

Advent

This worship theme can be spoken and sung in this order or in the suggested order given on the next page. However, you should shape it to the practices of your congregation, possibly placing different elements at different places, or skipping or adding elements as needed.

*The song leader reads these compiled texts.
Texts are quoted from ESV.*

Gen 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her
offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a
son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

11:1-3

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the
stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² 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.

³ 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,

61:1-3 [Key verses]

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the
brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who
are bound;

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of
ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint
spirit;

that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be
glorified.

Songs

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence		HC 202	MH 117
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	CH 112	HC 204	MH 111
Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying	CH 109	HC 208	MH 118
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus			MH 115

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- Choose from these songs, perhaps interspersing them throughout.
 - CH = Christian Hymnary, HC = Hymns of the Church, MH = Mennonite Hymnal
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Meditation

Advent is a season of hopeful anticipation. The word advent means “the arrival of a notable person or event.” The season of advent is a time to reflect on the period before Christ’s birth and how God’s creation was, then and now, in desperate need of redemption. From the beginning of the world, God has given His creation hope for the brokenness that the world chose to be cursed with. It is a time when we ponder the longing for completeness within our soul and agree with God that He is the solution for us to be made whole. A phrase from “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” says “Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.” This reminds us of the truth that God is the answer for everyone’s desire, whether or not they believe and accept that truth. Use the season of Advent as a time step aside from the clamor of life; be silent and ponder your desires, and ask God to be the answer for your deepest longings. Awake, and rise up with hopeful anticipation to meet your Lord and Savior—He has a marvelous plan for you! Rejoice that God has come in the person of Jesus Christ to grant you redemption, wholeness and joy.

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- Use this for your personal preparation or read it for the congregation
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Suggested order

- I. “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
- II. Scripture reading
- III. “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”
- IV. Meditation
- V. “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”
- VI. A prayer