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# ADVENT DEVOTIONAL 2018

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## HYMNS OF ANTICIPATION BY REV KAURY EDWARDS

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

### **Come, Though Long-Expected Jesus**

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.

- UM Hymnal 196

Today, we begin to recognize and even admit to ourselves that in the midst of our lives we yearn for God to break into our day to day routines. We are awakened to that fact that God is needed. That the lives we are living are full of fear, doubt, and insecurities. Even when we put on our happy face we are empty without God. Today, we start the preparation of the coming of the king when God will set us free and release us from our fears and sins.

### **Prayer of the week**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018

Psalm 90; Numbers 17:1-11; 2 Peter 3:1-18

**Come, Though Long-Expected Jesus**

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 all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

- UM Hymnal 196

As we prepare, we also wait. Waiting is hard for us because we need everything now. From food to entertainment and even to friendships, we expect instantaneous results. The Kingdom of God is coming, and we do not know the time or the hour. This makes it hard, but if we allow Christ to reign in us a single day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a single day.

**Prayer of the week**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018

Psalm 90; 2 Samuel 7:18-29; Revelation 22:12-16

**Tell Out, My Soul**

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;

Tender to me the promise of His Word;  
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.  
- UM Hymnal 200

One of the feelings that we encounter when we wait and prepare for something wonderful is to miss the blessings in the anticipation. The Lord has blessed us in more ways than we can number. Our eyes are not big enough to see all God has done, is doing, and will do for us. Today, let us keep watch and tell it out all the blessings the Lord has given us.

### **Prayer of the week**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018

Psalm 90; Isaiah 1:24-31; Luke 11:29-32

### **Tell Out, My Soul**

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.  
- UM Hymnal 200

Sometimes in the weight of life, I ponder about all of the things that have come against me. In those low times, I need to remember that God will redeem me with the justice found in Jesus Christ. And do you know who is to come? Who we are preparing for?

### **Prayer of the week**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son, Jesus Christ,

came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018

Psalm 25:1-10 Nehemiah 9:26-31 Luke 21:20-24

### **Come Out de Wilderness**

Tell me, how did you feel when you come,  
come out the wilderness, come out the wilderness.

Tell me, how did you feel when you come,  
come out the wilderness, leaning on the Lord.

I am leaning on the Lord,

I am leaning on his word.

I am leaning on the Lord who died on Calvary.

- Song of Zion 136

We are now five days into our time of preparation. Are you tired yet? You may even have begun to be distracted by all the hustle and bustle of the season and found yourself feeling like you are lost in the wilderness of the world. Know that this is the season we are reminded that our God is coming to lead us out of the wilderness and to make his way know and his justice experienced.

### **Prayer of the week**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018

Luke 1:68-79; Malachi 3:13-18; Philippians 1:18b-26

**I've been 'buked**

I've been 'buked an' I've been scorned, children  
Dere is trouble all over dis worl',  
I've been talked about, sho's you're born,  
Ain' gwine lay my 'ligion down.  
- Song of Zion 143

The Christian journey is not all roses. There are also thorns. There are times you might say, "I've been 'buked an' I've been scorned." Advent is not just a time of the coming of God. It is a time of judgment, something not often talked about in church, a time of searching and penance. Grace is so much more popular, yet there is a time when scorning happens, and trouble terrorizes. Advent is a time recognizing the scorn and realizing that even still, God's grace prevails.

**Prayer of the week**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018

Luke 1:68-79; Malachi 4:1-6; Luke 9:1-6

**People, Look East**

People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.  
- UM Hymnal 202

Yesterday, we discussed the scorn and troubles that we experience along the way of our Christian journey. Today, we are given the beautiful reminder that in the journey, we must remember that the great healer is coming. This great healer will rescue us from the scorn and troubles we have experienced along the way and we will be healed.

### **Prayer of the week**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018

Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

### **Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus**

Ye who own the faith of Jesus  
sing the wonders that were done,  
when the love of God the Father  
o'er our sin the victory won,  
when he made the Virgin Mary  
Mother of his only Son.

- UM Hymnal 197

As we begin the second week of Advent, we are called to remember that prophecies of the Messiah. We remember that faith in Jesus is dependent on not only who he was, but what Jesus fulfilled. It is a time to remember that God's victory over sin was predicted and that the promises of God, fulfilled in Jesus, are still be kept and fulfilled today.

### **Prayer of the week**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers, the prophets, to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,

that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018

Psalm 126; Isaiah 40:1-11; Romans 8:22-25

**My Soul Gives Glory to My God**

My soul gives glory to my God.

My heart pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness

In many marvelous ways.

- UM Hymnal 198

Sometimes in the midst of the Advent rush, I become lost. I lose myself in all of the to-do lists and the business of all the extra events. During these times, I can often become melancholy and depressed. Today is a reminder that God has come to fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with joy. Advent is about moving our focus back to God's promises being fulfilled.

**Prayer of the week**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:

Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,

that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our

Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy

Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2018

Psalm 126; Isaiah 19:18-25; 2 Peter 1:2-15

### **I'm Gonna Sing**

I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says a-sing,  
I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says a-shout,  
I'm goin'a preach when the Spirit says a-preach,  
I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says a-pray,  
I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says a-sing,  
and obey the spirit of the Lord.

- Song of Zion 81

Following the one who has given us everything can be hard when we are surrounded by the brokenness of the world. The scriptures remind us of the abundant grace and peace of God. Faith in that abundance produces goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, mutual affection, and love. Doesn't that make you want to sing, shout, preach, and pray out loud about the abundance God has promised?

### **Prayer of the week**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018

Psalm 126; Isaiah 35:3-7; Luke 7:18-30

### **Glory, Glory, Hallelujah**

Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
Since I laid my burdens down!  
I feel better, so much better  
Since I laid my burdens down!  
Feel like shouting "Hallelujah!"  
Since I laid my burden down!  
I am climbing Jacob's ladder



Since I laid my burden down!  
Ev'ry round goes higher and higher  
Since I laid my burden down!  
- Song of Zion 98

Sometimes life is up. Sometimes life is down. There is joy and there is sorrow and sometimes they are interwoven as part of human history. One cannot ignore present suffering on a hospital bed or the celebrations of a new birth. Intermixed with our cries of desperation and sorrow are outbursts of praise and joy. Today, may your outbursts be ones of praise and joy.

### **Prayer of the week**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018

Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 6:1-8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

### **Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains,  
shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains,  
from hill to valley flow.  
- UM Hymnal 203

Did you know that He is coming?! The one to bring love, joy, and hope. The Messiah is come to save us from the darkness of the world. Today, we are

reminded that we are tasked with the duty of making known his deeds among the nations. We are called to proclaim that his name is exalted over all others and that the Messiah is coming to set us free.

### **Prayer of the week**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018

Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 8:4-12; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

### **The King of Glory Comes**

The king of glory comes,  
The nation rejoices  
Open the gates before him,  
Lift up your voices.  
Who is the king of glory,  
How shall we call him?  
He is Emmanuel, the promise of ages.

- The Faith We Sing 2091

As Christmas approaches, sometimes we become so distracted with the stuff that we lose sight of our call to radiate Christ. Today, we are reminded that we need to bountifully sow the seeds of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If we sow big, we receive big blessing of those fruits back in the harvest.

### **Prayer of the week**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy

Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018

Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 9:8-15; Luke 1:57-66

### **Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice**

Wild and lone the prophet's voice  
Echoes through the desert still,  
Calling us to make a choice,  
Bidding us to do God's will:  
"Turn from sin and be baptized;  
Cleanse your heart and mind and soul.  
Quitting all the sins you prized,  
Yield your life to God's control.

- The Faith We Sing 2089

When God speaks, powerful things happen. We see this in creation where God spoke creation into being. We see it in the burning bush. We also see it in the way God used the prophets to not only tell of what God was about to do, but to also speak truth and, many times, warning about things that the people of that time were engaged. God comes to us each advent to warn us that Christ is coming again and that we must die to the world and awaken to now, life in the light of Christ. What are things God is nudging you to die to this advent season?

### **Prayer of the week**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

**Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice**

With such preaching stark and bold  
John proclaimed salvation near,  
And his timeless warnings hold  
Words of hope to all who hear.  
So we dare to journey on,  
Led by faith through ways untrod,  
Till we come at last like John  
To behold the Lamb of God.

- The Faith We Sing 2089

Are you still there? Are you listening? Are you keeping watch? In the midst of Advent, we have the opportunity to have the Holy Spirit prompt us with these questions. We are awakened from our slumber and the numbness of everyday life. Where are the prophets calling you to wake up? What ways have you missed the areas where Jesus is moving? Wipe the sleep away and rise to a new awareness of God's movement through, with, and in your life today.

**Prayer of the week**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018

Isaiah 11:1-9; Numbers 16:1-19; Hebrews 13:7-17

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,  
unto your own and rescue them!  
From depths of hell your people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.  
- UM Hymnal 211

Today, we are reminded that all of the pain, sorrow, and anguish of the world and even in our own lives are not eternal. They will fade away. The biblical passages remind us that there is freedom that awaits the children of God. Along the way, we might have to climb mountains, wonder through the desert, and even tempted to wonder astray by glamorous lures of false teachings. If we can hold on a little longer, the one who comes from the branch of Jesse's stem will save us!

### **Prayer of the week**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018

Isaiah 11:1-9; Numbers 16:20-35; Acts 28:23-31

### **I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.  
- UM Hymnal 206

The Advent season give us the time and space to reflect on our lives in light of the coming God. God is love, but God is also loving judge, loving justice. Throughout scripture, we hear a lot about being holy or set apart, which is where

we get the we get the word sanctification. What areas of your life is looking too much like the world? Today, allow God to move into those places to set them apart.

### **Prayer of the week**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018

Isaiah 11:1-9; Micah 4:8-13; Luke 7:31-35

### **Prepare the Way of the Lord**

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the  
salvation of our God.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

- UM Hymnal 207

In the context of fear and not knowing when you would be stolen way to meet your death, you might be leery to open your door to just anyone. The scriptures today remind us that our time and hour, when we pass on to glory, could be at any moment. It also reminds us that the one who is knocking at the door might be a person needing the encouragement of Christ or it might even be Christ himself. When Paul opens the door, he expects Christ. Who is knocking on your door and are you willing to answer?

### **Prayer of the week**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver

us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018

Psalm 80:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 10:10-18

**Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light**

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light,  
and usher in the morning;  
O shepherds, shrink not with affright,  
but hear the angel's warning.  
This Child, now weak in infancy,  
our confidence and joy shall be;  
the pow'r of Satan breaking,  
our peace eternal making.

- UM Hymnal 223

Not everyone who is lost what's to be found, even when they have lost who they are at their core? They have never experienced the light, so they have no knowledge of their need for it. The good shepherd slowly invites the lost sheep into the light and then into the fold. What areas in your life do not want to be found? Let the good shepherd in and step out in the beauteous heav'nly light.

**Prayer of the week**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2018

Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 42:10-18; Hebrews 10:32-39

**Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light**

My God is so high  
You can't get over Him;  
My God is so wide  
You can't get around Him;  
My God is so low  
You can't get under Him,  
You mus' go through the door.  
One day as I was walking along the heavenly road  
My Savior spoke unto me, An' He fill' my heart with love.  
- Song of Zion 105

How big is your God? Does God fit into your thinking and tradition and your desires? Or is God larger than you can even imagine? It is so easy to slot God into our political, theological, and economical camps, making God into our limited image with our limited understanding, and thus limiting God. But God and God's resources are limitless. This is the God who comes.

**Prayer of the week**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2018

Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 66:7-11; Luke 13:31-35

**Like a Child**

Like a child we will meet,  
ragged clothes dirty feet  
like a child on the street,  
Jesus comes like a child



we once knew coming back  
into view, like a child  
born anew, Jesus Comes.  
- The Faith We Sing 2092

As we are reaching the end of Advent, have you missed the opportunity to share God's blessings with someone in need? If so, you might have missed the meaning of Advent. It is not just a time to be reminded of peace, hope, joy, and love, but to be shared with someone who needs it in their lives. It is not too late! Join with me today to be an image of God's peace, hope, joy, and love in the lives of people you come in contact with today.

### **Prayer of the week**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018

Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

### **Love Divine, All Love Excelling**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
fix in us Thy humble dwelling;  
all Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion;  
pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
visit us with Thy salvation;  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.  
- UM Hymnal 384

I am always struck by the fact that God chose to enter the world through the weak line of Judah, in the forgotten little towns of Bethlehem and Nazareth. God continues to move in these mysterious ways. God moves through the

ordinary and makes it extraordinary, the weak and makes it strong, the forgotten and makes it unforgettable, and the small and makes it big. What are the things in your life that you are hoping God mysteriously transforms this advent?

### **Prayer of the week**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son, Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

### **Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"  
- UM Hymnal 240

In those days, Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

### **Prayer for the Day**

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

### **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of Angels!  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

- UM Hymnal 240

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.”

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,  
because from you will come one who governs,  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

### **Prayer for the Day**

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

