



Advent 2017 / John 1:1-2:12



CHRISTCOMMUNITY
CHURCH
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Advent 2017

John 1:1-2:12

Introduction

The Gospel of John uniquely begins the story of Jesus not as the other Gospel writers do with some aspect of His incarnation but at the beginning of all things in eternity past with Creation. Charles Simeon captures the power of John's particular Advent perspective when he writes, "What astonishing majesty and dignity are displayed in these brief but comprehensive words! The other Evangelists commence their histories at the period of our Saviour's incarnation: but St. John carries us back to eternity itself; and informs us, not only what Christ did and suffered, but who he was."¹ John also uniquely refers to Jesus as the *Logos* (some translate this as "Word" as does the ESV; others translate it as "Speech" as John Calvin does). Merrill C. Tenney explains, "Ordinarily (*logos*) refers to a spoken word, with emphasis on the meaning conveyed, not just the sound. *Logos*, therefore, is an expression of personality in communication."² This powerful beginning to the Gospel of John serves to declare that Jesus is God fulfilling the Emmanuel promise that our Heavenly Father would again dwell with His people!

This Advent season we will consider anew God's desire to dwell with His people. We will remember first that God sends Jesus to reveal His attributes and redemptive will in the midst of this broken and fallen world (**John 1:1-3**). The remainder of John's prologue will encourage us to give thanks for God's provision of Jesus as our Divine Messiah and Savior (**John 1:4-18**). John the Baptist's example should challenge us to seek opportunities to share this good news of the Gospel of Jesus with those around you (**John 1:19-34**). On Christmas Eve, we will take the time to behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (**John 1:29-34**). Our worship on New Year's Eve will call for us to look forward with great

¹ *Horae Homileticae Vol. 13: Luke XVII to John XII* (London: Holdsworth and Ball, 1833), 186.

² "The Gospel of John" in *The Expositors Bible Commentary: Volume 9 (John-Acts)*, ed. by Frank E. Gaebelain (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981), 28.

anticipation to new wine that we will drink at long last with Christ in the new Heavens and new Earth (**John 2:1-12**). Let us celebrate in worship these truths with friends and family throughout this Advent season with great joy and hope!

We will continue to seek nourishment from our historic faith and the Old and New Testaments for our weekly devotion and worship. The calls to worship will come from Psalm 119 that extols the blessed value of the Word of God expressed and incarnated in the world. We will confess together the Nicene Creed, the orthodox Trinitarian declaration originally drafted at the First Council of Nicea in 325 AD.³ Our assurances of pardon will be granted from the Advent stories in Luke and Matthew. Our benedictory blessings each week will come from **Isaiah 9:6-7** to send us out rejoicing for the Christ child that was born to us and the Son Jesus who was born to us. The sum of these elements will hopefully serve to deepen our appreciation for Christ's first coming and look forward with great anticipation to His return.

This devotional is designed to encourage daily meditation and prayer in personal devotions and/or family worship. You are encouraged to use it the week prior to the associated sermon so that you and your family are prepared for worship. In addition to the Scriptures and associated questions, there are opportunities each Wednesday to engage one of the Advent hymns that we will sing weekly. We also have the opportunity to prepare each Saturday for the Lord's Day Sabbath and its associated means of grace. Our desire is to continue to facilitate and grow in our dependence on the Lord through prayer.

May God bless our time in personal devotion, family worship, and corporate worship as we seek to for the Church to grow in the joy of being restored to the presence of God!

Soli Deo Gloria!

³ The Nicene Creed was written to combat the heretical views of Arius who denied the divinity and eternity of Jesus.

Sermon Schedule

Date	Call to Worship	Assurance of Pardon	Benediction	Sacrament
<i>Sunday, 11/26:</i> John 1:1-3	Psalm 119:1-8	Luke 1:26-33	Isaiah 9:6-7	
<i>Sunday, 12/3:</i> John 1:4-13	Psalm 119:105-112	Luke 1:67-79	Isaiah 9:6-7	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
<i>Sunday, 12/10:</i> John 1:14-18	Psalm 119:57-64	Matthew 1:18-23	Isaiah 9:6-7	
<i>Sunday, 12/17:</i> John 1:19-28	Psalm 119:137-144	Luke 1:8-17	Isaiah 9:6-7	
<i>Sunday, 12/24:</i> John 1:29-34	Psalm 119:169-176	Luke 2:8-14	Isaiah 9:6-7	
<i>Sunday, 12/31:</i> John 2:1-12	Psalm 119:81-88	Matthew 2:1-6	Isaiah 9:6-7	<i>Bread and Cup</i>

Weekly Congregational Confession

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Week of November 26th

John 1:1-3

Monday, 11/20: **Psalm 119:1-8:** Meditate on the ways in which you have been blessed by keeping the testimonies of God and by seeking Him with your whole heart.

Tuesday, 11/21: **Luke 1:26-33:** What are some ways in which you are comforted by Christ's eternal reign over His kingdom without end?

Wednesday, 11/22: Read the lyrics to "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" praying for the Holy Spirit to show you the ways you have been set free by the coming of Christ.

Thursday, 11/23: **John 1:1-3:** Why does it matter that Jesus is God and intimately knows all that He has created?

Friday, 11/24: **Isaiah 9:6-7:** Consider how you have been blessed by the fact that the governance of your life has been placed upon Christ's shoulders and give thanks for His rule.

Saturday, 11/25: Pray for the Lord to help our congregation grow in understanding that Jesus is God uniquely expressing His attributes and redemptive will in this world.

Sunday, 11/26: **The Lord's Day Sabbath:** Pray for the means of grace to reveal more gloriously to us Jesus as Divine Messiah.

Song of Response

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Lyrics: Charles Wesley, 1744 (Verses 1, 4); Mark E. Hunt, 1978 (Verses 2,3)

Music: Red Mountain Music

Verse 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

Verse 2:

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart

Verse 3:

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

Verse 4:

By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

The Week of December 3rd

John 1:4-13

Monday, 11/27: **Psalms 119:105-112:** What are some ways in which God's Word has served as a lamp for your feet and granted you life amidst severe affliction?

Tuesday, 11/28: **Luke 1:67-79:** What are you anticipating and looking forward to most during this Advent season? How might you mature in Christ during this time?

Wednesday, 11/29: Read the lyrics to "O Come, All Ye Faithful" praying for the Holy Spirit to guide you in adoring Christ amidst the busyness of this Advent season.

Thursday, 11/30: **John 1:4-13:** Meditate on the times when the light of Christ shone into your darkness. Give thanks for His continued pursuit of you.

Friday, 12/1: **Isaiah 9:6-7:** How has Jesus blessed you as a Wonderful Counselor?

Saturday, 12/2: Read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Table. Ask the Spirit to illumine your heart and mind through the nourishment of the table.

Sunday, 12/3: **The Lord's Day Sabbath with the Lord's Table:** Pray for the means of grace to light our way to glorify God and edify each other.

Song of Response

O Come, All Ye faithful

Lyrics: John Wade (?), 1700's

Music: Red Mountain Music

Verse 1:

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)
Christ the Lord

Verse 2:

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest:
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)
Christ the Lord.

Verse 3:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)
Christ the Lord.

The Week of December 10th

John 1:14-18

Monday, 12/4: **Psalm 119:57-64:** Meditate on how the Lord has served as your portion. Does this motivate you to hasten to keep His commandments for His glory?

Tuesday, 12/5: **Matthew 1:18-23:** What are some ways in which your life is affected by the fact that God desires to be with us and has begun this reality in the coming of Christ?

Wednesday, 12/6: Read the lyrics to “O, Come, O Come Emmanuel” praying for the Holy Spirit to help you enjoy the presence of God throughout this Advent season.

Thursday, 12/7: **John 1:14-18:** What all helps to reveal the glory of God to you? What most consistently helps you to see and enjoy the glory of God?

Friday, 12/8: **Isaiah 9:6-7:** How has Jesus blessed you as Mighty God who is supreme over the power of sin and death?

Saturday, 12/9: Pray for the Lord to help our congregation grow in experiencing the presence of God through the incarnation of Jesus.

Sunday, 12/10: **The Lord's Day Sabbath:** Pray for the means of grace to help us better see and reflect the glory of God in the world.

Song of Response

O, Come, O Come Emmanuel

**Lyrics: Composed from an 8th Century Poem for Latin Antiphonal Call Response
in Vespers, approx. 12th Century; Translated by John Mason Neale, 1851**

Music: Matthew Perryman Jones

Verse 1:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appears.

Refrain:

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

Verse 2:

O come, Thou Dayspring come & cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
And chase away the shades of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

Verse 3:

O come, Desire of Nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease
And be Thyself our King of Peace!

Refrain

The Week of December 17th

John 1:19-28

Monday, 12/11: **Psalms 119:137-144:** What are you most zealous for and why? Will what you are zealous for sustain you and grant you life more abundant?

Tuesday, 12/12: **Luke 1:8-17:** Give thanks to the Lord for those He has sent to share with you the Gospel. Let them know you are thankful.

Wednesday, 12/13: Read the lyrics to "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" praying for opportunities to comfort those around you with the Advent story of Jesus.

Thursday, 12/14: **John 1:19-28:** What are some ways in which you seek to be the focus of the story forgetting that Advent is not all about you? Repent confessing Jesus is Lord.

Friday, 12/15: **Isaiah 9:6-7:** How has Jesus blessed you in restoring you to your Everlasting Abba Father?

Saturday, 12/16: Pray for the Lord to help our congregation grow in understanding that Jesus is Lord of all of life. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in repentance where we fail.

Sunday, 12/17: **The Lord's Day Sabbath:** Pray for the means of grace to humbly point us to Jesus Christ alone as Lord.

Song of Response

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Lyrics: Johann Olearius, 1711; Reworked by Latifah Phillips and David Wilton

Music: Page CXVI

Verse 1:

Comfort, comfort now my people
Tell of his peace with no end
Comfort, comfort those in darkness
Tell them that God's pardon waits for them

Chorus 1:

The Glory of the Lord now on earth is shed
In deserts far and near he will raise what's dead
His peace has been spoken
His word is never broken
The Kingdom of God is now here

Verse 2:

Straight shall, straight shall be what's crooked
Making the rougher places plain
Let your, let your hearts be humble
Befitting our God's glory and His reign

Bridge:

Let the valleys rise to meet Him
The hills all will bow
Down in praise
Let the valleys rise to greet Him
The hills bow down in praise (x2)

Chorus 2:

The Glory of the Lord now on earth is shed
In deserts far and near he will raise what's dead (x2)
His peace has been spoken
His word is never broken
The Kingdom of God is now here

Outro:

Comfort, comfort now my people (x2)

The Week of December 24th

John 1:29-34

Monday, 12/18: **Psalms 119:169-176:** Give thanks to God for answering your prayers according to His Word. What are some recent examples?

Tuesday, 12/19: **Luke 2:8-14:** How has the coming of Christ specifically been good news for you?

Wednesday, 12/20: Read the lyrics to "Tell Me the Story of Jesus" praying for the Holy Spirit to help transform your heart further in the image of Jesus.

Thursday, 12/21: **John 1:29-34:** Take time to behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Give thanks for the ways in which this has changed your life.

Friday, 12/22: **Isaiah 9:6-7:** How has Jesus blessed you as the Prince of Peace?

Saturday, 12/23: Pray for the Lord to help our congregation grow in beholding and worshipping the Lamb of God.

Sunday, 12/24: **The Lord's Day Sabbath:** Pray for the means of grace to help us treasure the Son of God.

Song of Response

Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lyrics: Fanny Crosby, 1880; Music: Red Mountain Music

Verse 1:

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels in chorus,
Sang as they welcomed His birth,
“Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth.”

Refrain:

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.

Verse 2:

Fasting alone in the desert,
Tell of the days that are past,
How for our sins He was tempted,
Yet was triumphant at last.
Tell of the years of His labor,
Tell of the sorrow He bore;
He was despised and afflicted,
Homeless, rejected and poor.

Verse 3:

Tell of the cross where they nailed Him,
Writhing in anguish and pain;
Tell of the grave where they laid Him,
Tell how He liveth again.
Love in that story so tender,
Clearer than ever I see;
Stay, let me weep while you whisper,
“Love paid the ransom for me.”

Verse 4:

Tell how He's gone back to heaven,
Up to the right hand of God:
How He is there interceding
While on this earth we must trod.
Tell of the sweet Holy Spirit
He has poured out from above;
Tell how He's coming in glory
For all the saints of His love.

The Week of December 31st

John 2:1-12

Monday, 12/25: **Psalm 119:81-88:** What hope do you have in the Word of God?

Tuesday, 12/26: **Matthew 2:1-6:** What are some ways that you are currently pursuing to grow in your knowledge of the person and work of Christ?

Wednesday, 12/27: Read the lyrics for “Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery” praying for the Spirit to help you to see the person and work of Christ more clearly.

Thursday, 12/28: **John 2:1-12:** What are you most looking forward to at the last Advent of Christ?

Friday, 12/29: **Isaiah 9:6-7:** How has Jesus blessed you through His peaceful and just reign as King?

Saturday, 12/30: Read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord’s Table. Ask the Spirit to nourish your hope for the return of Christ.

Sunday, 12/31: **The Lord’s Day Sabbath with the Lord’s Table:** Pray for the means of grace to grant us a sure hope that affects how we live today.

Song of Response

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Lyrics and Music: Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, Michael Bleecker, 2013

Verse 1

Come behold the wondrous mystery
in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises
robed in frail humanity.

In our longing, in our darkness
now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended
took on flesh to ransom us

Verse 2

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering
never trace nor stain of sin.

See the true and better Adam
come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
of the law; in Him we stand.

Verse 3

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners
hangs the Lamb in victory.

See the price of our redemption;
see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory
grace unmeasured, love untold.

Verse 4

Come behold the wondrous mystery;
slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him;
praise the Lord; He is alive!

What a foretaste of deliverance;
how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected
as we will be when he comes.

