
*A Guide for
Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany*

*This, this
is
Christ
the
King!*



EMMANUEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Introduction

What are Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany?

There are two major “cycles” on the Christian calendar, each of which includes a season of preparation followed by a season of celebration. The first is the nativity cycle, which includes the seasons of Advent and Christmas and concludes with the feast of the Epiphany. The second is the passion cycle, which includes the seasons of Lent and Easter and concludes with the feast of Pentecost.

Advent means “coming” and is the time of year we build anticipation in our hearts for the coming of our King, both in history at his birth and in glory to come. On **Christmas** Day we celebrate His birth, and the twelve-day Christmas season continues through January 5th. January 6th marks the feast of the **Epiphany**, on which we remember the visit of the magi to the child Jesus and we celebrate the revelation of our God and King, Jesus, to all nations.

Connecting to Scripture Stories

We have compiled this guide for your use throughout the nativity cycle. Our hope is that it will help you anticipate and celebrate the coming of Jesus as Christ the King! During each week of the nativity cycle, we will look at a specific title of Christ the King. These titles will draw on the kingship stories of David and Solomon, and the titles and lessons are as follows:

Week 1: *Son of David* | God’s Covenant with David - in 2 Samuel 6 - 7

Week 2: *Prince of Peace* | David was Anointed - in 1 Samuel 16 - 17

Week 3: *Merciful Savior* | David Showed Mercy & David Sinned and Was Restored - in 1 Samuel 24 & 2 Samuel 11 - 12, Psalm 51

Week 4: *Wisdom of God* | Solomon Asked for Wisdom - in 1 Kings 2 - 3

Week 5: *Emmanuel* | Solomon Built the Temple - in 1 Kings 6 - 8

Week 6: *King of the Nations* | A Kingdom Divided - in 1 Kings 11 - 12

How to Use this Guide

This guide includes a weekly introduction and a daily Scripture reading. The weekly introduction includes a prayer prompt and discussion question, and lists verse(s) of the carol “What Child Is This?” to sing. These may be done daily or weekly as suits your family. Below are a few additional questions you may use after each Scripture reading to spark discussion in your family.

Jesus in the Scriptures: What does this passage teach us about Jesus as our King? How is He greater and wiser than all other kings? How does He fulfill the promises of God?

Jesus in our lives: Where do we see the need for Christ the King in our lives today? How can we honor Him as our King?

The lyrics to the carol “What Child is This?” are printed on the last page of this guide. When you sing, you are participating with not only your family or friends, but also the Emmanuel church body and Christians from years past and years ahead in worshiping and honoring Jesus Christ as our King – of all people, for all time!

For younger children, you may choose to read only the bolded text of the daily Scripture readings. We begin each week reading from the Old Testament – psalms and prophecies – to engage with the longing found in the Scriptures and in our own hearts. Later in the week, we read from the Gospels and the Epistles to see how Jesus fulfills the promises of God in His birth, life, death, and resurrection. We see how Jesus is the perfect King – the greater David, the wiser Solomon – that we have been waiting for all along.

A calendar and star stickers have been provided separately to help your family keep track of your progress through the daily readings.

Week 1

Christ the King: Son of David

Our Hope

Read: God's Covenant with David (2 Samuel 6 - 7). God promised David that every future king of Israel would come from David's family and that David's kingdom would last forever. God kept His promise by sending His Son, Jesus, as one of David's descendants. Jesus is our King now and forever. *God's promises fill us with hope as we remember the coming of our King in history and long for the coming of our King in glory.*

Discuss: Why is it important that God kept His promise to David? What promises of God give you hope?

Pray: Praise God for keeping all His promises.

Sing: The first verse of the carol "What Child Is This?"

December 1

Numbers 24: 15 - 17a

And he took up his discourse and said,

"The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor,

the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,

the oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High,

who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered:

I see him, but not now;

I behold him, but not near:

a star shall come out of Jacob,

and a scepter shall rise out of Israel."

December 2

Psalm 132: 11 - 18

The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back:

“One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.

If your sons keep my covenant

and my testimonies that I shall teach them,

their sons also forever shall sit on your throne.”

For the LORD has chosen Zion;

he has desired it for his dwelling place:

“This is my resting place forever;

here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread.

Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy.

There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.

His enemies I will clothe with shame, but **on him his crown will shine.**”

December 3

Isaiah 11: 1, 10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

December 4

Luke 1: 26 - 33

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and **you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.**"

December 5

Matthew 21: 9 - 11

And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

December 6

Romans 15: 4, 12 - 13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come,

even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;

in him will the Gentiles hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

December 7

Luke 21: 25 - 28 (Jesus speaking)

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.**”

Week 2

Christ the King: Prince of Peace

Our Peace

Read: David was Anointed (1 Samuel 16 - 17). God gave David victory over Goliath and the Philistines, and later over many more of the Israelites' enemies so that God's people could live in peace. Jesus is our true King who gives us victory over our ultimate enemies – sin, death, and the devil – so that we can live at peace with Him, His people, and His creation forever. *God's victory fills us with peace as we remember the coming of our King in history and long for the coming of our King in glory.*

Discuss: What has God given you victory over? Where do you still need to experience God's victory in your life or in our world?

Pray: Ask for the peace of God to guard our hearts and govern our relationships with others.

Sing: The first verse of the carol “What Child Is This?”

December 8

Isaiab 11: 6 - 9

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,

and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;

and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze;

their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,

and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

December 9

Isaiah 9: 3 - 4, 6 - 7

You have multiplied the nation;

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

For the yoke of his burden,

and the staff for his shoulder,

the rod of his oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace

there will be no end,

on the throne of David and over his kingdom,

to establish it and to uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

December 10

Luke 1: 67 - 75 (Zechariah's prophecy after the birth of his son John, part 1)

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

“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,

as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

that we should be saved from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us;

to show the mercy promised to our fathers

and to remember his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.”

December 11

Luke 1: 76 - 79 (Zechariah's prophecy after the birth of his son John, part 2)

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

December 12

Luke 2: 13 - 14

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 whom he is pleased!”

December 13

Colossians 1: 17 - 22

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

December 14

John 14: 27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Week 3

Christ the King: Merciful Savior

Our Joy

Read: David Showed Mercy (1 Samuel 24) and David Sinned and Was Restored (2 Samuel 11 - 12, Psalm 51). Like David showed mercy to Saul, Jesus shows mercy to us. Jesus is the only one without sin, and He took the punishment for our sin in order to save us, forgive us, and restore us to Himself. He is our merciful King and Savior. *God's mercy fills us with joy as we remember the coming of our King in history and long for the coming of our King in glory.*

Discuss: What does it look like to rejoice in God's mercy?

Pray: Confess the truth of our daily need for a Savior, and confess the truth of God's abundant mercy.

Sing: The first two verses of the carol "What Child Is This?"

December 15

Psalm 103: 1 - 5, 19

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,

who forgives all your iniquity,

who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,

and his kingdom rules over all.

December 16

Isaiab 35: 4 - 7, 10

Say to those who have an anxious heart,

“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God

will come with vengeance,

with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then shall the lame man leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water;

in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return

and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain gladness and joy,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

December 17

Luke 1: 46 - 55

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

December 18

Matthew 1: 18 - 21

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, **an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”**

December 19

Luke 2: 8 - 12

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

December 20

Matthew 11: 2 - 5

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” **And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.”**

December 21

Titus 3: 4 - 7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Week 4

Christ the King: Wisdom of God

Our Light

Read: Solomon Asked for Wisdom (1 Kings 2 - 3) and Wisdom for God's People (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs). As God gave wisdom to King Solomon to teach His people, God gives us wisdom in the person of Jesus, our Teacher. He is our wise and glorious King. *God's wisdom gives us light and fills us with understanding as we remember the coming of our King in history and long for the coming of our King in glory.*

Discuss: How do you see God's wisdom in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus? How do you see God's wisdom as we await His return?

Pray: Praise God for His infinite wisdom.

Sing: The first two verses of the carol "What Child Is This?"

December 22

Isaiah 11: 2-5

**And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.**

And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

December 23

Isaiah 30: 19 - 21

For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, **yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.**

December 24: Christmas Eve

Daniel 2: 19 - 23

Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. **Daniel answered and said:**

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,

to whom belong wisdom and might.

He changes times and seasons;

he removes kings and sets up kings;

he gives wisdom to the wise

and knowledge to those who have understanding;

he reveals deep and hidden things;

he knows what is in the darkness,

and the light dwells with him."

To you, O God of my fathers,

I give thanks and praise,

for you have given me wisdom and might,

and have now made known to me what we asked of you,

for you have made known to us the king's matter."

December 25: Christmas Day

Luke 2: 25 - 32, 40

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. **And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus,** to do for him according to the custom of the Law, **he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,**

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,

according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation

that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

December 26

John 8: 12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 14: 6 - 7

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

December 27

Luke 24: 15 - 27, 30 - 32

While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." **And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**

When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. **They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"**

December 28

1 Corinthians 1: 21 - 25

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but **we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.**

Week 5

Christ the King: Emmanuel

God with Us

Read: Solomon Built the Temple (1 Kings 6 - 8). God allowed Solomon to build His Temple and promised that He would live there among His people. Centuries later, God fulfilled that promise more deeply than Solomon expected. He sent Jesus to be born as a man and live bodily among His people. Jesus is our personal and present King. *God's presence is everything we need as we remember the coming of our King in history and long for the coming of our King in glory.*

Discuss: How is God present with you today? How does His presence equip you to wait for His return?

Pray: Ask God for the daily gift of His presence and Spirit.

Sing: All three verses of the carol "What Child Is This?"

December 29

Isaiah 7: 14 - 15

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

December 30

Matthew 1: 20 - 25

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." **All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:**

**"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"**

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

December 31

Zechariah 2: 10 - 13

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.”

Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

January 1

Luke 2: 4 - 7

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.**

January 2

John 1: 1 - 5, 9 - 14, 16 - 18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.**

January 3

John 2: 13 - 22

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" **Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"**

But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

January 4

2 Corinthians 6: 16b - 18

For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

"I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,

and I will be their God,

and they shall be my people.

Therefore go out from their midst,

and be separate from them, says the Lord,

and touch no unclean thing;

then I will welcome you,

and I will be a father to you,

and you shall be sons and daughters to me,

says the Lord Almighty."

Week 6

Christ the King: King of the Nations

Epiphany

Read: A Kingdom Divided (1 Kings 11 - 12). Because of Solomon's sin, the kingdom of Israel was divided. Only our perfect King, Jesus, can unite His people in peace. Jesus is our mighty and blessed King of all kings. *God's revelation of His Kingship inspires our worship as we remember the coming of our King in history and long for the coming of our King in glory.*

Discuss: How can you promote the glory of God among all peoples?

Pray: Thank God for revealing Himself to us as King over all.

Sing: All three verses of the carol "What Child Is This?"

January 5

Psalm 72: 1 - 4, 8, 11, 17 - 19 (a prayer of David for Solomon)

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun!

May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed!

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory!

Amen and Amen!

January 6: Feast of the Epiphany

Zechariah 9: 9 - 10, 16 - 17a

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation is he,

humble and mounted on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall speak peace to the nations;

his rule shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

On that day the LORD their God will save them,

as the flock of his people;

for like the jewels of a crown

they shall shine on his land.

For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty!

January 7

Matthew 21: 1 - 5

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, **then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,**

“Say to the daughter of Zion,

‘Behold, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.”

January 8

Psalms 98: 1 - 6

Oh sing to the LORD a new song,

for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

January 9

Jeremiah 10: 6 - 7, 10

There is none like you, O LORD;

you are great, and your name is great in might.

Who would not fear you, O King of the nations?

For this is your due;

for among all the wise ones of the nations

and in all their kingdoms

there is none like you.

But the LORD is the true God;

he is the living God and the everlasting King.

At his wrath the earth quakes,

and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

January 10

Matthew 2: 1 - 2, 9b - 11

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.

Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

January 11

Revelation 15: 2 - 4

And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

“Great and amazing are your deeds,

O Lord God the Almighty!

Just and true are your ways,

O King of the nations!

Who will not fear, O Lord,

and glorify your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come

and worship you,

for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

What Child Is This?

Verse One

What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Verse Two

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and lamb are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Verse Three

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise a song on high,
The Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Words: William Chatterton Dix, 1865

Music: "Greensleeves," 16th Century English melody; arranged by Sir John Stainer
