

*God with Us:
Praying the Names of Christ*



Adam Boulter

8:45 a.m. + December 26, 2021 + First Sunday of Christmas

O Oriens

First light and then first lines along the east
To touch and brush a sheen of light on water
As though behind the sky itself they traced
The shift and shimmer of another river
Flowing unbidden from its hidden source;
The Day-Spring, the eternal Prima Vera.
Blake saw it too. Dante and Beatrice
Are bathing in it now, away upstream...
So every trace of light begins a grace
In me, a beckoning. The smallest gleam
Is somehow a beginning and a calling;
“Sleeper awake, the darkness was a dream
For you will see the Dayspring at your waking,
Beyond your long last line the dawn is breaking”.

Malcolm Guite

Welcome

Preparing for Worship

from the Iona Community

Into our world as into Mary's womb...

Come, Lord Jesus.

Into the forgotten places, as into the stable...

Come, Lord Jesus.

Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope;

Into the lives of the powerful, bringing caution;

Into the lives of the weary, bringing rest;

Into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness;

And into our lives and longings, whatever our estate...

Come, Lord Jesus

This is the good news: Christ is coming, and blessed are those who wait on the Lord.

Therefore come quickly, Lord.

Song of Welcome

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

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Reading

Isaiah 9:2, Malachi 4:2

The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness –

on them light has shined.

For you who revere my name

the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

Singing with the Angels

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;

With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Sitting with Scripture

Luke 1:78-79

*By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

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and bring us comfort from afar!
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Meditation

Sitting with a Breath Prayer

Inhale: *Lord Jesus Christ, O Bright and Morning Star,*
Exhale: *Come and enlighten us.*

Silence

During these minutes of silence, simply rest in God's abiding and loving presence in this moment. Simply be here now. You are in the Love of God. Christ is your Divine Center. There is nothing you need to do. Just be and relax. Center your attention in your heart, or breathe deeply down into your belly. If it helps you to center, use a sacred prayer word such as Mercy, Love, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit. Or follow the rhythm of your breath.

Holy Communion (with Russian Orthodox "*Kyrie*")

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Light of the world. You hold all things together. In you we live and move and have our being. In your presence in us and among us, you continually heal, mercy, love, and transform. You only do what you see the Father doing. You give your life freely and willingly for us and for all people that we might live in peace with you and with one another. Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison.

Lord Jesus Christ, we are not worthy to sit at this table. The injustices of the world live within each of us. We treat others unjustly. Anger and old wounds govern us. We judge the poor from our positions of power. We ignore the cries of the little and the least. Your love has not taken root within us. Christ, have mercy.

Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison.

Still, Lord Jesus, you are present in every time and every place. So this morning be in this bread and cup. Be the bread that gives us strength and the wine that animates our living. Allow us to be your strength and animation for the whole world. Live in us and through us, healing and loving the world into Light. Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison.

Receiving a Good Word

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please register your attendance.
If you are worshipping online, please text the word **center** to (844) 474-0707
If you are worshipping in person, please text the word **chapel** to (844) 474-0707*

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