

## Psalms of Advent

We sing “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” because God is saving us! In our present dark times, God’s First and Second Advents (Arrivals) in Christ show us that we can’t save ourselves; God is the One who acts to save us. Our task is to *wait, watch, pray and act, in trust and hope* with each other in Christ. How can reading and praying Psalms help us do these things? Come and see in a Sunday morning or Monday evening study of the Psalms of Advent.

Advent is the liturgical season of the church year that shows how our life in Christ is *now*. The Advent season is a symbol of the church’s life *in the present*. This is the time between the two arrivals, the crucial balance of “the now...the already” and the “not yet.”

Reading and praying the Psalms in Advent can help us *wait, watch, pray and act, in trust and hope* in Jesus Christ, our Incarnated and Coming Savior and King. Praying the Psalms in Christ transforms us. They become a “means of grace” that shapes us as new people with a new sense of God’s presence and power.

The nine psalms traditionally used in Anglican Sunday worship in Advent are (in their order in the Psalter):

Psalms 24, 50, 72, 80, 85, 122, 126, 132, and 146

As we pray our Advent antiphon, “Our Lord and Savior now draws near: *O come let us adore him,*” we echo Psalm 95:6, opening our hearts to God and His ways of making things right and bringing real peace.

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We will meet **in person at 9 am on Sunday mornings** and **on Zoom at 8 pm on Monday evenings**. No preparation is required, and each week stands alone:

- **Dec. 5/6: Psalm 72**, a royal psalm about a Davidic king, plus **Psalms 122, 126, and 132**, three Psalms of Ascent.
- **Dec. 12/13: Psalms 80, 85, and 126** (again!), all community laments.
- **Dec. 19/20: Psalms 24, 50, and 146**, two liturgical psalms and a hymn of praise. We’ll imagine using these psalms as Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, Anna, and Simeon did.

Sign up at <https://restorationanglican.churchcenter.com/groups/>.

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“But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” (2 Peter 3:13)