

#### Come Let Us Adore Him

#### Introduction

Do you find Christmas a little chaotic? We call it the holiday season, yet it feels like we ramp things up rather than slow the pace down sometimes.

Despite this, Christmas for Christians is about worship. We celebrate the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Word of God becoming flesh, the Creator coming down to live in His creation.

The popular Christmas Carol, "O Come All Ye Faithful" is a song that exhorts us to adore (worship) Jesus during the potential chaos of the holidays.

Nobody really knows the hymns author, but it's believed to be a man named John Francis Wade, who penned it some point in the 18th century. However, the song really wasn't popular until the mid 19th century.

Like many hymns, this one contains a refrain that is sung after each verse. This chorus is where the title of my devotional comes from.

"Come Let Us Adore Him," is a worshipful response to the truths contained in the verses. Let us adore Christ! This is what the shepherds did when they returned to their fields "glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them" (Luke 2:20).

Over the next 22 days of advent, I want to invite you on a journey of worship. Let's go!

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#### Come Let Us Adore Him

is a 22-Day Devotional starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Advent Sunday, December 3, 2023 through Sunday, December 24, 2023

- **1.** O Come all Ye Faithful
- **2.** Joyful and Triumphant
- **3.** Bethlehem
- **4.** Behold Him
- **5.** The King of Angels
- **6.** O Come Let Us Adore Him
- **7.** Christ the Lord
- **8.** Choirs of Angels
- **9.** Sing in Exultation
- **10.** Citizens of Heaven Above
- 11. Glory to God
- **12.** Glory in the Highest
- **13.** O Come Let Us Adore Him
- **14.** Yea, Lord we Greet Thee
- **15.** Born This Happy Morning
- **16.** All The Glory to Jesus
- **17.** Word of The Father
- **18.** Now in Flesh Appearing
- **19.** O Come Let Us Adore Him
- **20.** He Alone is Worthy
- **21.** We Give You All the Glory
- **22.** Christ The Lord!

## Day 1: O Come All Ye Faithful

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." Psalm 100:4

**Devotion:** As we begin another Advent season, we gather with hearts full of anticipation and faith. The opening line of the popular Christmas carol, "O Come All Ye Faithful," beckons us to enter the presence of the Lord together.

I love personal worship moments, but there is something special about corporate singing, especially when we arrive with a heart of thanksgiving. Worship is the gateway to the Lord's presence and encountering the true meaning of Christmas.

On this first Sunday of advent, let's remember that our worship isn't a duty, but a response to the One who came to save us! As you gather at Church services around the world today, stir your heart, arrive with faith, be expectant, and enter his gates with thanksgiving!

**Reflection:** Think about a time when worship felt most authentic to you. What aspects of that experience can you incorporate into your Advent worship?

**Prayer:** As we gather in worship today, Lord fill our hearts with gratitude and praise. May our worship during this season draw us closer to You and prepare us to receive the fullness of Your love in Jesus. In your name, we pray. Amen.

## Day 2: Joyful and Triumphant

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid.

I bring you good news that will cause great joy
for all the people."

Luke 2:10

**Devotion:** The word, 'gospel,' simply means good news, and Advent is a great time to pause and reflect on the goodness of God throughout the year.

I love how the Angel continues. He says that *this* good news will cause *great* **JOY**! The carol also invites us to come joyfully and triumphantly, celebrating the arrival of Jesus our Savior! If you need a dose of joy today, the good news is that that in His presence is *fulness* of joy!

The Angel goes even further than good news that causes joy. The charge is complete with the declaration that it is for **ALL** people. Today, as we reflect on the joy of Christ's birth, let's remember this good news is not just for us, it's for all people.

**Reflection:** How has the Lord been **good** to you this year? Consider how our worship can reflect this overflowing **joy**. How can you share this great joy with **others** during this Advent season?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of joy through Christ. May our worship echo the news of His birth, drawing others to experience the abundant life found in Him. Help me be open to opportunities to share the good news today. In your name I pray. Amen.

# Day 3: Bethlehem

"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."

Matthew 2:8

**Devotion:** Bethlehem was an unassuming place that the most extraordinary event unfolded—the birth of the Savior. In our text today we read of Herod's inquiry to the Magi to go and search for the child .... 'so that I too can worship him.'

We soon find out that Herod's intention is to kill all the newborn babies, yet his command to the travelling kings shows that even he knew that Kings are born to be worshipped.

This West Bank town, nestled in Judea's hills, was the birthplace of a King like no other. Its significance wasn't found in its boundaries but in the divine purpose it served. Just as Bethlehem's humble stable became the birthplace for the infant Jesus, it reminds me that God often chooses the ordinary to showcase His extraordinary love.

**Reflection:** As we journey through life, we encounter our own Bethlehem's, those seemingly regular days, yet moments where God's presence quietly resides. It's in the smile of a stranger, the warmth of a loved one, or the whisper of His Word. Like the Magi, we're called to search carefully, to recognize the divine in the everyday.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, in the simplicity of Bethlehem, you revealed Your love. May we, like the Magi, worship You with hearts full of adoration.

#### Day 4: Behold Him

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another."

2 Corinthians 3:17b-18a

**Devotion:** This verse says that as we "behold" the Lord's glory, it will transform us to be more like Him! The Lord, by His Spirit has opened our eyes to see His glory - the wonder, the beauty, the truth, the love and majesty of God.

Those present in that Bethlehem stable 2000 years ago had the opportunity to behold the newborn King. Aren't you glad that we can still behold Him today? And when we do, we grow from one degree of glory to another. We change as we behold Him. We become more like the one we gaze on!

So, what is the "beholding? It is thinking on, meditating, and enjoying that which is the glory of the Lord. I see God's glory wrapped up in Jesus being known.

**Reflection:** Do you desire to be more like Jesus? Take some time today to simply behold Jesus with no agenda. Before gazing on your prayer list, just worship Him for who He is! The veil has been torn – Hallelujah! A way has been made for you to enter today.

## Pray / Sing:

#### To Be Like Jesus

Public Domain

To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus, all I ask is to be like Him.

All through life's journey, from earth to glory,

all I ask is to be like Him.

# Day 5: Born the King of Angels

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:2

**Devotion:** The Magi recognized Jesus as the one born to be King of the Jews and they journeyed to worship Him. They brought with them gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What can you bring to Jesus today?

When you are invited to a Christmas party this advent season, I'm sure you will ask your host, 'please let me know what I can bring.' When we come into the Lord's presence it's important that we bring something for the King! It could be your time, treasure, or talent. Depending on your circumstances, your gift today could be your sacrifice of praise. Whatever it is, make the journey to worship and lay it all at His feet, because when the King enters the room, everything changes!

**Reflection:** How does acknowledging Jesus as King influence your worship? What gift can you bring Him today? Before you pray and ask the Lord for anything today, think about what you can bring him. He loves gifts from his kids!

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we acknowledge Jesus as the King of our lives. May our worship reflect His majesty and inspire us to live in submission to His reign. In His name, we pray. Amen.

## Day 6: O Come, Let Us Adore Him

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Psalm 95:6

**Devotion:** The repeated chorus call to "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" reminds us of the invitation to bow down in worship.

Depending on the translation, the word praise is found approximately 200 times in the Bible. Interestingly, there are 7 Hebrew words that translate to our 1 English word, Praise. The one in our scripture today is the word Barak, which means to kneel in reverence and submission, to bow down, bend low in humility. In Barak praise we willingly bring ourselves low before the Lord to lift Him high!

Barak is a **physical** position of lowness, not an emotional one. It's born from a heart so impressed by Him, so awestruck by His power, his help, and his mercy in our lives that we cannot help but fall on our knees in praise, worship, and adoration.

**Reflection:** What does it mean for you to bow down in worship? Try and keep the word ADORE at the forefront of your mind today. Tell Jesus throughout the day that you adore Him!

**Prayer:** Gracious God, as we come to adore You, may our worship be marked by humility and reverence. Teach us to approach Your presence with awe and gratitude. We bow before you Jesus, our Lord, creator, and savior. Amen.

## **Day 7: Christ The Lord**

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

**Devotion:** Today, let's contemplate the titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. As the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, we are invited to come and behold His greatness. Our worship is a response to His majesty!

The title I love, especially during advent season, is Emmanuel. God with us it means. The implication of Emmanuel is that God would dwell among his people. He would literally be with us and when Jesus shows up, everything changes.

**Reflection:** How do you view Jesus based on His titles? Is Jesus your Savior, Healer, Redeemer, Counsellor? They are amazing titles that highlight what He can do.

What about titles and descriptions about who He is?! Is Jesus beautiful, the altogether lovely one?

How can your worship reflect your awe and adoration for the multifaceted nature of our Savior?

**Prayer:** Loving Savior, your titles reveal your greatness. As we gather to worship, help us behold You with reverence and gratitude for all that You are. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

# **Day 8: Sing Choirs of Angels**

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:13-14

**Devotion:** When I come to the line, 'Sing Choirs of Angels,' my mind goes to the multitude of angels gathered around the throne singing, "Holy, Holy Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The one who was, and is, and is to come."

There is a longing in our hearts for that day to come when we will see Jesus' face to face and worship Him forever. Today we are reminded that the angels' proclamation marked the birth of our Savior. Their song still resonates through time with the carol's call for us to join in and sing in exultation!

**Reflection:** Reflect on the impact of the angels' worship and consider how our worship can bring glory to God, peace to our lives and the lives of those around us.

Pray / Sing:

# What a Day that Will Be

Song lyrics by Jim Hill

What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see.
When I look upon His face, the one who saved me by His grace.
Then He'll take me by the hand and lead me to the promised land.
What a day, glorious day that will be.

**Prayer:** Lord, like the heavenly host, we desire to glorify You through our worship. May our adoration bring Your peace to our hearts and shine Your light in a world longing for hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

# **Day 9: Sing In Exultation**

"Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:9-11

**Devotion:** Why this emphasis on singing? Why this teaching on praise being an expression of worship? Must we sing about Christ to fully embrace and enjoy the grace given to us in the Christmas story? Simply put, the answer is yes.

C.S. Lewis helps us to understand why praise is the only fitting response, both for the angelic host and for us today. "[Previously] I thought of [praise] in terms of compliment, approval, or the giving of honor. I had never noticed that all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise." For us to truly enjoy Christ, we will inevitably respond in praise. Lewis continues: "I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation."

Our praising of Christ is how our joy in Christ is made complete.

**Reflection:** Let us sing this Advent season. Let us sing in exultation. And not with our lips alone, but with our minds thoughtfully engaged and our hearts full of joy in Christ.

Sing:

# Sing, Sing, Sing

Song lyrics by Chris Tomlin

Sing, sing, and make music with the heavens. Sing, sing, sing, grateful that you hear us. We shout your praise, life high the name of Jesus.

#### Day 10: Citizens Of Heaven Above

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ," Philippians 3:20

**Devotion:** Advent is a time to reflect on the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Today's song line and bible verse, however, force us to also look forward.

We of all people are the most hopeful because we know that He has promised us eternal life, a new creation, new heaven, new earth, where everything will be made new by His power.

Most of us will decorate our homes during Christmas season. Many will host gatherings. The encouragement today is to be mindful that this is not our home. Your passport determines your earthly citizenship, but as disciples of Jesus, our names have also been written in the place where we await Jesus' reappearing!

We are citizens of Heaven - Hallelujah!

**Prayer:** We cannot wait to see you, Lord Jesus. Come quickly, we pray. We look forward to the day when you'll transform our lowly bodies to be like your glorious body. God, we praise you for this hope. We pray that you'd help us to live in this hope today, and that you would guard us from despair or discouragement.

Make us more like you, Jesus, change us. Transform our thoughts, our desires, to be more like you, to be more glorifying to you as we look forward to the day when this transformation will be complete.

## Day 11: Glory To God

"Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness."

Psalm 29:1-2

**Devotion:** David declares our need to give God glory simply because of who He is. He doesn't state any reasons why this ought to be done. His is Holy and His very essence is deserving of our glory and the giving of our strength.

Regarding the 'due to His name,' God is worthy of our worship based on His authority. David is not saying that since His name is God, we must glorify Him. Rather, David is saying that it is the authority He carries as God that causes us to glorify Him.

Consider the statement in Acts 2:38 that we are to baptize in the name of Jesus Christ. That means we are baptized by the authority of Jesus Christ to receive forgiveness of sins. So, here in Ps. 29, David is saying we are glorifying God because of His authority due to who He is.

**Reflection:** Psalm 29 uses the very common Hebrew poetry style of parallel statements. That means the 2<sup>nd</sup> line of each verse basically repeats the 1<sup>st</sup> line but in slightly different verbiage. For example, in verse 2, another way to say, 'Ascribe to the Lord,' is 'Worship the Lord.' A different way of penning, 'Glory due His name,' is 'splendor of holiness.' What other phrases can you use to paint the picture like the Psalmist?

Sing:

#### **Ascribe Greatness**

Song lyrics by Don Moen

Ascribe greatness to our God the rock.

His work is perfect, and all His ways are just. (x2)

A God of faithfulness, without injustice. Good and upright is He. (x2).

# Day 12: Glory In The Highest

"The whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying,

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!"

Luke 19:37-38

**Devotion:** Mary and Joseph rode to Bethlehem on a donkey, and we know that King Jesus was born in a lowly stable. Now as an adult in the middle of his ministry, Jesus comes riding into Jerusalem. The people start shouting praises to Him, calling Him their king.

A donkey is not an animal connected to royalty. When kings would ride into their city, they rode on majestic horses or in a carriage, not a donkey, and a baby colt at that.

Jesus never stated that He was their king. He just did what His Father wanted Him to do. But the people had been looking for a king of their own. They had been under the harsh Roman rule for many years and wanted their freedom again. With these things in mind, they give Jesus great praise. They honor Him as a real king. They laid out a carpet of palm branches for Him to come in on. They called out praise to Him.

**Reflection:** Allow Jesus to be your king and shout out praises to Him. Do not be silent. Let the world know that Jesus is your king and THE King of Kings. The world will try to silence you, but Jesus said if we are silent the rocks will cry out.

**Prayer:** We declare your kingship over our lives Jesus and pray that the world will know you this Advent season. Draw our family and friends that don't yet know you into that relationship with you.

#### Day 13: O Come Let Us Adore Him

"Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together."
Psalm 34:3

**Devotion:** As we revisit the call to "O Come, Let Us Adore Him," let's consider the power of corporate worship. When we gather as a community of believers, our worship, 1) magnifies the name of the Lord, and 2) strengthens our bond as believers.

Think about that word "magnify" for a moment. When there is unity in the room as we gather to praise, we essentially make Jesus bigger! We see Him clearer, and when He is in the room things change!

The charge to exalt His name together isn't because the Lord wants more numbers or a bigger crowd. His heart is for His people to come together regularly to worship because it's best for us!

**Reflection:** CFNI Professor, Mike Massa made this statement in a class I attended in 2011. I have found it to be true as well and it has never left me. "The deepest relationships (friendships) I have today, are with the ones I have been in the presence of God with."

Does that hold true for you? How does corporate worship impact your spiritual journey? How can you actively engage in worship as a community during this Advent season?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we gather to exalt Your name together. May our corporate worship be a testament to Your greatness and a source of encouragement for one another. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

#### Day 14: Yea, Lord, We Greet Thee

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46-47

**Devotion:** Mary's Magnificat is a song of praise and blessing. It proclaims who the coming child is and what he shall accomplish. He comes to set people free and save us from whatever keeps us in dark places.

Along with Mary, we too can rejoice in the good news. We do not live with a spirit of fear, but rather a spirit of power (2 Timothy 1:7). This Lord that we greet, comes to reign for our good and this light is too good to keep under wraps. Let this song be a blessing, a 'bless-sing,' for all people in all times and places.

**Reflection:** Let me encourage you to read the Magnificat that immediately follows today's bible verse. You'll find it in Luke 1:46-55. Read it slowly and then try and make up your own melody and sing it!

# Pray / Sing:

# Magnificent

Song lyrics by Hillsong Music

Who compares to You? Who set the stars in their place? You who calmed the raging seas, that came crashing over me.

Who compares to You? You who bring the morning light The hope of all the earth, is rest assured in Your great love.

You are magnificent, eternally wonderful, glorious, Jesus, no one ever will compare to you Jesus.

# Day 15: Born This Happy Morning

"And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

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

Luke 2:12-14

**Devotion:** The triumphant tone of 'Glory to God in the highest,' is soon made somber with, 'among those with him he is pleased."

We read in John 1 about Jesus coming to his own people and yet they did not receive him. However, to all who did receive him he gave them the right to become children of God! Are we people with whom the Lord is pleased? That can be answered with the question, have we received him?

John Piper writes, "The key that unlocks the treasure chest of God's peace is faith in the promises of God. The people who enjoy the peace of God are those who in everything by prayer let their requests be made known to God."

As the old bumper sticker says: kNOw Peace, kNOw God!

**Reflection:** One of my life verses is found in Isaiah 26:3: "You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." As the holiday season ramps up, how can you keep your mind stayed on Jesus? His peace is worth it. Time spent in His presence is never wasted.

**Prayer:** Thank you, Lord, for the peace that passes human understanding. The source of this supernatural peace is you Jesus. I fix my mind on you today and worship you! Amen.

## Day 16: All Glory To Jesus

"to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen." Romans 16:27

**Devotion:** Paul pens a string of statements in this chapter, describing the glorious work God has done in revealing the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus. He then concludes his doxology (a hymn of praise to God), by finally praising Him.

Paul began this long last sentence with the words "to him who," and now completes the thought with "to the only wise God." One of the reasons that God is wise is because He has made it possible for all people to share in His glory through faith in Jesus forever.

To this God, then, Paul writes, *be glory forever*. He will be glorified—lifted up, praised, shown to be worthy—forever through Jesus Christ.

#### **Reflection:**

## Noel (He is Born)

Song lyrics by Tommee Profitt

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord, sing praises to our heavenly Lord.

That hath made Heaven and Earth of naught,
and with His blood mankind bought.

He is born, He is born, the Son of God has come to dwell.
The King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Emmanuel.
He is born, He is born, hope for all, now go, and tell.
He has come to save the world, we sing Noel, Noel.

**Prayer:** All the glory belongs to you forever Jesus. As we celebrate your birth, we recognize you came to save the world and bring hope for all. The heavens declare the glory of the Lord! Praise the Lord!

## Day 17: Word of the Father

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14

**Devotion:** The carol refers to Jesus as the "Word of the Father." Today, let's explore the profound truth that Jesus is the living Word who came from the Father and became flesh.

There are 2 Greek words we translate as 'word.' Here in John 1, it's Logos and it implies a total message, used mostly in reference to God's message to mankind. Jesus IS the total Message, everything that God wants to communicate to man. John gives us a glimpse inside the Father/Son relationship before Jesus came to earth in human form. He preexisted with the Father, He was involved in creation of everything, and He is the light of all mankind.

Our worship is an opportunity to engage with the living Word and encounter His grace and truth.

**Reflection:** How does the idea of Jesus as the Word impact your worship? How can you engage with Scripture more deeply during this Advent season?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, You are the Word made flesh. As we worship, may Your Word come alive in our hearts, guiding us in grace and truth. Open our hearts to receive Your message. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

# Day 18: Now In Flesh Appearing

"**The Word became flesh** and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

**Devotion:** The Lord is come! English hymn writer and theologian Isaac Watts wrote a wonderful Christmas song in the early 1700's. The familiar hymn celebrates Jesus' birth with the lyrics, 'Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing."

Advent calls us to exuberant worship and invites us to reflect more deeply on what we are celebrating.

Many nations don't enjoy the religious freedom we have in the west. What a privilege and freedom we have today to openly celebrate, worship and share the good news.

**Reflection:** How does acknowledging Jesus' divine nature impact your worship?

**Prayer:** We give you thanks today Lord for the freedom we have to express our praise. As we worship, may your glory, grace, and truth fill our hearts, guiding us in our journey of faith. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sing:

# Joy to the World

Song lyrics by Isaac Watts

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns,

Let all their songs employ.

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy ...

#### Day 19: O Come Let Us Adore Him

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel,
praising God and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'"
Luke 2:13-14

**Devotion:** The angelic proclamation was met with a chorus of worship from the heavenly host. Today, let's reflect on the power of united worship and how our voices, together as a choir, can bring glory to God and spread His peace.

Corporate worship is not just about the moment, it can also be a prophetic act. We are inviting others to come and adore Jesus. We are prophetically declaring truth into the lives of those who will come behind us.

The song from Handel's Messiah is a great example. It looks forward to a day when all will see and acknowledge God's glory and adore Him. The lyrics are a prophetic verse from Isaiah and has filled countless Christmas services for decades!

"And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together, For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it."

**Reflection:** How does your individual worship contribute to the larger choir of believers? In what ways can you use your voice to bring God glory and share His peace?

**Prayer:** Gracious God, as we worship, may our voices join with the heavenly choir in proclaiming Your glory and peace. May our unity in worship reflect Your love and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Day 20: For He Alone Is Worthy

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." Revelation 5:12

**Devotion**: Jesus Christ came to us as a baby, but from the very beginning of time He knew He would one day give up His life as a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. Jesus willingly left His throne and came to live the sinless life that we couldn't live, and died the death that we should have died. He was born to die so that we might be born-again in Him. It was and is the greatest act of love the world has ever seen.

Revelation 5 tells us that the living creatures, elders, and thousands upon thousands of angels join in magnificent worship and praise to the Lord Jesus Christ, the precious Lamb of God. In harmony they sing, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain..."

One day we will join this chorus of praise and worship Him for all eternity. Oh, what a day that will be!

**Reflection**: How does the truth that every creature in heaven, on the earth and under the earth, and on the sea were heard to give Christ praise, honor, and glory, affect your worship during this Advent season?

**Prayer:** Jesus, I praise Your name! Thank you for coming and giving your life for me. The only response to this undeserved, incredible divine exchange is worship. You are worthy of all my worship today. You are forever worthy.

## Day 21: We Give You All The Glory

"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen or heard, which were just as they had been told." Luke 2:20

**Devotion**: Isn't it amazing that God would choose humble shepherds to be some of the first people to know about Jesus' birth? He chose the poor and the outcast to announce His glorious message – the long-awaited King of kings was to be born!

Just imagine what it must have been like to be the shepherds that night. They were minding their own business, tending to their sheep when suddenly, an angel and a multitude of heavenly host appear with the good news of Jesus' birth. Awestruck and terrified, they left their herds behind and ran to see the One the angels had told them about. They responded instantly with belief and obedience. Their fear became great joy when they saw the baby lying in a manger. They couldn't help but share the good news with everyone they met. They glorified and praised God for all they had seen and heard.

**Reflection:** How can you respond to the glorious message of Christ's birth during this Advent season? Who can you share the Good News with this Christmas time? May we all be like the shepherds who believed and obeyed and responded with praise.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, we are awestruck at the wonder of your birth. We glorify and praise you for all you have done. Help us to point others to you and to your amazing love.

#### Day 22: Christ The Lord!

"Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him."

1 Corinthians 8:6

**Devotion:** A lord is someone with authority, control, or power over others. To say that someone is "lord" is to consider that person a master or ruler. In Jesus' day the word *lord* was often used as a title of respect toward earthly authorities.

The statement "Jesus is Lord" means that Jesus is God. Jesus has 'all authority in heaven and on earth,' (Matt 28:18). He is 'Lord of the Sabbath.' (Luke 6:5). He is 'Our only Sovereign and Lord,' (Jude 1:4). In fact, Jesus is the Lord of Lords! (Rev 7:14), meaning that of all the lords who have ever lived, He is the greatest one!

**Reflection:** On this our final day of our worship journey, the last reflection question is, is Jesus Christ your Lord? Does he have complete or just partial control and authority? Is Jesus your 1 day a week (Sunday) Lord? Do you worship him daily, weekly, when the need arises, or just on the holidays (Easter and Christmas)?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, we confess on this last Sunday of advent, that you are the Lord of Lords. By you all things were created. We exist through you and for you. Come and be our Lord of All!

Sing:

# **Build My Life**

Song lyrics by Pat Barrett

Worthy of every song we could ever sing. Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring. I worship You, I Worship You.