

THE ANGELS' SONG

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall show forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.
O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.
Amen.



Prince of Peace,
in a world filled with turmoil,
grant us the wholeness
that only your presence can bring.

Help us to be instruments
of reconciliation
and harmony
in our relationships
and communities.

Amen.



[LISTEN TO AUDIO @ proclaimministries.com/advent](https://proclaimministries.com/advent)

PSALM 72

1 O God, grant the king the ability to make just decisions.
Grant the king's son the ability to make fair decisions.
2 Then he will judge your people fairly,
and your oppressed ones equitably.
3 The mountains will bring news of peace to the people,
and the hills will announce justice.

...

11 All kings will bow down to him;
all nations will serve him.
12 For he will rescue the needy when they cry out for help,
and the oppressed who have no defender.

...

17 May his fame endure.
May his dynasty last as long as the sun remains in the sky.
May they use his name when they formulate their blessings.
May all nations consider him to be favored by God.

18 The Lord God, the God of Israel, deserves praise.
He alone accomplishes amazing things.
19 His glorious name deserves praise forevermore.
May his majestic splendor fill the whole earth.

ISAIAH 9:2-7 & 11:1-5

2 The people walking in darkness
see a bright light;

CONFESSION

Lord, though you should guide us,
we inform ourselves;
though you should rule us,
we control ourselves;
though you should fulfill us,
we console ourselves.

We think your truth too high,
your will too hard,
your power too remote,
your love too free.
But they are not!
And without them,
we are of all people most miserable.

Now heal our confused minds
with your word,
heal our divided wills
with your law,
heal our troubled consciences
with your love,
heal our anxious hearts
with your presence,
all for the sake of your Son,
who loved us
and gave himself for us.
Amen.



Almighty Father,
who for your great
love of your creation
did give your dearly beloved Son
to die for us;

Grant that through his Cross
our sins may be put away,
and remembered no more against
us,

and that, cleansed by his Blood,
and mindful of his sufferings,
we may take up our cross daily,
and follow him in newness of life,
until we come to his
everlasting kingdom;

through the Name of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

light shines
on those who live in a land of deep darkness.

3 You have enlarged the nation;
you give them great joy.
They rejoice in your presence
as harvesters rejoice;
as warriors celebrate when they divide up the plunder.

4 For their oppressive yoke
and the club that strikes their shoulders,
the cudgel the oppressor uses on them,
you have shattered, as in the day of Midian's defeat.

5 Indeed every boot that marches and shakes the earth
and every garment dragged through blood
is used as fuel for the fire.

6 For a child has been born to us,
a son has been given to us.
He shoulders responsibility
and is called
Wonderful Adviser,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

7 His dominion will be vast,
and he will bring immeasurable prosperity.
He will rule on David's throne
and over David's kingdom,
establishing it and strengthening it
by promoting justice and fairness,
from this time forward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will accomplish this.

...

11:1 A shoot will grow out of Jesse's root stock,
a bud will sprout from his roots.

2 The Lord's Spirit will rest on him—
a Spirit that gives extraordinary wisdom,
a Spirit that provides the ability to execute plans,
a Spirit that produces absolute loyalty to the Lord.

THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

We seek you
mighty God
in the most unlikely places
as a child in a stable,
and in an empty tomb.

May you hear these prayers,
which come from the unlikely
corners of our lives.



Pause here to note and pray for:

*- personal concerns - prayer for family - friends
and neighbors - church leaders - community &
government - thanksgiving & praise*

3 He will take delight in obeying the Lord.
He will not judge by mere appearances,
or make decisions on the basis of hearsay.

4 He will treat the poor fairly,
and make right decisions for the downtrodden of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and order the wicked to be executed.

5 Justice will be like a belt around his waist,
integrity will be like a belt around his hips.

MICAH 5:1-5

1 As for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, seemingly insignificant among the clans of Judah— from you a king will emerge who will rule over Israel on my behalf, one whose origins are in the distant past. 3 So the Lord will hand the people of Israel over to their enemies until the time when the woman in labor gives birth. Then the rest of the king's countrymen will return to be reunited with the people of Israel. 4 He will assume his post and shepherd the people by the Lord's strength, by the sovereign authority of the Lord his God. They will live securely, for at that time he will be honored even in the distant regions of the earth. 5 He will give us peace.

LUKE 2:1-20

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus to register all the empire for taxes. 2 This was the first registration, taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 Everyone went to his own town to be registered. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David.

5 He went to be registered with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him, and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Concluding with:



Give us ears to hear, O God,
and eyes to watch,
that we may know your presence
in our midst
during this holy season
of joy and peace
as we anticipate the coming of
Jesus Christ,
the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.



COLLECT (CLOSING PRAYER)

O God of Elizabeth and Mary,
you visited your servants
with news of the world's redemption
in the coming of the Savior.

Make our hearts leap with joy,
and fill our mouths
with songs of praise,
that we may announce
glad tidings of peace,
and welcome
the Christ in our midst.

—

May the God of hope fill you
with all joy & peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may abound in hope.

Amen

8 Now there were shepherds nearby living out in the field, keeping guard over their flock at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people: 11 Today your Savior is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a vast, heavenly army appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth
peace among people with whom he is pleased!"

15 When the angels left them and went back to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, that the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they hurried off and located Mary and Joseph, and found the baby lying in a manger. 17 When they saw him, they related what they had been told about this child, 18 and all who heard it were astonished at what the shepherds said.

19 But Mary treasured up all these words, pondering in her heart what they might mean. 20 So the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; everything was just as they had been told.

COLOSSIANS 1:9-20

9 For this reason we also, from the day we heard about you, have not ceased praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you may live worthily of the Lord and please him in all respects—bearing fruit in every good deed, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might for the display of all patience and steadfastness, joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light. 13 He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

LISTEN

Silent Night

-Crystal Nicole & 116, 2018

Heavenly Hosts

-Joel & Luke Smallbone, 2020

He Shall Reign Forevermore

-Matt Maher & Chris Tomlin, 2018

REFLECT



Shepherds

-John Agust Swanson, 1985



Adoration Of The Shepherds

-Juan Bautista Maíno, ca 1620

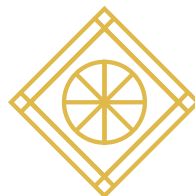
-essay by Niel MacGregor

15 He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation,
16 for all things in heaven and on earth were created in him
—all things, whether visible or invisible,
whether thrones or dominions, whether principalities or powers—
all things were created through him and for him.
17 He himself is before all things
and all things are held together in him.
18 He is the head of the body, the church,
as well as the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that he himself may become first in all things.
19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son
20 and through him to reconcile all things to himself
by making peace through the blood of his cross—through him,
whether things on earth or things in heaven.

ROMANS 5:1-11

1 Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of God's glory. 3 Not only this, but we also rejoice in sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance, character, and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 (For rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person perhaps someone might possibly dare to die.) 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, because we have now been declared righteous by his blood, we will be saved through him from God's wrath. 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, since we have been reconciled, will we be saved by his life? 11 Not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation.



READ

What ways did you choose to read the text this week?

☐ read the pdf ☐ listen to audio ☐ read aloud

Summarize the reading. Where do you see the theme of hope in the text?

REFLECT

How did you choose to reflect this week?

☐ Art ☐ Music ☐ Journal/Discussion

What stood out to you from the reading and reflection this week? What did you notice about God, yourself, or the world?

What are you curious about? What questions, ideas, or texts would you like to explore more?

RESPOND

How will you respond to the text?

☐ Pray ☐ Worship ☐ Repent ☐ Act

What would it look like for you to respond this week?

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THE SONGS OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS



WORKBOOK



ACTIVITY PACK



ART & MUSIC



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