, and righteousness to our world.

HARK! A HERALD VOICE IS CALLING:
CHRIST IS NIGH! IT SEEMS TO SAY;
LIGHT A CANDLE, FOR THE NATION,
ON THIS JOYFUL ADVENT DAY.

If you feel that you would like to light a candle, for this time of reflection, let's start by doing so now.

We now read ISAIAH 40 v 3 -5.

A voice of one calling:

In the desert prepare, the way, for the Lord;
make straight in the wilderness, a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill laid low;
the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all mankind together will see it,
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken".

Let us pray.

We thank you Lord for this special season of Advent, as we begin to think of our preparations we remember what you prepared for this world, the one thing we all need, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, the greatest Christmas present we can ever have received. Amen.

Reflection Time.

What do I really need this Christmas?

What would I have given to Jesus?

Our second reading. ISAIAH 9.v2 & verses 6&7.

The people walking in darkness, have seen a great light;
on those living in a land of deep darkness, a light has dawned.
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called, Wonderful counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting father, Prince of peace.
Of the increase of his government and peace, there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it, with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord almighty will accomplish this.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus. St John's College Choir Cambridge.

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/JEE0uWnDGs> (skip any ads that appear)

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 thine own eternal spirit
Rule in our hearts alone
By thy own sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Reflection.

The opening words of this hymn to me are looking forward and back.

I think from Genesis 3 onwards that one will come to overcome Satan, and to save us from our sins. The birth of Jesus brings forth hope for the future, to a time when Jesus comes again. This is the same hope that Charles Wesley had when he wrote this hymn, as we have today, as we reflect on these words I think it takes us away from the madness of our retail commercial Christmas preparations, that we find our world in today. So Lord as we journey through this Advent time help us to slow down, and to make more time for you. Let us reflect on the reason you came into our world, and enjoy the hope, peace, and love that you have brought into it, through your birth.

Let us pray.

Lord give hope to the desperate, and all those less fortunate than ourselves, help us to be more compassionate to those we meet in our daily lives, and those who are in need in any way. Amen.

Reflection time.

How can we help someone in need of hope this Advent?

Our third reading is from John 3 v16-19.

For God so loved the world he gave his one and only son, that who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only son.

Reflection.

Lord we thank you that you so loved the world that you sent us your one and only son, to be amongst us, to talk and listen to us, and to see your miracles, so as we move through Advent to the time we celebrate his birth we pray that our world becomes aware that GOD IS EVERYWHERE.

Let us pray

Lord Jesus we pray for all those who feel unloved, those who feel that no one listens to them, those who are missing loved ones especially at this time of the year. Lord give hope to the desperate. Love to the suffering, and peace to the troubled. Amen.

Reflection time.

What comfort can we give to someone who we know in need of God's Love this Advent?

Our second Hymn O come O come Emmanuel

YouTube link: https://youtu.be/2JpvW9FU_Rg (skip any ads that appear)

Closing prayer.

Lord touch the lives of all those who have read and listen to these reflections, through the power of the Holy Spirit, prepare our hearts and minds for your second coming, when you will make right all that is wrong in our world. Amen.

