

*God with Us:  
Praying the Names of Christ*



*Adam Boulter*

8:45 a.m. + December 19, 2021 + Fourth Sunday of Advent

*O Rex Gentium*

O King of our desire whom we despise,  
King of the nations never on the throne,  
Unfounded foundation, cast-off cornerstone,  
Rejected joiner, making many one,  
You have no form or beauty for our eyes,  
A King who comes to give away his crown,  
A King within our rags of flesh and bone.  
We pierce the flesh that pierces our disguise,  
For we ourselves are found in you alone.  
Come to us now and find in us your throne,  
O King within the child within the clay,  
O hidden King who shapes us in the play  
Of all creation. Shape us for the day  
Your coming Kingdom comes into its own.

*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, Desire of nations bind,***

***All peoples in one heart and mind.***

***Bid all our sad divisions cease,***

***And be for us our King of Peace.***

***Rejoice! Rejoice!***

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

O Rex Gentium

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Song of Welcome

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Praying Scripture (with Sung Response)

Isaiah 2:4, 9:6, 28:16

*He'll settle things fairly between nations.*

*He'll make things right between many peoples.*

*They'll turn their swords into shovels,*

*their spears into hoes.*

*No more will nation fight nation;*

*they won't play war anymore.*

- Pray for someone with whom you are in conflict.

Response: ***Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.***

*For a child has been born – for us!  
the gift of a son – for us!  
He'll take over  
the running of the world.  
His names will be: Amazing Counselor,  
Strong God,  
Eternal Father,  
Prince of Wholeness.  
His ruling authority will grow,  
and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings.*

- Pray for groups of people who are in conflict.

Response: *Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.*

*“Watch closely. I’m laying a foundation in Zion,  
a solid granite foundation, squared and true.  
And this is the meaning of the stone:  
A TRUSTING LIFE WON’T TOPPLE.*

- Pray for yourself that you would trust Christ as your foundation.

Response: *Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!  
His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!  
His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!*

## Sitting with Scripture

Colossians 3:12-14

*You are always and dearly loved by God! So robe yourself with virtues of God, since you have been divinely chosen to be holy. Be merciful as you endeavor to understand others, and be compassionate, showing kindness toward all. Be gentle and humble, unoffendable in your patience with others. Tolerate the weaknesses of those in the family of faith, forgiving one another in the same way you have been graciously forgiven by Jesus Christ. If you find fault with someone, release this same gift of forgiveness to them. For love is supreme and must flow through each of these virtues. Love becomes the mark of true maturity.*

## Song of Welcome

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

*O come, Desire of nations bind,  
All peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease,  
And be for us our King of Peace.*

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

## Meditation

## Sitting with a Breath Prayer

Inhale: *Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Nations*

Exhale: *Come and make us one.*

## 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.

## At the Table for Holy Communion

*In the beginning, when it was very dark, God said, 'Let there be light,'*

***And there was light.***

*In the beginning, when it was very quiet, the Word was with God,*

***And what God was, the Word was.***

*When the time was right, God sent the Son.*

***He came among us; he was one of us.***

*In quietness and darkness, in peace and confusion, Jesus Christ wants to make his home and meet his friends.*

*He is the light of life:*

***He is the hope for the world.***

*In him there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant:*

***All are one in Jesus Christ.***

*He is the light of life.*

***He is the hope of the world.***

*In him there is neither black nor white, neither male nor female, neither master nor servant, neither rich nor poor, neither upper class nor middle class nor lower class. He is the light of life:*

***He is the hope of the world.***

*Therefore, all are invited to this Table where we share the life of Christ who comes among us.*

***Come, Lord Jesus. We await your coming in hope. Amen.***

## 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).*