



The CENTER  
for Christian Spirituality

# *God with Us: Praying the Names of Christ*



*Adam Boulter*

8:45 a.m. + November 28, 2021 + First Sunday of Advent

## *O Sapientia*

I cannot think unless I have been thought,  
Nor can I speak unless I have been spoken.  
I cannot teach except as I am taught,  
Or break the bread except as I am broken.  
O Mind behind the mind through which I seek,  
O Light within the light by which I see,  
O Word beneath the words with which I speak,  
O founding, unfound Wisdom, finding me,  
O sounding Song whose depth is sounding me,  
O Memory of time, reminding me,  
My Ground of Being, always grounding me,  
My Maker's Bounding Line, defining me,  
Come, hidden Wisdom, come with all you bring,  
Come to me now, disguised as everything.

*Malcolm Guite*

Welcome

Preparing for Advent

*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.***

Wisdom's Transforming Presence

***"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"***

***O come, thou Wisdom from on high,***

***And order all things far and nigh.***

***To us the path of knowledge show,***

***And cause us in Her ways to go.***

***Rejoice, rejoice.***

***Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*O Sapientia*

Malcolm Guite

Praising the Beloved One

***"I Am Here"***

***Before creation's dawn, there was darkness filled with love.***

***Love that called forth all existence into life.***

***Love that spoke into the dark. Till the darkness blazed with light.***

***Love that filled all of creation with a song.***

***I am here like a treasure hidden deep within this world.***

***Every river, every mountain points the way.***

***I am here in creation. In the darkness. In the light.***

***Come and find me, come and know me, come and love.***

Listening to Wisdom

***Sirach 24:1-22***

*Wisdom praises her Soul,*

*and tells of Her glory in the midst of Her people.*

*In the assembly of the Most High She opens Her mouth,*

*and in the presence of his hosts She tells of Her glory:*

*'I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
and covered the earth like a mist.*

*I dwelt in the highest heavens,*

*and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.*

*Alone I compassed the vault of heaven*

*and traversed the depths of the abyss.*

*Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,*

*and over every people and nation I have held sway.'*

Wisdom's Transforming Presence

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
And order all things far and nigh.  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And cause us in Her ways to go.  
Rejoice, rejoice.  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

Listening with Wisdom

*The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;*

*Isaiah 11:2-3*

Wisdom's Transforming Presence

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
And order all things far and nigh.  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And cause us in Her ways to go.  
Rejoice, rejoice.  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

Meditation

Sitting with a Breath Prayer

Inhale: *Lord Jesus Christ, O Wisdom from on High,*  
Exhale: *Come and teach us your way.*

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.

Seeking Wisdom

*I do not ask for wealth or fame,  
Endless riches, great acclaim.  
I ask for one thing in your name:  
Grant me a discerning heart.*

*"A Discerning Heart"*

*Beyond the knowledge I have learned.  
All experiences earned.  
See wisdom waits to be affirmed,  
Held in a discerning heart.*

*Wisdom calls, wisdom leads.  
Her ways are pleasant, her paths are peace.  
She is the fruit of the tree of life,  
Grown in a discerning heart.*

*So let my life be fertile soil.  
Spirit plant and I will toil,  
To tend a crop that will not spoil,  
Stored in a discerning heart.*

*Wisdom calls, wisdom leads.  
Her ways are pleasant, her paths are peace.  
She is the fruit of the tree of life,  
Grown in a discerning heart.*

Communion

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 75787.*

*If you are worshipping in person, please text the word **chapel** to 75787.*

*For information about The Center for Christian Spirituality and upcoming events, visit: [www.TheCenterFCS.org](http://www.TheCenterFCS.org)*