

As We Gather

Since at least the ninth century the Church has used in its Advent prayers responses known as the Great O Antiphons, so named because each petition begins with an "O" addressing Christ by one of His scriptural titles. Much later the popular hymn, "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" was written based on these antiphons. The words of the ancient antiphons rehearse some of the great themes of Christian renewal, even as they recognize how our Lord Jesus is **God with us**. Today we focus our singing, our prayers, and our meditations around the O Antiphons as we continue our Advent preparation.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

OPENING HYMN:

"Come, Thou Precious Ransom Come"

Hymn #350

THE INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

(Please kneel)

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE O ANTIPHONS OF ADVENT

O WISDOM

Meditation

Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,

That we may be filled with wisdom and joy.

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

Come and teach us the way of understanding.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come quickly, Emmanuel!

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The congregation sings:

**O come, our Wisdom from on high
Who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

(As the hymn stanza is sung, Dale and Wilma Rockwell will light the candles on the Advent wreath at the 8:00 am service. Tim and Jessica Russell will light the candles at the 10:45 am service.)

O LORD AND LEADER

Meditation

Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,

And quicken us with delight at the anticipation of Your coming.

O Adonai, Lord and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai:

Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

Com, Lord Jesus.

Come quickly, Emmanuel!

The congregation sings:

**O come, O come, our Lord of might,
Who to Your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 (*"The LORD has anointed me to bring good news."*)

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸ For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 (*"Rejoice always. Do not quench the Spirit."*)

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

O ROOT OF JESSE

Meditation

Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,

That we may overcome evil with good.

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage:

Come quickly to deliver us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come quickly, Emmanuel!

The congregation sings:

**O come, O Key of David come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

O DAYSPRING

Meditation

Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,

By shining into them with Your healing and productive light.

O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come quickly, Emmanuel!

The congregation sings:

**O come, our Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

++ The Stewardship Thought ++

Advent means "coming" or "arrival." In this season of expectation we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Savior who came to us at Bethlehem.

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." (Mark 1:3)

THE OFFERTORY:

"Praise and Thanksgiving"

**Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
For all things living, created good:
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

**Father, providing food for Your children,
By Your wise guiding teach us to share
One with another, so that, rejoicing
With us, all others may know Your care.**

O KING OF THE NATIONS

Meditation

Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,

That we may recognize our unity with You and express it to one another.

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come quickly, Emmanuel!

The congregation sings:

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
And be Yourself our King of Peace.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

THE PRAYERS: After each petition, the Worship Leader will say, "*Lord in Your mercy,*" and the congregation will respond, "***Hear our prayer.***"

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

O EMMANUEL

Meditation

Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,

And give us a glimpse of joy with You in eternity.

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the anointed of the nations and their Savior:

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come quickly, Emmanuel!

The congregation sings:

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN:

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

Hymn #352

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week's altar flowers are provided by Eugene & Lois O'Neal, in loving memory of Joel.

Angel Giving Tree: The Angel Tree is up and looking for generous donors. This year we will be supporting Salvation Army Safe House, Rainbow House, Lodge Rehab/Nursing Home, WR Rehab/Nursing Facility, Family Promise and Lutheran Services of Georgia (LSG). We invite your family to take an Angel or two, pray for the recipient, and serve that person with gifts. Please have the gifts wrapped in tissue in a Christmas gift bag, attaching the angel tag to the outside of the bag. **Pay attention to the return date, very important.** If you have an Angel requesting a gift card; place the card in the pretty wrapped box in Vicar Brad's office. Place all other gifts in the conference room. Thanks and God's Blessings

Please Welcome New Member - Obie Reynolds. A big Mt. Calvary Church welcome to Obie Reynolds, who joined the church on October 12th. He and his wife, Julie, live in Warner Robins. He previously attended Central Baptist Church in Warner Robins. We are pleased to have Obie as part of our congregation, and we look forward to having him as part of our church family!

Once again we will be collecting "Freebies" to give away at the Christmas Day dinner. There is a box under the table in the entryway to put items. These items could include calendars, notepads, pens, warm things like mittens or hats or whatever you think would be appropriate.

Greeters are needed for the following services: December 24-10:00 am, December 24-5:00 pm and December 31-8:00 am. If you would like to be a greeter for one of these services, please call Dot Bogardus 953-0681.

Helping Hands Dinner – Help Needed: We need some more servers and delivery drivers. We can also use a few more ham and turkey donations. Thanks to all who have already volunteered! Looking forward to serving with you! – Vicar Brad

Ladies Guild Meeting for December is cancelled due to other commitments of key officers.

Primetimers - Just a reminder the last day to pay for the dinner at the Southern Landings Restaurant is Sunday December 10th. Checks must be made out to EDNA HICKS. One dinner is \$22.50 and \$45 for two. Please bring a wrapped White Elephant Gift. One per couple.
Thank you! - Marie, Edna and Don

Progressive Dinner Tonight! We will begin down in the MFH at 5:00 p.m., and then our entrée and live music will begin at 6:00. Then travel to one of our dessert homes at 7:00: Val and Darron Counselman, 301 Ellicott Drive, WR, and Molly and Jeff Townsend, 110 Horseshoe Bend Drive, Kathleen. See you there.

Thank you to all who decorated the tree, sanctuary, and halls: Vicar Brad, Marsha Brighton, Michelle Brighton, Pastor Brighton, Denise Forehand, Tian Foss, Heather Johnson, Paul Keister, Kenn Keyes, Nathan LeBoriorous, Carter Langford, Barbara Locke, Barbara Mabee, Linna Nielsen, and Linda O'Donnell. Sue Glaser

Projectionists Needed - Can you operate a computer? Can you locate and press the "down" arrow? Then you have the skills to serve as a projectionist during worship! We desperately need people to serve in this role, particularly at the 10:45 service. Call or text Brian Harper at 478-284-6031 if you're interested.

Mount Calvary collects aluminum cans for recycling. Profits from this go to the Social Ministry Board to help pay for holiday food baskets. Single cans may be placed in containers in the old kitchen (by the back door), in the Fellowship Hall, and in the Annex (by the soda machine). Bundles of cans may be deposited at the collection point near the dumpster in the back parking lot.

Women, are you looking for a Bible class that is for women but only meets once a month? Do you enjoy morning classes but only have time for one a month? Do you like small intimate classes? Good! We have just the right one for you. Come and join us in the Cry Room the first Wednesday of the month. We are nominally part of the LWML and we are called Morning Glories. We start at 9:30 the first Wednesday of each month and we would love to see you.



**The Flower Chart for 2018 is posted.
Now would be a good time to get the
weekend that you want reserved.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

The family of Leslie Cook who died December 6th. She is the daughter of Beverly Webb and mother of Hayley, Kyle & Breanna Cook.

Libby McCarty, who is hospitalized.

Paul Brown, for healing of a bleeding ulcer.

Tracie Frey, who is recovering from back surgery.

Anita McIntyre, who is recovering following neck surgery.

Bill Gragg, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Mike Hopf, who is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

Keep In Your Prayers

Merlin Schumann (Joan Steese's brother), Patti Griswold, Regina Ragan, Joe Hill (Cynthia Nelson's dad), Michelle Jones (Leo & Joann Ladzinske's daughter), Dick Kesler, Glen Mabee, Heather Mabee, Don Engle, Anita McIntyre, Annamarie vonDebschitz, Jeanene Crawford, Crawford Hicks, JoAnn Leininger, Mike Longbine, Nancy Vormelker (Kathy Eubank's sister), Jeannie Hawkins, Deloris Denzine and Karen Johnson.

(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)

Those Battling Cancer

Joe Hill (Cynthia Nelson's dad), Jeanne Day (Bob's mom), Chet Branscom, Jace Cumbie (Amanda McVay's boyfriend's son), Diana Iverson (Bonnie Hudlin's sister-in-law), Barry Rice (Becky McVay's brother), Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), Kathy Grube, Mary Schwope (Michele Durbin's aunt), Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom) and Bruce Oswald (Krystal Ferguson's father).

Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas

Christopher Dierking, Chris Mittuch, Darrin Landis, Jonathan Fetchik and Christian Corbitt, for safety and good health as they serve our country in dangerous areas.

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Pastor David Brighton. **LITURGIST:** Vicar Brad Wellik. **ELDERS:** Eric Gossman (8 am) and Don Netzinger (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Abigail Halsell (8 am) and Seth Nelson (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Brian Harper, David Rossman, Bob Yeager, Richard Uitto & Fred Tamer. Late – Mike Hopf, Bruce Bauman, Dave Harter, Ed Bodony, Earl Bogardus & Joshua Johnson. **ALTAR GUILD:** Tian Foss, Barb Mabee, Ginger Martin & Kathy Robinson. **LAY READERS:** Bob Yeager (8 am) and Cindy Schafer (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Debi Cole. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Open (8 am) & Open (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Rob Crawford (Wed 7 pm), Rob Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Darron Counselman (Sun 8 am) and Mark Burnette (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Sara Van Lannen (Wed 7 pm), Tucker Gossman (Sat 6 pm), Colton Wurdeman (Sun 8 am) and Carlee Toler (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Heather Johnson, Barbara Locke, Pat Stetzler, Angleen Trasmer. **LAY READERS:** Dave Harter (Wed 7 pm), Debi Cole (Sat 6 pm), Doug Fingles (Sun 8 am) and Ruthie Radcliff (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Ned & Linda Watson (8 am) and Champ & Pat Aldredge (10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-11 and 2 Peter 3:8-14

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday 6 pm – 46 Sunday 8 am – 86 Sunday 10:45 am – 157 Total – 289

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	5:00 pm	Progressive Dinner
Monday	11:00 am	Daytime Callers
	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Council
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Dinner
	7:00 pm	Advent Worship
	7:45 pm	Choir After Worship
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday	12 – 2 pm	Children’s Ministry Christmas Party
	6:30 pm	High School Christmas Party

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