

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

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Week 4: King of Nations

ADVENT 2022



Advent Reader 2022

*O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel*

Advent Reader: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Week 4: King of Nations
Written by Pastor Jason Lam

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Introduction

THE KING OF NATIONS

"...They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,
'Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.'"

Revelation 4:10-11 (ESV)

"O come, King of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel."

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
John Mason Neale

As we come to the last week of Advent, we join in to the prayer and longing for the coming of the King of kings, "O Come, King of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, stiff and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace." In a world that continues to be marked with wars, quarrels, injustice and corruption, we are confronted with the question, "How long, Lord, until your Kingdom come? How long until you set your reign on earth as it is in heaven?" For this week, as we meditate upon the title Jesus as the "King of Nations", we will approach our reflection differently. Instead of a daily reading and meditation, I would want to invite us to engage in the practice of worship and prayer. Through worship, we turn our eyes to the One who is seated on the throne, sovereign and ruling. We declare that He is the true King of all kings, the Lord of lords, and that His reign will last forever. And through prayer, we reach out and hold to those who are suffering by bringing their needs to the mercy seat of God. Each day we will begin with a song, followed by a short reading, and suggested prayer items. As we wait and long for the coming of the King of Nations, may our hearts not forget that He is the only one worthy to receive all of our glory, honour and praise.

Sunday Dec 18, 2022

King of Kings / Angels We Have Heard on High

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Angels We Have Heard On High Public Domain

Verse 1

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
'Til from heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus

Praise the Father Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of glory Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

Verse 2

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

Verse 3

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored
And the church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

End tag

Gloria in excelsis deo
Gloria in excelsis deo

Reading: John 1:1-16

Prayer Items

- We declare that only Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords. All earthly authorities and all forms of governance are subjected under His Lordship.
- We intercede and pray for all the world leaders and government officials. May they humble themselves before the King of kings and Lord of lords, and may they govern with truth and grace, revering the Lordship of Christ.



Monday Dec 19, 2022

This is My Father's World

Words by Maltbie D. Babcock & Music by Franklin L. Sheppard

Verse 1

This is my Father's world
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres

This is my Father's world
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas
His hand the wonders wrought

Verse 2

This is my Father's world
The birds their carols raise
The morning light the lily white
Declare their Maker's praise

This is my Father's world
He shines in all that's fair
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass
He speaks to me everywhere

Verse 3

This is my Father's world
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet

This is my Father's world
Why should my heart be sad
The Lord is King let the heavens ring
God reigns; let earth be glad

Reading: Psalm 136

Prayer Items

- We declare that the world we live in belongs to God the Father. All creation belongs to Him and reflects His character and love for all.
- We declare that this world, though full of darkness and wrong, is still under the Father's control. No power nor authority can overturn His sovereignty.



Tuesday Dec 20, 2022

Crown Him (Glory in the Highest)

By Shane Barnard and Shane Everett
© 2019 Worship Initiative

Verse 1

How can it be that the Son of God was born to us as a brother
Royalty now robed in flesh the glory of the Father
What do we bring to honor a king
What song do we sing for majesty

Chorus

We crown Him with worship
Glory in the highest Glory in the highest
Hosanna He saves us
Glory in the highest Glory in the highest

Verse 2

How can it be that the innocent would bear our cross on His shoulders
In our place the spotless lamb now wears our wounds upon His hands
What do we bring to honor a king
What song do we sing for majesty

Bridge

O Come, o come all ye faithful
Prepare the way for Christ our Savior
He'll come again, He'll be here soon
Let every heart prepare Him room

Verse 3

How can it be even in our pain we have this hope among us
Jesus reigns over death's dark grave and we are His forever
Oh He is our King forever

Reading: Revelation 19:1-9

Prayer Items

- We lift the name of God up high. We crown Him as our Lord and Savior.
- We repent from going astray and giving our allegiance to any form of earthly or spiritual authority other than Christ Himself. We ask the Spirit to illuminate our eyes so that we see the glory of God.



Wednesday Dec 21, 2022

Is He Worthy?

By Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive

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Verse 1

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? (We do)
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)

Is all creation groaning? (It is)
Is a new creation coming? (It is)
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)

Chorus

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He was David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy of this? (He is)

Verse 2

Does the Father truly love us? (He does)
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)
And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves? (He does)
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)

Bridge

From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Is He worthy of this? He is!
Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is! He is!



Reading: Revelation 5:1-14

Prayer Items

- We declare that Jesus, the lamb who was slain, is worthy of all our praises.

Thursday Dec 22, 2022

Ancient of Days

By Shane Barnard and Shane Everett

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Verse 1

Though the nations rage
Kingdoms rise and fall
There is still one King Reigning over all
So I will not fear
For this truth remains
That my God is the Ancient of Days

Chorus

None above Him
None before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power all the glory
I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of Days

Verse 2

Though the dread of night
Overwhelms my soul
He is here with me I am not alone
O His love is sure
And He knows my name
For my God is the Ancient of Days

Verse 3

Though I may not see
What the future brings
I will watch and wait for the Savior King
Then my joy complete
Standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days

Reading: Psalm 93

Prayer Items

- We declare the Lordship of Jesus has established since the beginning of creation.
- We intercede for those who are experiencing persecution, wars, injustice, and suffering. We pray for God's protection and favour to be with them, granting them peace and safety physically emotionally and spiritually.



Friday Dec 23, 2022

He Shall Reign Forevermore

By Chris Tomlin

© 2015 Be Essential Songs, I Am A Pilgrim, Essential

Verse 1

In the bleak mid-winter all creation groans
For a world in darkness frozen like a stone
Light is breaking in a stable for a throne

Chorus

And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
Unto us a child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

Verse 2

If I were a wise man I would travel far
And if I were a shepherd I would do my part
But poor as I am I will give to Him my heart

Bridge

Here within a manger lies
The One who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice
Christ the Messiah
Into our hopes, into our fears
The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years
Christ the Messiah

Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Prayer Items

- We, once again, in lamenting and anticipation, join in the prayer of "O Come, King of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, stiff and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace."



Saturday Dec 24, 2022

Away in a manger /Worthy is Your Name

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Away In A Manger and O How I Love Jesus Public Domain

Verse 1

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

Verse 2

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh

Verse 3

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children In Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven to live with Thee there

Tag

Worthy is Your name, Jesus
You deserve the praise Worthy is Your name



Reading: Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-7

Reflection

In the night before Christmas, in silence, we wait again. We long to see the coming of the Messiah, we long to see new life coming out of death, we long to see the reign of God manifesting in our world, we long to see this place where we call home to be transformed and renewed, but our impatience and fear hesitate us, "O Lord, is this even possible?", "O Lord, is this wait even worth it?" Yet, we remember, many years ago, on another silent night, a new life came. Out of God's own mercy and faithfulness, a baby is born out of a virgin's womb; A King is found in a manger; A light is shined at the least unexpected place.

Maybe the wait is long. Maybe the wait is painful. Maybe the wait is scary. But hold on to this: the dawn is almost here. New things are unfolding.

Sunday Dec 25, 2022

Joy To The World (Joyful, Joyful)

By Phil Wickham, Isaac Watts, George Frederic Handel
© 2018 Phil Wickham Music

Verse 1

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and Heaven and nature sing

Chorus

We will sing sing sing
Joy to the world
We will sing sing sing

Verse 2

Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

We will sing sing sing
Joy to the world
Joy to the world
We will sing sing sing

Verse 3

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love

Tag

Joyful joyful we adore Thee
God of glory Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
Opening to the sun above

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Reflection

The King of kings has come!
The Rod of Jesse is here!
The Dayspring on High is shining!
God is with us!

This is a reason for us to celebrate! The promise maker kept His promise. The God of all Creation has entered into the world to save and redeem us. Our Savior IS here.

Let us all join in the proclamation of the angels:

“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”



