

## Day 4

 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

 Read slowly through the hymn's lyrics that you have sung each day, meditating on the words & depth

 Are there words or lines that foster your desire & gratitude for Christ's coming and return? Share why.

Think of people whom God has brought into your life. Who needs the good news of our "long expected Jesus" & the peace he brings (Isaiah 11:6-10)? Who needs to hope in our Deliverer "born a child and yet a king?"

 Pray together

Some helpful tips for using this advent devotion:

- ⇒ Think ahead about **when & where** (pick the same day/time/place in your house for each devotional time).
- ⇒ **Sing with eagerness together!** Sing a capella or use the recording online. Lead your family in singing; by the end of the week, you'll all know it better!
- ⇒ If you live alone, **reach out** to those around you to share this together - in person or over the phone/zoom.
- ⇒ Parents: **Involve your children** at an age-appropriate level! Help them to sing with you, listen quietly, answer basic questions, read the passage, be the 'keeper' of this devotional, pray.
- ⇒ **Invite others** who may be isolated from church. Share this with a friend & invite them to do this in their home parallel to you.
- ⇒ Keep at it. If you miss a day on week 1, just get back to it on week 2!



*"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people  
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David"*

*Luke 1:68-69*

# HOPE • PEACE • LOVE - 2020 - Advent JOY

Week 1

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

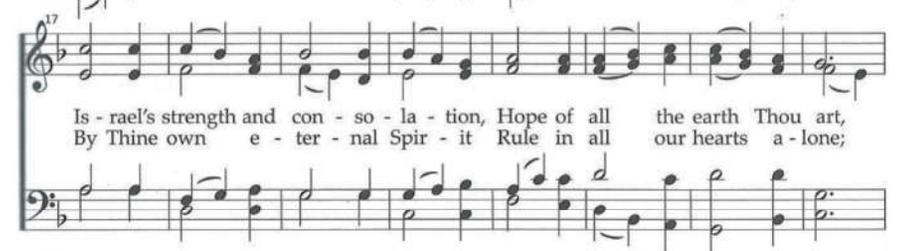
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1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a King,



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1855  
Text: Charles Wesley, 1744

HYFRYDOL  
87.87.87.87.

 **Sing together** this week's song, either a capella or along with the musicians' recording on our website.

 **Read aloud** the passage listed.

 **Respond** by discussing, meditating, and praying. Use the provided prompt and/or discuss as you want.

 **Pray** together about what you read & discussed

*It's as simple as it looks - just sing, read, respond, and pray.*

## Day 1

 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

 Isaiah 11:1-10

 Consider the picture painted in verses 6-10, a description of the **peace** that comes from God's King who rules with **righteousness** (1-5)!! How does this picture help you say "Come, thou long expected Jesus?"

How do you tend to imagine God's peace in your life?

What - in you or in the world - causes you to long for the totally different peace & righteousness of King Jesus?

 Pray together

## Day 2

 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

 Luke 1:26-38

 How is God's power & ability emphasized in the story? Which verses and words point to that?

If we would seek God's power in these ways in our story, how would that strengthen our confidence & hope?

In what areas of your life (sin, relationships, circumstances...) do you tend to not believe "nothing is impossible with God"?

 Pray together, thanking God for his power in the ways you discussed. As you rest in the gospel of Jesus, end your prayer by together saying - "Nothing will be impossible with God."

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## Day 3

 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

 Read Hebrews 12:1-3

 Jesus has already arrived - not only in his incarnation but also in heaven as he has been exalted and is now at God's right hand. He **endured suffering, despised the shame of the cross**, and looked to **the joy ahead**. What is the joy that was "set before him"?

The text says that many witnesses have already arrived! Does this reality give you courage to endure now as you anticipate your arrival with Jesus (John 17:24)? How so?

 Pray together, asking for courage until we arrive with Jesus