



GOD WITH US
PRAYING THE NAMES OF JESUS

∞ SERMON SERIES | SUNDAYS, 11/28 - 12/26 | chapelwood.org/names

JESUS CHRIST, O WISDOM FROM ON HIGH
MARK JODON

JESUS CHRIST, O ROOT OF JESSE
EVAN NEHRING

JESUS CHRIST, O KEY OF DAVID
TRICIA MILLER

JESUS CHRIST, O KING OF NATIONS
MADISON ANDREWS

JESUS CHRIST, O IMMANUEL
ELAINE SCOTT

JESUS CHRIST, O BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR
LORI ANDERSON

Thanks be to God for these Chapelwood members who have written daily devotionals based on the names of Jesus in the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Week One of Advent
Jesus Christ, O Wisdom From on High

*O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.*

Sunday, November 28

“Come” - such a tiny invitation, seemingly simple. Yet, an invitation that is spacious, life-changing, larger than we know. An invitation our hearts cry out: *O Come, Jesus – Wisdom on high. I have prepared a place where you are welcome to reside. Come.*

Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus, come. I am ready for Your spirit to rest upon me.

Monday, November 29

All of creation, mightily and marvelously ordered, unfolds before us each day. In and through Jesus, all things are re-ordered and made new, infused with His spirit, wisdom and understanding. Although we do not fully understand, we rejoice in His wonder and mystery.

Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Infuse me with Your wisdom and understanding.

Tuesday, November 30

Jesus comes to show us the path of knowledge, a path much broader than perhaps we imagined. This path, a lifelong journey led by His example, each day offers new glimpses and hints of His spirit.

Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Show me the path of Your wisdom and knowledge.

Wednesday, December 1

Jesus comes to teach us His ways of wisdom and knowing. There are many ways we are taught; there are many ways we learn. All of these ways dwell within us.

Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus, Come. Teach me in Your ways of wisdom and counsel.

Thursday, December 2

Jesus comes to teach us ways in which we can live His wisdom. He equips us with a Spirit of counsel and might. His wisdom dwells in our hearts, moves us out into the world, and we become co-creators of His new order.

Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus, Come. Give me courage to take what You taught and live it into action.

Friday, December 3

We do not walk the wisdom path alone. With Jesus as our guide, and the Spirit of the Lord resting upon us, we can confidently walk as witnesses beside those who have yet to extend the invitation to “come.”

Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus, Come. Fill me with your Wisdom so I may be Your witness to others.

Saturday, December 4

“Come” - such a tiny invitation, seemingly simple. Rejoice! Rejoice! For Jesus, Wisdom on high, accepts your invitation and shall come to you. And by this you will know, there are no tiny invitations!

Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus. Come.

Week Two of Advent
Jesus Christ, O Root of Jesse

*O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.*

Sunday, December 5

God does not forget His promises and here reminds us that the Messiah will come from the line of David just as He promised

Prayer: Lord, we pray that we may not forget the promises that you have made to us or those who came before.

Monday, December 6

Jesus is the root and with this root will come fruit to bear fulfilling all the promises God has given.

Prayer: Lord, we pray that we may grow from the root of Jesus and bear His fruit.

Tuesday, December 7

It is through Jesus that all people will be invited into the kingdom of God not just the Jews, but to the Gentiles as well.

Prayer: Lord, we pray that like the nations of ancient times, we will see your signal of invitation to God's Kingdom.

Wednesday, December 8

Throughout Scripture, Jesus is called the root of Jesse and the root of David. We hear from the prophet Isaiah, the Apostle Paul, John the Revelator, and Jesus himself, who said, "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

Prayer: Lord, we pray that every person will hear your call and know your name.

Thursday, December 9

God raises Jesus in the world as a signal of God's love.

Prayer: Lord, we pray that your love will spread far and wide.

Friday, December 10

Jesus is the fulfillment of the glimmer of hope planted in David's time.

Prayer: Lord, we pray that we would abound in hope through our faith in Jesus.

Saturday, December 11

Jesus, your dwelling shall be glorious — a place with no death where creation is restored. One day all the earth will worship you.

Prayer: Lord, we pray that we will live as people who see the glory of the Lord and reflect that glory in our own day.

For more Advent and Christmas resources, go to chapelwood.org/Christmas

You will find links to worship services, Christmas serving opportunities, resources and activities for children and students, concerts, and sermon notes.

Week Three of Advent
Jesus Christ, O Key of David

*O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode.*

Sunday, December 12

The holiday season is a time when homes are decorated inside and out. Festive table settings, sparkling trees and glowing houses all create a magical ambience. God also prepares “our heavenly home.” His teachings are the way to everlasting and eternal life. How are we showing love, compassion and tender care in special season?

Prayer: Dear God, remind me, ground me, and humble me with the true spirit of the season.

Monday, December 13

We hold keys for many of our prized possessions: our houses, cars, safes, etc. Keys not only protect and safeguard most precious treasures, but they can also open up ourselves to new spaces. Isaiah 22:22 says, “And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.” God can help us move through spaces that we can not do on our own.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, I look to You when I can not move on my own. Give me strength to take your hand and I will follow.

Tuesday, December 14

“O come, O Key of David ... Make safe for us the heavenward road...” God is our Protector. We can call on Him to feel safe and at peace. We can let go of worry.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, I trust you in times of uncertainty and fear. Comfort me in times when I am anxious and scared.

Wednesday, December 15

You never know what people are carrying in their hearts—many are burdened with worries and emotionally drained. Your one act of kindness, word of encouragement and thoughtful gesture may be the one thing a person needs to open their heart and mind. “Encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, allow the Holy Spirit to work through me so I can serve as a key to open up others to the wonders of your everlasting Love. Allow me to be present with others.

Thursday, December 16

We often ask kids to write their list to Santa during the Christmas season. Just like children, we can ask for our hearts’ desires. God showers us with abundant gifts—we just have to pay attention and not be afraid to ask for what we need. “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7)

Prayer: Dear God, I come before you to ask for _____. (Fill in what you need.)

Friday, December 17

God’s love is the key to finding peace, healing hurt and experiencing grace. God can heal people, nations in a broken world. John references Isaiah’s key of David, “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the Holy One, the True One, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.’”

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, heal us when we are hurting. Cast a light so others can see and feel your healing presence.

Saturday, December 18

The holiday season can bring a sense of chaos with so much going on. Let us not lose focus during this Advent season. “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:16)

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we come as humble servants. Lead us in the way to a fulfilled, connected and everlasting life.

Week Four of Advent
Jesus Christ, O King of Nations

*O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace.*

Sunday, December 19

In Jesus we experience the spiritual ease that emerges from our awareness of the “precious cornerstone” that upholds our faith. No trial or tempest can purloin the deep serenity promised to those who believe in this unshakable foundation.

Prayer: May we perceive the eternal strength and security afforded us by Jesus.

Monday, December 20

Jesus was the “stone that the builders rejected” (Psalm 118:22), but his self-sacrifice expanded the church, enfolding all of humanity in the Holy Spirit’s everlasting embrace.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for inviting everyone into the kingdom of heaven.

Tuesday, December 21

“Jesus says the kingdom of heaven will be given to “a nation bringing forth its fruit” (Matthew 21:33-44), a people comprised of Jew and Gentile.

Prayer: May we be faithful to bring forth the fruit of holy lives lived in grateful service of God and others.

Wednesday, December 22

The cornerstone joins and stabilizes two walls; without it, the whole structure crumbles. Though the religious authorities rejected Jesus, his name is the cornerstone “by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:11).

Prayer: May our minds unite in joyful gratitude for the immovable cornerstone of our salvation.

Thursday, December 23

1 Peter refers to believers as “living stones” (1 Peter 2:5) by virtue of our relationship to the messiah. Our redeemed spirits partake in the “spiritual house” of which Jesus forms the cornerstone.

Prayer: God, fortify our spiritual house. May we share the grace you have given us with each other.

Friday, December 24

What unimaginable wonders awaited Mary and Joseph on the night of Jesus’ birth. What beauty lay in store for all humankind -- Immanuel, God with us, in person and in spirit, “always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

Prayer: Draw us closer to the mystery of your son’s arrival. May the light of your spirit illuminate ours as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Saturday, December 25

Jesus brought light into the world, shining “on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death” (Luke 1:79). It is through Jesus we know and receive forgiveness for our sins, bringing us out of the darkness and into the light of grace.

Prayer: We thank you, God, for the merciful gift of your son, Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve***Jesus Christ, O Immanuel***

*O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

Israel's long wait is almost over! So is ours. Our hearts yearn for Immanuel, just as surely as Israel longed for Isaiah's promise to be fulfilled: *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel."* Isaiah 7:14: Christ is coming! Rejoice! Christmas is almost here!

Prayer:

Dear God,

As we anticipate the greatest of all gifts—the birth of your son, Jesus—prepare our hearts to shelter him, to nurture his growth, so that we, in turn, reflect his glory and truth. May our lives be a guiding star to any who choose to see, that you are with us always, that Immanuel has come. Thank you, God. Amen

December 26, 2021

"Oh come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!

Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light."

Isaiah 9:2 says, *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who well in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shown."* The light has come! We can see! Like the Magi we can follow the light of the star that is the babe from Bethlehem. How amazing to think that Christ anticipates our arrival, our willingness to follow him, and invites us to join him in the work of creating a new kingdom on Earth that dispels darkness in all its forms. We welcome his light. We welcome Lord Jesus!

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you. Thank you for your gift of Jesus, who dispels the shadows of the world, and the shadows within our hearts. Thank you for the infinite comfort of knowing that you are always with us, as you were with Him, in darkness and in light. Thank you for always being our Immanuel. Amen

First Sunday of Christmas
Jesus Christ, O Bright and Morning Star

*O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light.*

Sunday, December 26

Welcome to the first Sunday of Christmas! We celebrate the birth of Jesus; the one born under the Bethlehem star becomes our Bright and Morning star. The opening of the gospel of John reads, "in him was life, and the life was the light of all people." (John 1:4)

Prayer: Jesus, our Bright and Morning Star,
You bring light and life into these winter days. You bring light and life to those I carry on my heart. (pause to offer names) You bring light and life to all people and to all places. (pause to offer specific peoples and places.) Amen.

Monday, December 27

In other versions of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," Jesus, the Bright Morning Star, is translated as "Dayspring," a word for early dawn. In Zechariah's song, the Benedictus, we hear, "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us." (Luke 1:78) It's by God's gentle mercy that dawn appears and the light of day arrives.

Prayer: Jesus, our Dayspring,
In God's tender mercy, you break across the horizon of our lives to usher in a new day, a new season, and new possibilities. I offer to you, all of those who long to make a new beginning. Amen.

Tuesday, December 28

Jesus, our Bright and Morning Star brings us "comfort from afar." Even from a long way off, the comfort of Jesus finds its way to us. In these days after Christmas, is there someone in your lifeworld in need of comfort? Who might need a kind word, a call, text, or the blessing of your presence?

Prayer: Jesus, our Bright and Morning Star,
Hear my thanksgiving for the ways you have brought comfort to me. Help me to see the persons in my life who need the gift of comfort - and give me the grace to offer it in your name. Amen.

Wednesday, December 29

Jesus, our Bright and Morning Star "dispels the shadows of the night." In the words of Isaiah, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shone." (Isaiah 9:2) We are not invisible to God. Even in deep darkness, God sees us.

Prayer: Jesus, our Bright and Morning Star,
You see us. You call us precious and beloved, even in moments and seasons of darkness. We thank you for the light of your love that reaches through the deepest darkness to shine on us, and all of your creation. Amen.

Thursday, December 30

We look at Jesus as the Bright and Morning Star that rises as an outward sign, but Peter shifts this image to something that happens within us when he encourages us to be attentive to God's prophetic message as "a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." (2 Peter 1:19)

Prayer: Jesus, our Bright and Morning Star,
Help me to recognize the light of your presence in the world around me, and help me to sense your presence within my heart, like the rising of the morning star. Amen.

Friday, December 31

Let today be a day of gathering significant moments and memories of 2021. Spend a few minutes offering to God your joys and sorrows, light and darkness. In the words of Swedish writer Dag Hammarskjold, "For all that has been, Thank you. For all that is to come, Yes!"

Prayer: Jesus our Bright and Morning Star,

The light of your love has shined the whole year through. Today, I give every moment and every memory into the care of your loving hands and loving heart. Amen.

Saturday, January 1

We awaken to the light of a New Year! 365 days stretch out before us with mysterious possibilities and unknown adventures. May we enter the world this new year, carrying the good news that Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us!

Lord Jesus of new beginnings, you are...

"Always aware of us,

Ever present with us,

Ceaselessly creating us --

We respond in love,

We tremble and adore,

Our God, mysterious and faithful." Amen.

(Cotter and Payton in "Out of the Silence")



*For more spiritual formation resources, contact Teresa Rossy, Director of Adult Discipleship Ministries,
Chapelwood United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas.*