



*For Us*  
AND FOR *Our*  
**SALVATION**

An Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Experience

**MAKE YOUR NAME KNOWN**  
FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

**REMEMBER**

Advent has been called a season of waiting—but what are we waiting for? It is one thing to wait in the hope that something good may come, but it is quite another thing to wait in the confidence that God keeps his promises, and we haven't seen anything yet! As followers of Jesus we wait with that kind of confidence.

**READ**

PSALM 126

The Lord brings us back to Zion, we are like dreamers,  
laughing, dancing, with songs on our lips.  
Other nations say, "A new world of wonders! The Lord is with them."  
Yes, God works wonders. Rejoice! Be glad!  
Lord, bring us back as water to a thirsty land.  
Those sowing in tears reap, singing and laughing.  
They left weeping, weeping, casting the seed.  
They come back singing, singing, holding high the harvest.

**PRAY**

We are overwhelmed, O Lord, by your love and saving goodness.  
In Christ Jesus you restore both our lives and our world.  
Like reapers at an unexpected harvest,  
we shout your praise and sing your goodness. Amen.

## LIGHT

As we light this first candle of Advent, we renew our confidence in God even as we wait for Christ's return. Emmanuel means "God is with us."

If our lives are dry and parched,  
Lord, send the living waters of your Spirit to revive us, to enliven us,  
to bring forth new life. Emmanuel, come quickly.

If our times are empty and barren,  
Lord, grant us a rich harvest, send us home with sheaves of blessing,  
fill us with your abundance, and teach us to share the harvest with others.  
Emmanuel, come quickly.

If our bodies are weary and heavy laden,  
Lord, fill us with laughter; give us shouts of joy;  
envelop us with your gladness. Emmanuel, come quickly.

If our lives are small and trivial,  
Lord, make us see great things; enlarge our vision;  
widen our borders. Emmanuel, come quickly.

## SING

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Psalm 126 from *The Psalter*, Chicago: LTP, 1998

Psalm Prayer from *Psalms for All Seasons*, Grand Rapids: Brazos Press / Faith Alive / Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2012

"If Our Lives are Dry" from *The Worship Sourcebook*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker / Faith Alive / Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2013.



{Presbyterians for Renewal + The Fellowship of Presbyterians = Fellowship Community}

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