

# Midweek Advent 2020

## Stories Behind the Hymns

*Let us all with gladsome voice  
Praise the God of heaven  
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,  
His own Son has given.*

### Ringing of the Bell

### Welcome and Explanation of Today's Worship

#### Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

People: (spoken) Amen.

#### Prayer

*All: (spoken) For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you. O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirit. Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word. Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts. Amen. (CWS 703v2)*

### Advent Hymn CW3vs 1 and 4, Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation he will bring; therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise your joyful songs of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in and new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise for word and deed and grace!

### Scripture Reading – Psalm 24

*The glory of the Messiah and his kingdom is described, as well as the blessings of those who live there – all fulfilled in the coming of the King of Kings.*

<sup>1</sup>The earth is the Lord's and everything that fills it, the world and all who live in it, <sup>2</sup>because he founded it on the seas, and he established it on the rivers. <sup>3</sup>Who may go up to the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup>He who has clean hands and a pure heart, whose soul is not set on what is false, who does not swear deceitfully. <sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God who saves him. <sup>6</sup>Such are the people of Jacob who look for the Lord, who seek your face. <sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, you gates. Lift yourselves up, you ancient doors, and the King of Glory will come in. <sup>8</sup>Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. <sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, you gates. Lift up, you ancient doors, and the King of Glory will come in. <sup>10</sup>Who is he, this King of Glory? The Lord of Armies—he is the King of Glory.

**Advent Hymn** CW3vs 5, Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you; here, Lord, abide!  
Oh, enter with your saving grace; show me your kind and friendly face.  
Your Holy Spirit guide us on until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame we offer to your name.

**Stories Behind the Hymns**

*Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel - Isaiah 7:14 & 59:12*

Therefore, the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive  
and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.  
Yes, our rebellious deeds are many before you, and our sins testify against us. Our rebellious  
deeds are with us, and as for our guilty deeds, we are aware of them.

**The Hymn** – Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (CW 23)

Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, O Dayspring, from on high, and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**Advent Prayer**

**The Lord's Blessing**

**Closing Hymn** – CW #589, Now the Day Is Over

Now the day is over, night is drawing nigh.  
Shadows of the evening steal across the sky.

Jesus, give the weary calm and sweet repose.  
With your tend' rest blessing may my eyelids close.

Through the long night watches may your angels spread  
Their bright wings above me, watching round my bed.

When the morning wakens, then may I arise  
Pure and fresh and sinless in your holy eyes.