



For Us
AND FOR *Our*
SALVATION
An Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Experience

MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD
FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

REMEMBER

Advent is a season of light. In this final week of Advent we focus on the light of God coming into the darkness of our world. Even if we have forgotten the true power of God's light, we, like those whose memories are challenged, can feel echoes of God's promise in the depths of our being, and we long for the promised day when there will be no more suffering, or sadness, or fear, or night.

READ

PSALM 139:1-12

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

PRAY

Everlasting God,
your Son is the light of the world.
Your Son is the way, the truth, and the life.
Lead us by your light and truth.
Looking *for* Jesus, let us find him.
Looked *for by* Jesus, we are found first. Amen.

LIGHT

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

"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:9-14)

SING

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Psalm 8 from *The Psalter*, Chicago: LTP, 1998

"Everlasting God" from *The Worship Sourcebook*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker / Faith Alive / Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2013, emphasis added.



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

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