



5th December 2024

3. O come Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go
4. O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's
peace

CCLI Song # 31982, John Mason Neale |
Thomas Helmore © Public Domain

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM SANTA

https://youtu.be/e4qpm9_MWVw

PRAYER IN HONOUR OF THE LEGACY ST NICHOLAS

Loving God, we thank you for the example of your friend and follower St. Nicholas who fed the hungry, brought hope to many people in prison, who gave comfort to the lost, and taught the truth to all. May we also try as much as we can to imitate St Nicholas and many others like him who have shared their time, talents and treasures with individuals, families and communities around them.

Loving Father, we thank you for all our leaders, family and friends who love and care for us everyday and who put our own needs before their own, and certainly before their own fears. We are grateful for the courage of people like St Nicholas, a lover of Christ and for everyone around us who demonstrates their love and care for children and people in need.

As a community of parents, grandparents, carers, teachers, community workers, leaders, neighbours and friends, we ask that you help us to take good care of all our young people, to protect and guide them, and to keep them safe.

Help us to be open to all that young people can teach us about pure joy and unconditional love. Keep us mindful of the needs of others and to reach out with love and generosity as St Nicholas, Mother Teresa of Calcutta and many other known or little-known heroes of our time have done. This we ask in the name of Jesus, Amen.

BIBLE READING: Hear God's promise of peace from the book of Prophet Isaiah (11:1-5,10)

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord — and He will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears

(LIVE AND ZOOM SERVICE) RECEIVING GIFTS AND LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE

Today, as we light the second candle during this season of advent, we hear the glad sounds around us of people preparing for the coming of Jesus. We thank you, Jesus, for coming each year in a special way.

We light this candle in hope (light the first candle). We light this candle for peace (light the second candle).

Now, Peace is the candle, its elusive flame, some search for relentlessly; striving in vain. In quiet reflection, considering God's grace, then those ever thankful shall surely find Peace. Light of darkness, Peace is to come, for God will send his Son. Peace everlasting when he shall come down, the long awaited One.

PRAYER

Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

HYMN (ZOOM SERVICE): O COME O COME EMMANUEL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UH7asSGxAxA>

HYMN (GATHERED/LIVE SERVICE): O COME O COME EMMANUEL

1. O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Chorus

Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

2. 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

with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist... In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

REFLECTION

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

Look, listen, wait, get ready –
for I bring you a hand-full of stories,
of angels and messages, of Elizabeth and Mary,
of dreams and visions. God of my looking,
help me look well for Your coming.

Look, listen, wait, get ready –
for I bring you a box-full of stories,
of lights and darkness, of lamps and pathways,
of stars and stables. God of my listening,
help me to listen well for Your coming.

Look, listen, wait, get ready –
for I bring you a cart-full of stories,
of gifts and travellers, of donkeys and camels,
of preciousness and anticipation.
God of my waiting, help me to wait well for Your coming.

Look, listen, wait, get ready –
for I bring you a Life full of stories,
of mangers and babies, of shepherds and kings,
of a Saviour and Christmas. God of my readiness,
help me to be ready for Your coming.

(By Tom Gordon, from "A Blessing to Follow", Wild Goose Publications, www.ionabooks.com)

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Sue Cooper/CAFOD

God of Salvation,
As we journey together during this time of waiting, Move us from:

- lives of greed and selfishness, from a globalised world of inequality and exploitation,
- to your Kingdom of righteousness and mercy and to a transformed world – where:
- peace is built on understanding not weapons
- where poor are empowered to live their lives to the full
- where businesses are built on need not greed
- and where your Creation is nurtured not abused.

Maranatha! Open our eyes to the dignity of all people and our ears to the cries of the earth.

Maranatha! Let us walk in solidarity with the poor and cleanse our world from oppression.

Maranatha! Let us shout out for justice for all and renew our hope for change.

Maranatha! The Lord is coming
Let us share the Good News! Amen.

HYMN (ZOOM SERVICE) LO, HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlszhvHjBxQ>

HYMN (GATHERED/LIVE SERVICE)

"BEHOLD," SAID GOD, "I'M SENDING ONE"

A hymn for the Second Sunday of Advent

WINCHESTER OLD ("While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks")

"Behold," said God, "I'm sending one
who shall prepare my way.
My messenger will make me known,
But who can bear that day?"

For when he comes, old ways will die;
We'll change what we have been.
Like fire or soap he'll purify
And cleanse us from our sin.

We wonder, Lord: what needs to change?
What sins do we hold dear?
What values should we rearrange?
What judgments should we hear?

May we be open to the ways
You cleanse and make us new;
And may we in these Advent days
Be glad to welcome you.

Tune: George Kirbye, in Thomas Este's Whole Book of Psalms, 1592 ("While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks") Text: Copyright © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

CLOSING PRAYER/ SENDING

ALL: God is working. Let us be ready for God's Love
Christ is coming. Let us be ready for His Peace.
The Spirit is with us. Let us be ready for transformation.

And may the Blessing of God the worker, Christ the redeemer, and the Spirit the sanctifier, rest upon us, and all those we love, today, through this Advent,
and every day beyond.

(We sing together) Amen

HYMN AFTER THE GATHERED/LIVE SERVICE:

HYMN (ZOOM SERVICE) LO, HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlszhvHjBxQ>