

## “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Charles Wesley st. 1,4; Mark E. Hunt st. 2-3 / Rowland Hugh Pritchard

### History

The text of this carol is a good example of how to effectively build on a Christmas tradition. The first and last verses of this song were written by Charles Wesley and first published in 1744. Charles, who with his famous brother John was a founder of the Methodist movement, was a prolific writer of hymn texts, probably composing most of them as part of his daily devotions, along with reading scripture and prayer. By Charles' death in 1788, he had authored more than 6,500 hymns and by so doing added a new chapter to the development of the history of English hymn singing. This particular carol for the advent season, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus,” is one of his most famous and best-loved works.

So how does one improve on a Christmas classic? Mark Hunt, an editor of some of Intervarsity Christian Fellowship's songbooks, added a couple of verses to this well-known song in 1978. One of the ways that Hunt effectively blends his verses with those of Wesley is by continuing the theme of Jesus as our promised deliverer in the beginning of verses two and three (“Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear” [vs 2]; “Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end” [vs3]). Sing and give thanks to our Deliverer!

### Words

1. 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 ev'ry nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

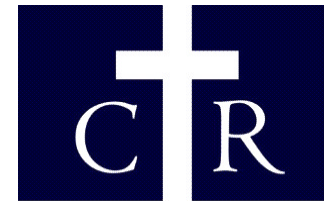
2. Joy to those who long to see thee,  
Dayspring from on high, appear;  
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,  
Of thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing  
News, glad tidings of a birth:  
“Go to him, your praises bringing;  
Christ the Lord has come to earth.”

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end;  
By his life he brings us gladness,  
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
Born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of All.

4. 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.

# Taking Gathered Worship

## Home



CHRIST *the*  
REDEEMER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Family and Individual Devotions

Week of December 10, 2006

Meditations in Deuteronomy

Second Week of Advent

*Holy People*

Treasured Possession

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## Advent Wreath Litany

### The Slavery Candle

**Leader:** Why do we light the Advent candles?

**Family:** Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."

**Leader:** What is the meaning of the second lighted candle?

**Family:** The second lighted candle represents the slavery of God's people in Egypt.

**Leader:** How did God's people become slaves in Egypt?

**Family:** After Jacob and his sons died, a new king of Egypt became afraid of Jacob's family because they had become so numerous. So he put slave masters over them and made their lives bitter with hard labor in brick and mortar and all kinds of work in the field.

**Leader:** According to the Gospels, how are we considered slaves today?

**Family:** According to the Gospels, all who sin are to be considered slaves to sin. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." (John 8:34)

**Read aloud** the history of the Christmas carol "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" on the back and sing it together as a family.

#### Closing prayer to be read in unison:

Great God and deliverer, open our minds to see our bondage to the flesh, the world and the devil. Forgive us for making careers, relationships and other things the rulers of our affections. Set us free from our fears and sins that you may be the true desire of our longing hearts. We look forward to your return, Blessed Messiah, when you will rule supreme in all our hearts as you raise us to your glorious throne. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

*Please read the litany above each day. Then use the devotional material below on the appropriate day to meet with Jesus. Please pray that we as a community of faith will learn His ways and walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

**Sunday, 12/10** Read today's passage, **Deuteronomy 31:1-8**, and consider how the Lord goes with His people into the land.

**Meditate** on God's faithfulness to do all that He has said He will do.

**Pray** for our community of faith at CTR to be strong and courageous. Ask Him to give us boldness as we realize that He will never leave nor forsake us.

**Monday, 12/11** Read **Deuteronomy 3:21-29**. How does God's replacement of Moses with Joshua point us to Christ?

**Recite** the Shema (Deut. 6:4-9) and listen intently to the Lord who is One.

**Pray** for wisdom that we might rightly apply God's truth in our daily lives.

**Tuesday, 12/12**

Read **Genesis 3:1-19**. Why is all mankind born into slavery? What hope is given from the woman's seed?

**Recite** the Shema (Deut. 6:4-9) and listen intently to the Lord who is One.

**Pray** for CTR to demonstrate the power of God as we trust Him to do what only He is able to do. Pray that His mighty power might be displayed to the city of Portland.

**Wednesday, 12/13**

Read **Exodus 6:1-9**. Why does God deliver his people from their slavery in Egypt?

**Meditate** on God's faithfulness to do all that He has said He will do.

**Pray** for God to help us understand His promises and how to live our lives in light of them trusting in Him.

**Thursday, 12/14**

Read **Leviticus 25:1-7**. What was the Sabbath year? Why is rest important?

**Recite** the Shema (Deut. 6:4-9) and listen intently to the Lord who is One.

**Pray** for our pastor as he prepares for his sabbatical. Ask the Lord to refresh him and his family. Pray that he would return in April with renewed vitality to lead this congregation in celebrating and extending Christ's grace to Portland, New England, and the world.

**Friday, 12/15**

Come to the prayer meeting **this morning at 6:30**.

Read **Numbers 6:22-27**. What does it mean for us to bless one another and thus invoke the name of the Lord?

**Pray** for God's presence to be our only true comfort as a community of faith. Ask Him to know His nearness in daily life and trust in Him with everything.

**Saturday, 12/16**

Read tomorrow's passage **Deuteronomy 31:9-29** and discuss what it means to provoke the Lord.

**Prepare** today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

**Pray** for your neighbors, co-workers, and family members who are still strangers to Christ that they will be overcome by His grace.

### The Shema

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

*Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*

*Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*