TRINITY PRES NORMAN ADVENT COMPANION 2022

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Our prayer is that by focusing on the glory of the incarnation of Jesus using the Trinity Pres Advent Companion our hearts will be awakened and filled with wonder so that we may be comforted and rejoice as we behold and adore him, Christ our Savior and King.

To use this companion:

Each week - sing the hymn daily, read the accompanying passage, and consider the theme by meditating upon the daily questions.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

O Come, All Ye Faithful





Latin hymn Attr. to John Francis Wade, 1751 Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841; alt.

ADESTE FIDELES Irreg., ref. John Francis Wade, Cantus Diversi, 1751

Week 1 Hymn of the Week: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Dec. 1 Theme: "Singing". Read: Luke 2:13-14; Revelation 5:8-11. Consider: *What is your favorite song? Why do people sing? Why did the angels sing when Jesus was born?*

Dec. 2 - Theme: "Willingness". Read: Hebrews 12:1-3.

Consider: What does it mean to be willing? What does it mean to be unwilling? How can the sin of our hearts make us willing to do the wrong things and unwilling to do the right things? How did Jesus' willingness to be born and do difficult things for us demonstrate God's love for us?

Dec. 3 - Theme: "Promises". Read: Micah 5:1-6 Consider: What is a promise? Why do people make promises? How was Jesus being born in Bethlehem a promise kept by God?

Dec. 4 - Theme: "Glory". Read: Revelation 19:1-10. Consider: *What is glory? What are some glorious things you have seen? How are glorious things meant to point us to God? Is there anything more glorious than Jesus coming to be born to save sinners?*

Dec. 5 - Theme: "Broken". Read: Ephesians 2:1-10. Consider: What does it mean when something is broken? What does it mean when the bible teaches us that sin has left us broken? Since we can't fix ourselves, how does Jesus' birth begin God's process of fixing what is broken? Which broken things will be repaired?

Dec. 6 - Theme: "Substitute". Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. Consider: *What is a substitute? Are substitutes usually as qualified as those they are replacing? Why is Jesus qualified to be born as a substitute to effectively save sinners?*

Dec. 7 - Theme: "Jesus". Read: Hebrews 1:1-4.

Consider: Do you have tools? Where do you keep them? When something is broken, how do you know what tool to use to fix it? How does Jesus' being born in Bethlehem show that only a person, and no tool, could fix the relationship between God and sinners?

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing



Hymn of the Week: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!"

Dec. 8 Theme: "Peace". Read: Ephesians 2:11-22. Consider: What is peace? What would it look like if everyone in your life lived in peace? How was Jesus' birth instrumental in producing actual peace between God and man?

Dec. 9 - Theme: "Stealing". Read: Philippians 3:12-20. Consider: What would you do if someone stole something very valuable from you? Have you stolen anything from anyone? How does

our sin rob God of his glory? How did Jesus' need to be born to forgive condemned robbers?

Dec. 10 - Theme: "The Way". Read: John 14:1-14.

Consider: Do you know the way to our church? Are there more ways than one to get to our church? How does Jesus being born indicate that there is only one way for sinners to be reconciled to God?

Dec. 11 - Theme: "Kingdom". Read: Matthew 6:19-33.

Consider: What is a kingdom? How does our sin cause us to deny the Kingdom of God and attempt to create our own little kingdoms with ourselves as kings and queens? How does Jesus' birth begin his kingship over us and invite us to leave our failing kingdoms behind and join his much better kingdom?

Dec. 12 - Theme: "Good and Bad News". Read: Romans 5:6-11. Consider: What would be the best news you could ever receive? What would be the worst news you could ever receive? How does Jesus' birth announce to us both the worst news about ourselves (the cost of our sin) and the best news (about how God will deal with sin) we could ever hear?

Dec. 13 - Theme: "Marching". Read: Galatians 4:4-7. Consider: Why do people march? How does Galatians 4 indicate that all the events prior to Jesus' birth were marching toward that day? After Jesus' birth, to what event was he marching?

Dec. 14 - Theme: "Selfless". Read: 2 Corinthians 5:14-16. Consider: Why do people make demands of others? When do you find yourself becoming demanding? How was Jesus' birth the ultimate selfless action?

THE ADVENT OF CHRIST

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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Latin antiphons, 12th cent. Latin hymn, 1710 Tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961 VENI EMMANUEL L.M.ref. Plainsong, 13th cent. Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856

Hymn of the Week:"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Dec. 15 - Theme: "Prophecy/Promises". Read: Isaiah 7:14-15. Consider: What is a promise? How are God's promises/prophecies different than our promises? Can you identify any promises/prophecies about Jesus' birth that were made hundreds of years before the event?

Dec. 16 - Theme: "Suffering". Read: Luke 24:24-59.

Consider: What is suffering? Why do we do everything we can to avoid suffering? Why do you think Jesus accepted his mission to be born knowing that he would live a life of suffer?

Dec. 17 - Theme: "Selfish". Read: James 4:1-10.

Consider: What does it mean to be selfish? How have you seen yourself being selfish? How have you repented of being selfish? None of us have fully repented enough of our selfishness. How does the birth of Jesus begin God's rescue of selfish people from themselves?

Dec. 18 - Theme: "Inheritance". Read: 1 Peter 1:3-5.

Consider: What are ways to acquire land? What land would you dream of owning? How are all of the places we could own now struck by sin, sadness, and suffering? How did Jesus' birth begin God's mission to redeem all of creation that the new heaven and earth would be our true promised land-our living hope?

Dec. 19 - Theme: "Hope". Read: Romans 5:1-5.

Consider: What is hope? What are your hopes? How are the things we put our hopes in bound to be disappointing because of sin? How is the story of Jesus' birth the beginning of a story of hope for the hopeless?

Dec. 20 - Theme: "Lying." Read: James 1:22-24.

Consider: What is lying? How does sin cause us to lie, not only to others but to ourselves? What does it mean to deceive oneself? Can you think of times that you have lied to your self in order to convince yourself that you are okay even when you weren't? How does this kind of lying decrease our joy and love for God? How does Jesus' being born encourage you to be honest about your sin and confess your need of forgiveness and righteousness?

Dec. 21 - Theme: "Self-Righteousness". Read: Philippians 3:1-11. Consider: What is self-righteousness? Can you think of times when you were convinced you could do something on your own and didn't need help and that got you in big trouble? How does Jesus' birth inform all of us that we are not as good as we might assume, that we are unable to help ourselves, and desperately need a savior? 299

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come



Based on Psalm 98 Isaac Watts, 1719 ANTIOCH C.M.rep. George Frideric Handel, 1742 Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

Hymn of the Week: "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

Dec. 22 - Theme: "Guarantee". Read: Romans 8:18-39. Consider: What is a guarantee? Why are guarantees needed today? How does Romans 8 teach us to have faith every day in our God because of what He has already done for us in the birth of Jesus?

Dec. 23 - Theme: "Songs". Read Psalm 95; Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16. Consider: What Christmas songs do you like to sing? How can songs help you remember things? How can they help us remember what makes us happy, sad, laugh, or what we think is important? Why does God think it is important to command his people to sing songs about His Son? What are some reasons our church should sing about Jesus' birth?

Dec. 24- Theme: "Warfare". Read: Ephesians 6:10-20.

Consider: What is war? How is the Christmas story a redemptive war story? Who is the enemy that defeated our first parents and took us captive? Why did Jesus need to be born in order to set the captives free? How does Ephesians 6 teach us to win because Jesus has already won?

Dec. 25- Theme: "Foolishness". Read: Titus 3:1-11.

Consider: What does it mean to be a fool? How does our sin making us think we don't need God's word or His help the ultimate foolishness? How is the ultimate Wisdom God's Son being born to become one of us without sin to rescue us from our foolishness?

Dec. 26 - Theme: "Sovereignty". Read: Philippians 2:1-11; Mark 10:45. Consider: What does sovereignty mean? What are some areas in your life where you notice your sin of seeking sovereignty apart from God? Are you the only one sovereign ruler in the world? How do you feel that the one sovereign ruler of the world, King Jesus, came to earth to be born, not to serve himself, but to serve His people, and capture their hearts, rescuing them from the catastrophe of rebellion and self-sovereignty?

Dec. 27 - Theme: "Alive". Read: Galatians 2:19-21.

Consider: How do you know when something is alive? If we are dead in our sins, are we capable of being or doing what God requires of us? How does the work of redemption, which began at Jesus' birth, make us alive so that we can know, trust, and have power to glorify and enjoy God?

Dec. 28 - Theme: "Hunger". Read: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 5:6. Consider: What does it mean to be hungry? How do you know you are hungry? What is your favorite food? Your favorite Christmas food? Do you experience spiritual hunger? How does 1 Corinthians 11 help our church to see that Jesus was born to be the bread of life, the satisfaction of our spiritual hunger? **Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**

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Johannes Olearius, 1671 Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863 GENEVAN 42 (THIRSTING) 8.7.8.7.7.7.8.8. Louis Bourgeois, 1551 Harm. Johann Crüger, 1658

Hymn of the Week: "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Dec. 29 - Theme: "Abundant Life". Read: 2 Peter 1:3-9. Consider: What does abundant mean? What would it be like if our life was overflowing with the life that Jesus brings us? How does Jesus' birth assure His church that God will provide every good thing we need until we are finally at home forever with him and with no more sin, sorrow, and death?

Dec. 30 - Theme: "Stories". Read: 1 John 3:1-3.

Consider: What is a story? What is your favorite story? Why is it your favorite story? How does reading and hearing stories help us to make sense of the stories in our own lives? How would you tell the story of your life to someone who had no idea who you were? How does the fact that Jesus was born so that all who believe in him could receive a new identity and become "children of God," fit into your life story?

Dec. 31- Theme: "Disease". Read: 1 John 1.

Consider: What does it mean to be sick? When we get sicknesses and diseases to whom or to what do we turn for help? What is the diseases that effects all people that required Jesus to be born in order for us to be healed? When you recover from a sickness, do you celebrate? How should our church celebrate the healing we have received from Jesus' birth and work as our healer?

Soli Deo Bloria