



BORN *a* CHILD  
*and yet a* KING

2009  
ADVENT DEVOTIONAL  
Genesis Church

The shepherds had an angel,  
The wise men had a star,  
But what have I, a little child,  
To guide me home from far,  
Where glad stars sing together,  
And singing angels are?—

Those Shepherds through the lonely night  
Sat watching by their sheep,  
Until they saw the heavenly host  
Who neither tire nor sleep,  
All singing 'Glory, glory'  
In festival they keep.

Christ watches me, His little lamb,  
Cares for me day and night,  
That I may be His own in heaven:  
So angels clad in white  
Shall sing their 'Glory, glory,'  
For my sake in the height.

— Christina Rossetti, from "A Christmas Carol: For My Godchildren"

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## *the* CHURCH SEASON *of* ADVENT

When Jesus was born, the heavens broke wide open and an army of angels sang:

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

In announcing Jesus birth, the angels said they were brining “good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.”

Traditionally, the Church has used the season of Advent as a time to celebrate that “good news of great joy.”

### *What is Advent?*

Since the fourth century, the Church has celebrated the season of Advent (which means “coming” or “arrival”) starting on the fourth Sunday before Christmas day. The celebration of Advent helps us focus our attention on Jesus Christ’s birth and ministry as well as his promised return.

Throughout the season we are constantly reminded that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world.



## MAKING SENSE *of* ADVENT

The days leading up to Christmas are filled with distractions. There are presents to buy, parties to attend, dinners to plan, cards to send, family to see, songs to sing, movies to watch, and traditions to follow. We need help to cut through the many distractions of the Christmas season if we are to focus our attention on Jesus. This devotional is designed to help you do that—with others.

Perhaps there is no better time than Advent to gather with family and friends of all ages and talk about Jesus. This devotional tells the story of Jesus, from the promise of his birth to the promise of his return, through five familiar passages from the Bible. It then invites you, through discussion, prayer, and song to reflect on those passages.

If you have children, you may find the children's prayers and the references to stories in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones helpful in getting your children involved in the discussions. (You can purchase *The Jesus Storybook Bible* through most major bookstores.) Your children will also probably enjoy singing the songs with you.

Recordings of the songs printed in this devotional can be found at [www.ctrkraleigh.org/advent](http://www.ctrkraleigh.org/advent).





## CELEBRATING ADVENT

This devotional isn't meant in any way to replace church involvement. In fact, it is meant to encourage church involvement during the advent season. The Scriptures discussed each week will be the Scriptures that we will talk about each Sunday.

If you live in the Eureka area and are looking for a place to join during the Advent season, we would love to have you join us for our worship services each Sunday morning at 10 AM and for our Christmas Eve service in the Dorothy Williams Theater of Eureka High School. You can find information on our gatherings online at [genesiseureka.com](http://genesiseureka.com).

May you know the blessings of Jesus this Advent season and for years to come.

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

<sup>2</sup> *The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.*

<sup>3</sup> *You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.*

<sup>4</sup> *For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

<sup>5</sup> *For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.*

<sup>6</sup> *For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

<sup>7</sup> *Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*



## WEEK ONE *of* ADVENT

### *Devotional - The Promise of a King*

Have you ever been promised something that seemed too good to be true?

That's the kind of promise God's people received in Isaiah 9. They were promised light in the places that only knew darkness. They were promised freedom instead of slavery. They were promised glory instead of shame. They were promised peace instead of war.

They were promised a child. Not just any child. They were promised a king—better than any king they knew. They were promised a king whose reign would be known by things like justice, righteousness, and peace. They were promised a king whose reign would be without end.

They were promised an eternal king who would make everything right. Forever.

### *Shedding Some Light...*

When Isaiah spoke of such things, few listened and few believed. For those who did believe, it wasn't Isaiah they believed, but instead the God who promised again and again that his passion for his people would make this miracle happen.

As kings came and went, as leaders rose and fell, God's people were tempted to doubt his promises. The stories of God's past deliverance seemed like ancient history to many people under the oppressive rule of a foreign king or the unjust rule of one of their own kings. So while they longed for the deliverer Isaiah promised, it was tough to really hope God's promise would come true.

Why was God taking so long? Did he remember? Did he care?

God did remember. God did care. When the time was right, he sent his son Jesus—the promised Messiah, the great and everlasting king. Jesus was everything Isaiah promised and more.

Now, on this side of Jesus' birth, we face a situation similar to those in Isaiah's day. We read of Jesus' promised return, when the work he started will be complete. When everything (including us!) will be made right. Forever.

But it seems like God is taking a long time. When we start to wonder if God remembers or if he cares, we also start to wonder why we should care. When that happens, worship becomes ritual, obedience becomes a burden, and Jesus' return becomes something we think about only when things get really, really bad.

Do you long for Jesus' return? If so, why? If not, why not?

Do you recognize things in your own life, in your family, in your community, in this world that aren't as they are supposed to be? If so, how do you think they will change if Jesus comes back?

*Adult's and Children's Prayer*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Speed the day of your return.

*Advent Singing: O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*The Jesus Storybook Bible Reference: "Operation 'No More Tears!,'" p.144*

# O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Em Am G/BD G D Bm C G/B

1. O come, O come, Em man nu el, and ran som cap tive  
 2. O come, thou Rod of Jes se, free thine own from Sa tan's  
 3. O come, thou Key of Da vid, come and o pen wide our  
 4. O come, thou Day spring from on high, and cheer us by thy

Am EmBm Em Am Em/G D/F# Em Bm C D Em

Is ra el, that mourns in lone ly ex ile here, un  
 tyr an ny; from depths of hell thy peo ple save, and  
 heav'n ly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and  
 draw ing night; dis perse the gloom y clouds of night, and

D Bm G G/B Am G/BD G G D Em Bm G

til the Son of God ap pear.  
 give them vic t'ry o'er the grave. Re joice! Re joice! Em  
 close the path to mis er y.  
 death's dark sha dows put to flight.

Am G/BD Em D/F# G G/B C G/B Am Em Bm Em

man u el Shall come to thee, O Is ra el.

Latin Hymn, 1710  
 tr by John M. Neale

VENI EMMANUEL

*Luke 1:68-79*

<sup>68</sup> *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people*  
<sup>69</sup> *and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,*  
<sup>70</sup> *as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,*  
<sup>71</sup> *that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;*  
<sup>72</sup> *to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,*  
<sup>73</sup> *the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us*  
<sup>74</sup> *that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,*  
<sup>75</sup> *in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.*  
<sup>76</sup> *And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,*  
<sup>77</sup> *to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
in the forgiveness of their sins,*  
<sup>78</sup> *because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high*  
<sup>79</sup> *to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.*



## WEEK TWO *of* ADVENT

### *Devotional - The Promise of a Child*

Old Zechariah was promised something that seemed too good to be true: The Angel Gabriel told him his old, barren wife would give birth to a son. Zechariah thought it too good to be true. People like them don't have babies. So Zechariah asked the angel for a sign, something to prove the promise true.

The angel gave him a sign: Zechariah didn't speak again until his son was born.

When he finally spoke again, he sang a song of prophecy. He used language from his Bible (the Old Testament) to praise God for keeping his promises and delivering his people.

He also said his son, John, would tell people to do what Zechariah didn't do: Take God at his word.

### *Shedding Some Light...*

When we sing the songs of Advent, in many ways we are singing the song of Zechariah. We sing songs founded on the images and promises of hope and expectation. We sing of promises fulfilled (God has visited and redeemed his people); we sing, longing for promises to be fulfilled.

For the past two thousand years, God's people have waited for Jesus' return. Every year we remember his birth and the advent of the good news of his work. As we remember, we also hunger and long for him to visit his people once again and complete the work of redemption in our lives and in his created world.

*Adult's Prayer*

Dear Father, help us to be rooted in the salvation history of your people. Help us to find hope and rest in your mighty works in history. During this season especially, quicken our spirits to meditate on the birth of Jesus Christ in history, the continued gift and work of the Holy Spirit, and Jesus' promised return. Amen.

*Children's Prayer*

God, don't let the celebration of Christmas and all that it brings cause us to stop longing for your return to earth to make everything right—forever.

*Advent Singing: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*

*The Jesus Storybook Bible Reference:* "Heaven breaks through," p. 200



# LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENT

Dm F Dm Bb/C

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and  
 2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on  
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard  
 4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with

Bb A Dm F GmsusGm Dm

5 trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,  
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man - ves - ture,  
 on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth  
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

Bb Em F D/F#

10 for with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to  
 in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to  
 from the realms of end - less day, that the pow'rs of  
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia,

Gm Dm C Dm/F Gm C Dm

14 earth de - scend - eth, our full hom-age to de - mand.  
 all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.  
 hell may van - ish as the dark ness clears a - way.  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Traditional French Melody, 17th Century

Liturgy of St. James, 5th Century

*Luke 2:1-7*

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



## WEEK THREE *of* ADVENT

### *Devotional - The Birth of a Child*

Both Isaiah and Zechariah remembered God's mighty acts in the past. They spoke of God's great promises for the future. They both spoke of God's greatest deliverance in terms that both echoed and surpassed his mighty acts of the past: The final deliverance of his people through the total destruction of their enemies.

Yet when God acted in fulfillment of his great promises, it was all so ordinary. The king arrived, but he came as a child.

### *Shedding Some Light...*

God came to earth as a child. Childbirth isn't exactly a grand entrance. A feeding trough for animals isn't exactly a king's bed. If Luke's account of Jesus' birth is anything, it's ordinary. It's obscure. It's seemingly inconsequential.

*"But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong" (1 Cor 1.27).*

God accomplished his plan through a child, born into poverty, in an obscure town, to a couple of young, first-time parents.

What does God's ability to accomplish redemption through a child tell you about his power and control? What does it tell you about the way he exercises that power and control?

How does Jesus' coming as a child demonstrate his humility? How does it help you understand the way he loves you?

How does reading about Christ's birth encourage humility in the way you live?

### *Adult's Prayer*

Jesus, eternal Son of God, you left the glories of heaven for the mess of earth. You made yourself nothing. You came to earth as a child. You faced the miseries of this life. You took upon yourself the wrath of God. You died on a cross. You stayed in the grave for three days. You did this to save your people from their sins. Thank you.

### *Children's Prayer*

Jesus, thank you for leaving heaven and coming to earth as a baby.

*Advent Singing: Come, thou Long Expected Jesus*

*The Jesus Storybook Bible Reference: "He's here!," p. 176*

# COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

G Am G D G/B G Am D G

1. Come, thou long ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day spring from on high, ap - pear  
 3. Come, to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;  
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

G Am G D G/B G Am D G

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!  
 by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deemer, Shep - herd Friend.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

G/B G Am D7 G Am7 G/C D

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
 O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:  
 Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;  
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

G/B Am G D G/B C G/D D7 G

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."  
 this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

St. 1.4, Charles Wesley, 1744  
 St. 2-3 Mark Hunt, 1978  
 Text of stanzas 2&3 (c) 1978,  
 Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. Used by Permission

HMYRYDOL.8.7.8.7.D.  
 Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

*Luke 2:8-20*

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



## WEEK FOUR *of* ADVENT

### *Devotional - The Birth of a King*

In pictures and descriptions of Jesus' birth, the angels attending are often portrayed as chubby cherubim, lightly plucking at harp and lyre. They hardly seem scary, or the type of characters that would frighten hardened shepherds.

The heavenly band of angels was an angelic 'host' or literally an army of angels. They came to announce peace. The peace they announced would come as God's enemies were destroyed by God's son and king, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

To show how significant the birth of Jesus is, we are given a glimpse of the angelic host only rivaled by the visions of John in the book of Revelation. Jesus' birth is a cataclysmic in-breaking of God's kingdom into the earthly realm. This is a visual picture of the Lord's prayer, "Thy Kingdom come."

### *Shedding Some Light...*

God spares no expense at the announcement of Jesus' birth. He enlists not just a heavenly quartet, or a single shimmering soloist, but the whole heavenly throng, singing together as a big, heavenly gospel choir, rocking the foundations of humanity.

The angels' message is simple and straightforward and not in the least bit clouded in celestial language or heavenly rhetoric. "Good News! The Savior is born!" with a chorus of "Glory to God" and "Peace on Earth."

God keeps his promises to his people. The king is here. Jesus is born.

Why is this a reason to rejoice?

*Adult's Prayer*

Almighty God, when we find our hearts distracted in the busy-ness of this Christmas season, enamor us with the glory and joy of your presence. Let us understand why the birth of Jesus was "good news of great joy."

*Children's Prayer*

Dear Heavenly God, give us the same joy and excitement as the angels who proclaimed Jesus' birth.

*Advent Singing: Angels We Have Heard on High*

*The Jesus Storybook Bible Reference:* "The Light of the whole world," p. 184



# ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

F Am Gsus F F C F F C7 F

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
 4. See with - in a man - ger laid, Je - sus, Lord of heav'n and earth,  
 5. Rais - ing up the ban - ner high, all the heav'ns pro - claimed him nigh,

F Am Dm7 F F C F F C7 F

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.  
 Lend your voi - ces, lend your aid, To pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth! -  
 He was prom - ised, He has come, Let us sing to God's own son!

F Dm Gm7 C F Bb C/E C F C F Bb F C

Glo - - - - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o,

F Dm Gm7 C F Bb C/E C F C F Bb F C F

Glo - - - - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Traditional French Carol

GLORIA 7.7.7.7.ref  
 Trad. French Melody  
 Arr. Edward Barner, 1937





## CHRISTMAS DAY

### *Devotional - The Birth of Jesus Christ*

*Luke 2:1-7*

<sup>1</sup> *In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.* <sup>2</sup> *This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.* <sup>3</sup> *And all went to be registered, each to his own town.* <sup>4</sup> *And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,* <sup>5</sup> *to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.* <sup>6</sup> *And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.* <sup>7</sup> *And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

### *Shedding Some Light...*

It all seems so simple and ordinary: An imperial edict, a pregnant teenager, a soon-to-be husband, and a town full of people simply following the law of the land. Ordinary events of history, ordained by God as part of the greatest miracle in the history of the world: The Son of God being born as a child in the city of David. And it all happened when “the time came.”

In Galatians 4:4-5 Paul writes, “*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*”

The God who rules history, entered our history, to claim us and all our tomorrows as his own.

This Christmas morning, join the Apostle Paul as he proclaims the gloriousness of the gospel (Gal 3:16):

*Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:*

*He was manifested in the flesh,*

*vindicated by the Spirit,*

*seen by angels,*

*proclaimed among the nations,*

*believed on in the world,*

*taken up in glory.*

And join the Apostle John as he prays in response to Jesus' proclamation, "Surely I am coming soon," with the following: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20).

*Christmas Day Prayer and Hymn: Joy to the World!*

*The Jesus Storybook Bible Reference: "He's Here!," p. 176*

# JOY TO THE WORLD!

D A7 D G A

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

D

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re -  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far and  
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness and

A

heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heav'n and na - ture sing.

D D/A A7 D

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Isaac Watts, 1719  
 Based on Psalm 98

G.F. Handel, 1742

## *Matthew 2:1-12*

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.



## EPIPHANY

### *Devotional - Jesus, Light of the World*

Epiphany, traditionally celebrated on January 6, reminds us that Christmas is more than a celebration of the birth of a child or a time to gather together as families. Epiphany reminds us that the child who was born in Bethlehem was Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Savior of the world.

The story of the wise men is more a nice story about giving presents at Christmas time. It tells us how God used a star and some pagan astrologers to display his ultimate goal for the whole world: People from every nation worshipping his son Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

### *Shedding Some Light...*

When the wise men arrived at the home of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, they gave Jesus gifts fit for a king. But they didn't just give him stuff. They "fell down and worshiped him."

As we read about these men "from the east" (non-Jews) worshipping "he who has been born king of the Jews," we are reminded of God's plan for the nations. We long to see innumerable number of people from every nation praising to King Jesus. And we consider the ways God has called us to take this good news to the nations.

Spend some time thinking, talking, and praying about how God would have you join him on his mission this next year.

*Adult's and Children's Prayer*

Jesus, help us tell others about the good news of your life, your death, your resurrection, your reigning as king over all things, through all we say and do.  
Amen.

*Epiphany Singing: They Came Bearing Gifts*

*The Jesus Storybook Bible Reference: "The King of All Kings," p. 192*



# THEY CAME BEARING GIFTS



1. It was the star that brought them far through ma - ny leagues of doubts. to  
 2. It was to Her - od that first they went In - qui - ring of this King. But  
 3. Her od with fear en - joined the priests where should the Christ be born. O  
 4. Tri - but they gave to a lit - tle babe this man - ger scene be - hold. To  
 5. Oh troubled cit - y of king and tem - ple your in - fant tears are heard. The  
 6. Star in the East a heav'n - ly feast of life and light and love. The



5 leave their homes to leave their king - doms to wor - ship a child they sought.  
 Leav - ing by a diff - rent way in joy gave has - ten - ing. CH: They  
 lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem a sav - ior greets the morn.  
 Beth - le - hem a new - born king Myrrh, frank - in - cense and gold. CH: They  
 lit - tle joy of Is - ra - el will soon re - turn un - furled.  
 long a - wait - ed, now at hand God come as hum - ble man. CH: They



9 came bear - ing gifts, they came with the joy of the na - tions. They



13 came bear - ing won - der, they came for the hope - of sal - va - tion.



17 Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, all is calm to - night. Hal - le - lu - jah,



22 Hal - le - lu the star re - flects his light. The star re - flects his light.

Bruce Benedict, 2005  
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Christ the King Presbyterian Church's CCLI Number is 1683413.

