



Sunday 13th December 2026
The Third Sunday of Advent

People of God: awake!
God above all, maker of all,
is one with us in Christ.
Love is on the way!
Come Lord Jesus

People of God: be glad!
God the mighty God
bends down in love to earth.
Love is on the way!
Come Lord Jesus

People of God: return!
We are God's children,
we seek the coming of Christ.
Love is on the way!
Come Lord Jesus

People of God: prepare!
God with us
comes soon to the world he has made.
Love is on the way!
Come Lord Jesus

People of God: shout and sing!
Love is on the way!
Come Lord Jesus.

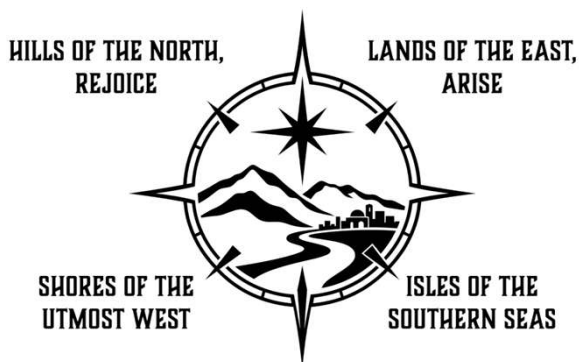
A&M 691 | HOAN 277

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.**

**Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose his chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all the sons of want are blest.**

**Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the long Amen.**



Together we say

**Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
Your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.**

Today we relight the candles of Hope and Peace, remembering God's enduring promise. Now, we light the candle of Joy. From the lands of the East comes the Advent call: Christ is coming, our brightest morn. With joyous eyes we watch for his light, ready to recognise the one who is already among us.

God of joy, awaken our hearts again.
**Fill us with rejoicing and readiness
 as we journey deeper with You.**

*We light the first, second and third
 candles and in the silence,
 we seek God's restoration.*



A&M 334 | HOAN 250

We sing a song of response

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful
 In the Lord I will rejoice
 Look to God, do not be afraid
 Lift up your voices, the Lord is near
 Lift up your voices, the Lord is near**

May the God of all healing and
 forgiveness draw you to himself
 and cleanse you from all your sins,
 that you may behold
 the glory of his Son,
 the Word made flesh,
 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

This week's collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
 you sent John the Baptist
 to prepare the way of your Son:
 give us courage to speak the truth,
 to hunger for justice,
 and to suffer for the cause of right,
 with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you O Lord

John 1:6–8, 19–28

John the Baptist is presented as a witness to the light, pointing beyond himself to the one who is coming into the world.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

**Bless the Lord, the God of Israel,
who has come to set us free.
He has raised for us a Saviour
sprung from royal David's tree.
Through his prophets God had spoken
of the hope the Christ would bring;
of his faithfulness and mercy
let each generation sing.**

**Long ago God made a promise
he would set his people free,
that in all our life and worship
we might know true liberty,
to be holy, to be righteous
in his sight throughout our days;
now this child will be a herald
making ready all God's ways.**

**Let all people know salvation
through forgiveness of their sin,
as our God in his compassion
bids a shining dawn begin.
So may all who dwell in darkness
see the shadows disappear
while he guides our feet in pathways
where his peace is ever near.**



The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

The prophet speaks of the Spirit-anointed servant who brings good news to the poor and announces the restoration and joy that God will bring.

For the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



I lift my hands up

"another day and the sun comes up"

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated
at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Lands of the East, arise,
 he is your brightest morn,
 greet him with joyous eyes,
 praise shall his path adorn:
 Your seers have longed to know their
 Lord; to you he comes, the final word.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

Open our eyes to your light:
and fill our hearts with joy.

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel
 who has come to his people and set them free.

**Free to worship him without fear,
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

A&M 742 | HOAN 362

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
 My great Redeemer's praise,
 The glories of my God and King,
 The triumphs of His grace.**

**Jesus! the name
 that charms our fears,
 That bids our sorrows cease;
 'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
 'Tis life, and health, and peace.**

**He speaks — and,
 listening to his voice,
 new life the dead receive,
 the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
 the humble poor believe.**

**My gracious Master and my God,
 Assist me to proclaim,
 To spread through
 all the earth abroad,
 The honours of Thy name.**

With this bread that we bring
we shall remember Jesus
 With this wine that we bring
we shall remember Jesus
 Bread for his body, wine for his blood,
 gifts from God to his table we bring
we shall remember Jesus

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us
 Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give thanks and praise

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
 in your love you made us for yourself.
 When we turned away you did not reject us,
 but came to meet us in your Son.
You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you

In Christ you shared our life
 that we might live in him and he in us.
He opened his arms of love
upon the cross and made for all
the perfect sacrifice for sin

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his
 friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he
 broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat;
 this is my body which is given for you; do this in
 remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance
of him: his body is the bread of life

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he
 gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you;
 this is my blood of the new covenant, which is
 shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in
 remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance
of him: his blood is shed for all

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

EITHER

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,
Lord of power, Lord of might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Sing hosanna evermore.
Blest and holy, blest and holy
he who comes from God on high.
Raise your voices, sing his glory,
praise his name for evermore.**

OR

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest**

The Lord's Prayer is used and the bread is broken

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ
**Though we are many
we are one body
because we all share
in one bread**

The Agnus Dei is said or sung

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin
of the world: have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sin
of the world: have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sin
of the world: grant us peace**

This is Christ's table.
 He welcomes all. Come and be fed.
**Voices old and new,
 Lives young and old.
 This is who we are.
 This is who we are becoming.
 Amen! Together we come!**

Tune A&M 47

**People, look east. The time is near
 Of the crowning of the year.
 Make your house fair as you are able,
 Trim the hearth and set the table.
 People, look east and sing today:
 Love, the guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
 One more seed is planted there:
 Give up your strength
 the seed to nourish,
 That in course the flower may flourish.
 People, look east and sing today:
 Love, the rose, is on the way.**

**Birds, though you long
 have ceased to build,
 Guard the nest that must be filled.
 Even the hour when wings are frozen
 God for fledging time has chosen.
 People, look east and sing today:
 Love, the bird, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch.
 When night is dim
 One more light the bowl shall brim,
 Shining beyond the frosty weather,
 Bright as sun and moon together.
 People, look east and sing today:
 Love, the star, is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
 Christ who brings new life to earth.
 Set every peak and valley humming
 With the word, the Lord is coming.
 People, look east and sing today:
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

Father of all who wait this Advent, we thank you
for meeting us at your table and feeding us with
the mystery of your love. Here you strengthen us
to wait with courage that endures confusion,
with peace that changes what it touches,
with joy that startles the heart awake,
and with faithfulness that holds fast in the dark,
until we see your glory made fragile
in Bethlehem's manger once more.

Amen.

**Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Notices are shared

A&M 39 | HOAN 209

**Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.**

**Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.**

**Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
Your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.**

Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

Blessing and Farewell

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;

support the weak; help the afflicted;
honour everyone; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing ...

Go in peace to await the coming of the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen!

