

*God with Us:  
Praying the Names of Christ*



*Adam Boulter*

8:45 a.m. + December 12, 2021 + Third Sunday of Advent

*O Clavis*

Even in the darkness where I sit  
And huddle in the midst of misery  
I can remember freedom, but forget  
That every lock must answer to a key,  
That each dark clasp, sharp and intricate,  
Must find a counter-clasp to meet its guard,  
Particular, exact and intimate,  
The clutch and catch that meshes with its ward.  
I cry out for the key I threw away  
That turned and over turned with certain touch  
And with the lovely lifting of a latch  
Opened my darkness to the light of day.  
O come again, come quickly, set me free  
Cut to the quick to fit, the master key.

*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.***

Song of Welcome

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

***O come, thou Key of David, come,***

***And open wide our heavenly home.***

***The captives from their prison free,***

***And conquer death's deep misery.***

***Rejoice! Rejoice!***

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

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Reading

Isaiah 9:7, 22:22, 42:6b-7

*His authority shall grow continually,*

*and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.*

*He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness*

*from this time onward and forevermore.*

*The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

*I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David;*

*he shall open, and no one shall shut;*

*he shall shut, and no one shall open.*

*He shall be a light to the nations,*

*to open the eyes that are blind,*

*to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,*

*from the prison those who sit in darkness.*

## Awaiting the Promised One

*“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”*

*Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit,  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.*

## Sitting with Scripture

Isaiah 61:1

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners.*

## Song of Welcome

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

*O come, thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home.  
The captives from their prison free,  
And conquer death's deep misery.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

## Meditation

### Sitting with a Breath Prayer

Inhale: *Lord Jesus Christ, O Key of David,*  
Exhale: *Come, unlock our hearts.*

## 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.

## Communion

Adapted from Jan Richardson

*And the table will be wide.  
And the welcome will be wide.  
And the arms will open wide to gather us in.  
And our hearts will open wide to receive.  
And we will come as children who trust there is enough.  
And we will come unhindered and free.*

*And our aching will be met with bread...  
And our sorrow will be met with wine...*

*And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.  
And we will turn toward each other without fear.  
And we will give up our appetite for despair.  
And we will taste and know of delight.*

*And we will become bread for a hungry world...  
And we will become drink for those who thirst...*

*And the blessed will become the blessing.  
And everywhere will be the feast.*

## 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).*