

Isaiah Sings of Jesus

Meditations,
prayers,
scripture, and
recorded new hymns
for
public worship and
personal devotions

from the series:
[Fresh Views of
Timeless Truths](#)

Ken Bible

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Isaiah 2:2-5

(NASB)

Now it will come about that
In the last days
The mountain of the house of the Lord
Will be established as the chief of the mountains,
And will be raised above the hills;
And all the nations will stream to it.
And many peoples will come and say,
“Come, let’s go up to the mountain of the Lord,
To the house of the God of Jacob;
So that He may teach us about His ways,
And that we may walk in His paths.”
For the law will go out from Zion
And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
And He will judge between the nations,
And will mediate for many peoples;
And they will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning knives.
Nation will not lift up a sword against nation,
And never again will they learn war.

Come, house of Jacob, and let’s walk in the light of the Lord.

Isaiah 60:19-20

(NASB)

No longer will you have the sun for light by day,
Nor will the moon give you light for brightness;
But you will have the Lord as an everlasting light,
And your God as your glory.
Your sun will no longer set,
Nor will your moon wane;
For you will have the Lord as an everlasting light,
And the days of your mourning will be over.

Christ the Light

"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12, NASB)

We walk every day through the darkness of this world,
in the shadow of
 our ignorance,
 our weakness, and
 our mortality.

But Jesus Christ is the Light.
As we walk in Him,
 our steps are certain,
 our strength is sufficient, and
 our life is full and forever.

We are bathed in God's presence.
We are guided by His wisdom.
We are supported by His power.
We are cradled by His love.

As we follow Christ,
we never walk in darkness.

*Father,
 through all this darkness,
Jesus is the Light leading us to You.
 I will walk in Him step by step.*

Hymn recording: [Jesus, the Light of the World](#)

Jesus, the Light of the World

John 8:12; 2 Peter 1:19; Revelation 21:23

♩ = 100

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The score is divided into four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some lines having multiple verses. The first system includes three verses of the first line. The second system includes the second line of the first verse and the first line of the second verse. The third system includes the second line of the second verse and the first line of the third verse. The fourth system includes the second line of the third verse and the first line of the fourth verse, which is the refrain.

1. See the Bright and Morn - ing Star, Je - sus, the Light of the
2. He's the Lamp that lights our way, Je - sus, the Light of the
3. No more dark - ness, no more night- Je - sus, the Light of the

World! He has ris - en in our hearts,
World! Step by step and day by day-
World! He will shine for - ev - er bright,

Je - sus, the Light of the World!
Je - sus, the Light of the World!
Je - sus, the Light of the World!

Refrain
Walk in the Light, beau - ti - ful Light; Come where His love and His

WORDS: Ken Bible and George D. Elderkin
MUSIC: George D. Elderkin, arr. by Ken Bible

ELDERKIN
7.7.7.7. w. Ref.

Cm⁶ $\frac{D^m}{C}$ F⁷ B^{b7} E^b $\frac{A^b}{E^b}$ E^b $\frac{F^m}{A^b}$ A^b A^{o7}

mer - cy are bright. Shine all a - round us by day and by night,

$\frac{E^b}{B^b}$ B^{b7} $\frac{G^m}{B^b}$ B^{b7} E^b $\frac{A^b}{E^b}$ E^b

Je - sus, the Light of the World.

Isaiah 7:1-16

(NASB)

Now it came about in the days of Ahaz, the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not conquer it. When it was reported to the house of David, saying, "The Arameans have taken a stand by Ephraim," his heart and the hearts of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake from the wind.

Then the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool, on the road to the fuller's field, and say to him, 'Take care and be calm, have no fear and do not be fainthearted because of these two stumps of smoldering logs, on account of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah. Because Aram, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has planned evil against you, saying, "Let's go up against Judah and terrorize it, and take it for ourselves by assault and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it," this is what the Lord God says: "It shall not stand nor shall it come to pass. For the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin (now within another sixty-five years Ephraim will be broken to pieces, so that it is no longer a people), and the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you will not believe, you certainly shall not last.'""

Then the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, "Ask for a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; make it deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I put the Lord to the test!" Then he said, "Listen now, house of David! Is it too trivial a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well?

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel.

He will eat curds and honey at the time He knows enough to refuse evil and choose good. For before the boy knows enough to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings you dread will be abandoned.

Immanuel: The Original Situation

One of the most familiar prophecies of Messiah is this:

Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel - that is, God is with us. (Isaiah 7:14, NASB with center column note)

We hear the verse every Christmas, but we rarely consider the real-life situation from which the prophecy comes.

It was the late 700's B.C., and Ahaz was the ungodly king of Judah, the southern Jewish kingdom. The country had enjoyed prosperity under his godly father, Jotham, and his grandfather, Uzziah. But now the aggressive ruler of Assyria had the surrounding nations concerned. He had imposed a heavy tribute on them, and they were tired of paying. They needed Judah to join with them in an alliance against powerful Assyria, but King Ahaz had refused. He was considering doing the opposite: going to Assyria for protection against the alliance. There had already been violence, and Ahaz and Judah were frightened.

God took the initiative to send the prophet Isaiah to Ahaz to reassure him. He was urging Ahaz not to fear the alliance and to trust God rather than turn to Assyria for help. Judah had often gotten in trouble politically and had displeased God by making such foreign alliances, which were deals with the devil. Through Isaiah, God was urging Ahaz not to do it again.

Isaiah came out to meet Ahaz while the king was checking the water supply - probably making sure it wouldn't be cut off during a siege.

Notice Isaiah's reassuring message in Isaiah 7:4-9:

- Don't be afraid! (v.4)
- These two supposed firebrands (the alliance) are only smoldering stubs - that is, their fire has already been put out. (v.4)
- They have planned evil against you, but the Sovereign God of History will not let it happen. (vv.5-7)
- These two "powerful" nations both boil down to their respective kings, and these kings will come to nothing. Within 65 years Ephraim (the northern Jewish kingdom of Israel) will be completely destroyed (and it was). (vv.8-9a)
- Don't be afraid of them. Be afraid of not trusting Me! Lack of faith in Me is the real danger you're facing. (v.9b)

How did Ahaz react to God's assurance? The story continues next.

Immanuel: A Mysterious Prophecy

King Ahaz and his country, Judah, were being threatened by two of their neighbors. Ahaz was frightened and wanted to run to their powerful enemy, Assyria, for protection. God was warning him not to do that. God's assurance was that the threat from their neighbors would come to nothing. He warned Ahaz that if he didn't stand by faith, he would not stand at all.

Knowing that Ahaz's faith was weak to non-existent, God told him to ask for a sign. God offered to perform any miracle Ahaz would name, just to assure him that God would indeed protect him (vv.10-11).

Ahaz refused, pretending that he didn't want to test God by asking for a sign (v.12). His refusal was sheer hypocrisy. He knew that asking for a sign would have obligated him to obey God if the sign were given. Ahaz had no intention of obeying God or trusting Him. His mind was made up.

So in vv.13-16, God said, "Fine! You won't ask a sign. I'll give you one anyway." The sign was stated like an important announcement. A "virgin" would conceive. There has been lots of discussion about the meaning of that Hebrew term. It's not primarily sexual. It refers to a young woman, usually an unmarried woman. Perhaps "maiden" is a close equivalent.

A "child" would be born. Is the prophecy referring ahead to its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus? Or is the short-term reference to a child born during that time period - perhaps a child of King Ahaz, or of Isaiah himself (see Isaiah 8:1-4)? We're not told.

"Curds" is curdled milk. Curds and honey were sometimes considered royal food. But they could also be food still available when the land was not being cultivated, such as during lean times or during widespread destruction.

In any case, God's word to Ahaz was this: in the period of time it takes a baby to grow to the point of knowing right from wrong, your enemies would be destroyed.

So how does this prophecy, so shrouded in mystery, point us to Jesus Christ? More next.

Immanuel: God with Us

Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel - that is, God is with us. (Isaiah 7:14, NASB with center column note)

Based on what we've said in the previous two articles, how does this mysterious prophecy, spoken in a different era and situation, relate to Jesus Christ? What does it tell us about Him? Consider how the original prophecy points to the birth of Jesus:

- The phrasing of the announcement indicated that the birth should be considered a momentous event.
- An air of mystery would surround the identity of the child and his “virgin” mother.
- The Child’s birth would be a tangible sign of God’s loving intervention on behalf of His people.
- He would come at a time when God’s people were in need and under serious threat.
- The Child would be given, not as a reward for their faith, but in spite of their unbelief. He would be given graciously and unilaterally by God. God’s greatest gift would be totally undeserved.
- Even His name would be full of comfort and assurance: *God with Us*.
- The Child’s birth and name were to persuade people not to trust in human resources but in God alone. His coming would bolster faith in God.
- The Child’s coming would be tangible proof and an ongoing reminder that God keeps His promises.

Jesus’ birth was the most momentous event in the history of our race. Though His coming was shrouded in mystery, and many of our questions about Him remain unanswered, we know that He is living proof of God’s love and undeserved grace. He is God’s clearest call to simple, life-giving faith. Most importantly, Jesus Christ is the ultimate embodiment of our Father’s endless desire to be *God with Us*.

Hymn recording: [Immanuel, Immanuel](#)

Hymn recording: [Be Immanuel in Me](#)

Immanuel, Immanuel

TUNE: O Christmas Tree (O TANNENBAUM)

Isaiah 7:14

♩ = 80

F F C F Dm $\frac{Gm^7}{Bb}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ Gm C7 $\frac{C^7_{sus}}{F}$ F

Im - man - u - el, Im - man - u - el- Al - might - y God is with us!

F C F Dm $\frac{Gm^7}{Bb}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ Gm C7 $\frac{C^7_{sus}}{F}$ F

Im - man - u - el, Im - man - u - el- Al - might - y God is with us!

F F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F $\frac{E}{C}$ C7 C7 $\frac{C}{Bb}$ $\frac{E}{A}$ $\frac{C^7}{G}$ $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F

The Lord of heav - en high a - bove Has come to us in ten - der love.

F F C F $\frac{A^7}{E}$ Dm $\frac{D}{C}$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ Gm C $\frac{C^7_{sus}}{F}$ F

Im - man - u - el, Im - man - u - el- Al - might - y God is with us!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: German Folk Song

O TANNENBAUM
8.7.8.7.8.8.8.7.

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Be Immanuel in Me

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6

♩ = 88

$\frac{F}{G}$ C C_{sus} C G G⁷ C^{add9} C $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{CM^7}{E}$

(D.C.) 1. Im - man - u - el, Be Im - man - u - el in in me- All of
2. O Prince of Peace, Be the Prince of Peace in me- Sweet sha -

F C^{add9} $\frac{C}{E}$ C G_{sus} G C F

God fill - ing all I am. In Your beau - ty, In Your
lom fill - ing all I am. In Your beau - ty, in Your

$\frac{G}{F}$ E⁷ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ E⁷ A_m A^{b7} $\frac{C}{G}$ $\frac{F}{G}$ $\frac{C}{G}$

ho - li - ness, In the ful - ness of Your love, Im - man - u - el, Be Im -
ho - li - ness, In the ful - ness of Your love, O Prince of Peace, Be the

G_{sus} G $\frac{Em}{G}$ 1, 3 1st time, repeat 2 (opt.)
C C 2nd time, Fine C

man - u - el in in me. me.
Prince of Peace in in me. me.

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

McDAVID
Irregular

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Optional Bridge

F C E C F A C G C C^{sus} D C E

Word of our Fa - ther, Our Wis - dom and pow - er, Our

F C E C C E F FM7 G^{sus} G

Man - na from Heav - en, The Wa - ter of Life;

F C E C F A C G C C^{sus} D C E

Spir - it of Truth and The Foun - tain of Mer - cy, The

F C E C C E F FM7 G^{sus} G D.C. al Fine

Glo - ry of Heav - en, The Light of the World.

Isaiah 8:21 – 9:5

(NASB)

They will pass through the land dejected and hungry, and it will turn out that when they are hungry, they will become enraged and curse their king and their God as they face upward. Then they will look to the earth, and behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and they will be driven away into darkness.

But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish. In earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He will make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.

The people who walk in darkness
Will see a great light;
Those who live in a dark land,
The light will shine on them.
You will multiply the nation,
You will increase their joy;
They will rejoice in Your presence
As with the joy of harvest,
As people rejoice when they divide the spoils.
For You will break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders,
The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.
For every boot of the marching warrior in the roar of battle,
And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire.

The Blessings of the King

Isaiah spoke these words from God to a people who refused to trust Him. They preferred a religion more accommodating to their lifestyle, more touchable, more socially acceptable, one that catered to their desires. In troubled times when they needed help, they turned to another country, or another god, or to their own abilities or wealth. They consulted mediums, looking to the dead for help. Does any of this sound familiar?

Isaiah 8:21-22 describes the fate of all who worship “gods” that are not God. They feed on what can never satisfy them. The result is hunger, fear, darkness, anger, gloom, and ultimate disappointment. Desperate, they curse all authority. They ignore God their entire lives, then when tough times come, they blame Him. Rejecting Him, they have separated themselves from the only source of life and all that is good.

But look at the first word in the very next verse: “nevertheless” (Isaiah 9:1, NIV). God doesn’t reject us when we reject Him. His love pursues us. He doesn’t wait for us to deserve His gifts, or even to seek them. He longs to bless us, and He will not give up.

His blessings would begin among those who had suffered the most. Zebulun and Naphtali were the northernmost tribes of Israel, near the Sea of Galilee. Because of their location, they were the first to be attacked by invaders, who often came from the north, and they were the most subject to corruption from surrounding heathen nations.

Jesus was raised in this area and spent most of his life there. He grew up in Nazareth, as an adult moved to Capernaum, and began His ministry in the region of Galilee. (See Matthew 4:12-16.)

God was determined to lift these deluded, oppressed people. His words are bursting at the seams with promised blessings.

Imagine those who had long been engulfed in darkest gloom, now suddenly bathed in beautiful sunlight!

Imagine those consumed with anger and need, now caught up in utter joy — joy that surpasses even our greatest times of abundance and jubilation!

Imagine those long enslaved and oppressed, now suddenly set completely free! It would be as exhilarating as when Gideon delivered them from the Midianites, in Judges 6 & 7.

Imagine all the tools of war, conflict, suffering, and death being destroyed in one massive bonfire, never to be used again!

God was longing to give them a glimpse of a happiness that was beyond their imagining. Our world and our entire lives have been darkened by separation from God. We have no experience to help us grasp the light, the joy, and the freedom that our loving God plans to lavish on His people.

All these blessings would come to us in one perfect and surprising Gift!

*Focus on knowing and following
Jesus Christ.
All God's blessings are coming to us
in Him.*

Hymn recording: [Isaiah 9](#)

Isaiah 9

TUNE: For Unto Us (from Handel's *Messiah*; alt.)

$\text{♩} = 72$

F B \flat C 7 C 7 F E F B \flat B \flat Gm 7 B \flat B \flat

1. Dark - ness and shad-ow grip the earth. See the light! The day is
2. For un - to us a Child is born, Un - to us a Son is

C A 7 Dm Dm Gm 7 Gm 9 C
C $^\sharp$ C $^\sharp$ A

dawn - ing! See the light! The day is dawn - ing!
giv - en, Un - to us a Son is giv - en.

F B \flat C 7 C 7 F E F B \flat B \flat Gm 7 B \flat B \flat

Dark - ness and shad-ow grip the earth. See the light! The day is
For un - to us a Child is born, Un - to us a Son is

C A 7 Dm Dm Gm 7 Gm 9 C G 7 C $^\sharp$ C $^\sharp$

dawn - ing! See the light! The day is dawn - ing! Taste the
giv - en, Un - to us a Son is giv - en; And the

WORDS: Ken Bible, adapted from Isaiah 9:1-7
MUSIC: George Frederick Handel and Ken Bible

FOR UNTO US
Irregular

B \flat C Dm $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F B \flat

joy and feel the free - dom! Peace is com - ing, And all
gov - ern - ment shall be up - on His shoul - der; And all

$\frac{E}{C}$ C F $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ F $\frac{E}{C}$ $\frac{E}{A}$ F $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ F $\frac{E}{C}$ $\frac{E}{A}$

na - tions will call Him Won - der - ful Coun - sel - or, The Might - y
na - tions will call Him Won - der - ful Coun - sel - or, The Might - y

B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ B \flat $\frac{E}{A}$ Gm 7 $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F B \flat 6 C C 7 1 F

God, The Ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther, The Prince of Peace.
God, The Ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther, The Prince of

2 F B \flat $\frac{E}{A}$ Gm 7 $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F B \flat 6 C C 7 F

Peace, The Ev - er - last - ing *rit.* Fa - ther, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6-7

(NASB)

For a Child will be born to us,
a Son will be given to us;

And the government will rest on His shoulders;

And His name will be called

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Eternal Father,

Prince of Peace.

There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace

On the throne of David and over his kingdom,

To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness

From then on and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of armies will accomplish this.

The Magnificence of the King

The previous portion of Isaiah 9, verses 2-5, spoke of a crescendo of incredible blessings: light, joy, abundance, freedom, victory, and peace. How would all these unimaginable gifts arrive?

Now the answer comes: a child, a son would be born. All our care, all our leadership and welfare would be on His shoulders. And what kind of leader, what kind of king would He be? If names could describe the true character and significance of a person, what would His names be? As the earlier passage struggled to communicate the depth and breadth of the gifts He would bring, here human language struggles to capture the majesty of all He is. Translating a bit more literally, His names would be:

Wonder of a Counselor—His wisdom would be truly extraordinary!

Colossians 2:3 says that in Christ *are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

His name would be *God of Might*. He would be a mighty warrior, a great champion. He would be Sovereign God.

Jesus...said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
(Matthew 28:18, NIV)

His name would be *Father of Eternity*. This King would have the tenderness of a Father whose love is unfailing and forever.

Jesus said, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest...My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* (Matthew 11:28-30, NIV)

His name would be *Prince of Peace*. Peace is not just the absence of conflict. It is a positive word, encompassing all the best of life: completeness, harmony, and well-being. It is full and unimpaired relationships in every aspect of life.

Philippians 4:7 promises this: *The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*
(Philippians 4:7, NIV)

Incredible wisdom, sovereign power, unfailing love, and complete well-being—this King will bring us all the qualities of God Himself.

What's more, His rule and the peace He brings will continue to increase forever—not by force, but by justice and righteousness, by doing all that is good and right. The perfect will of our loving Father will blossom and grow in every life, throughout the universe.

These magnificent promises come with a guarantee, at the end of verse 7:

*The deep, burning, unquenchable love of the Great I AM, Lord of all the
Heavenly Armies, will do this!*

Now that's a guarantee!

These verses promise what we deeply desire: the continual increase of His rule, His will, His character, and His peace in our minds, hearts, and lives. That process, that growth has begun already in everyone who trusts Him. The darkness is gone, and the Light has come. Here and now we are tasting His wisdom, His power, His unfailing love, and His deep peace, all through the Spirit of Jesus Christ within. And we are “*confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*” (Philippians 1:6, NIV)

*Jesus Christ, our Brother, is
Lord of all things in this world and the next,
all things seen and unseen,
in heaven and earth.
We are secure and
eternally, extravagantly blessed in Him.*

Hymn recording: [Antiphonal Carol](#)

Antiphonal Carol

Isaiah 9:6

$\text{♩} = 72$

Group 1 **Group 2**

1. Un - to us a Child is born. Un - to us a Child is born.
 2. Pow - er and au - thor - i - ty, Pow - er and au - thor - i - ty
 3. Glo - ry be to God on high! Glo - ry be to God on high!
 4. God has giv - en Him a name, God has giv - en Him a name,

Group 1 **Group 2**

Un - to us a Son is giv - en. Un - to us a
 On His shoul - ders have been laid, On His shoul - ders
 Praise and glo - ry in the high - est! Praise and glo - ry
 Name a - bove all oth - er names. Name a - bove all

1, 3 D.C. 2, 4

Group 1 **Group 2** All

Son is giv - en. have been laid. And His name is
 in the high - est! oth - er names.

Group 1 **Group 2** **Group 1** **Group 2** All

Won - der-ful, Won - der-ful Coun - se-lor, Coun - se-lor, Al -

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

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DAVID JAMES
 7.7.7.7. w. Ref.

$\frac{C}{E}$ F Fadd9 Dm7 Dm9 1, 3 Gsus G Gsus G

might - y God, the Ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther. He is

2 Gsus G G7sus Csus Csus C G7sus G7 D.C.

Fa - ther, Prince of Peace.

4 Gsus G G7sus Csus Csus C C C

Fa - ther, Prince of Peace. Je - sus!

Isaiah 11:1

(NASB)

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.

Isaiah 35:1-10

(NASB)

The wilderness and the desert will rejoice,
And the desert will shout for joy and blossom;
Like the crocus
It will blossom profusely
And rejoice with joy and jubilation.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
The majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the glory of the Lord,
The majesty of our God.

Strengthen the exhausted, and make the feeble strong.
Say to those with anxious heart,
"Take courage, fear not.
Behold, your God will come with vengeance;
The retribution of God will come,
But He will save you."

Then the eyes of those who are blind will be opened,
And the ears of those who are deaf will be unstopped.
Then those who limp will leap like a deer,
And the tongue of those who cannot speak will shout for joy.
For waters will burst forth in the wilderness,
And streams in the desert.
The scorched land will become a pool
And the thirsty ground springs of water;
In the haunt of jackals, its resting place,
Grass becomes reeds and rushes.

A highway will be there, a roadway,
And it will be called the Highway of Holiness.
The unclean will not travel on it,
But it will be for the one who walks that way,

And fools will not wander on it.
No lion will be there,
Nor will any vicious animal go up on it;
They will not be found there.
But the redeemed will walk there,
And the redeemed of the Lord will return
And come to Zion with joyful shouting,
And everlasting joy will be on their heads.
They will obtain gladness and joy,
And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Consider the Seed

Consider the seed.

It's so small and

hard and

dry –

very unspectacular in appearance.

We bury it in the earth.

We water it. We tend it.

We protect it. We watch it.

And do you know what happens?

Nothing.

Nothing happens... at least not immediately.

But hidden in that seed is a mysterious, powerful, irrepressible life.

And if we wait patiently,

one day a tiny, tender sprout begins to push up through the earth.

That sprout becomes a little stem,

and after much more watering and tending and protecting,

it produces flowers for us to see and smell.

It gives delicious fruit for us to eat and enjoy.

But do you know what else it produces?

More seeds!

Our one seed is now hundreds, even thousands of seeds.

And if those seeds fall to the ground and die,

some will bear flowers and fruit and

give more and more seeds.

The entire earth could become a beautiful, fruitful garden

from one seed.

Jesus Christ was

one seed.

Each of us is

just

one

seed.

Hymn recording: [See How God's Flower Blossoms](#)

See How God's Flower Blossoms

TUNE: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (adapted)

Isaiah 11:1

♩ = 76

F F B \flat F C D m G m 7 $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C

1. See how God's flow - er - blos - soms From dry and hard - ened
2. The breath of God e - ter - nal Fills fra - gile flesh and
3. This flow'r is now a gar - den, The fruit of that small

F F B \flat F C D m G m 7 $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C

earth, bone seed, And from our sin and dark-ness, A child of hum - ble
With truth and love and beau - ty That glows of God a -
A prom - ise green and grow - ing, An E - den yet to

F G m A m F G C $\frac{Csus}{D}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ C $\frac{C}{E}$ F B \flat F

birth; lone. So small for such a need, Yet all of love's long
And we have seen His face- The glo - ry of the
O Christ, our heart's de - light! We rise and bloom and

C D D7 G m 7 $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C F

prom - ise Is in that ti - ny seed.
Fa - ther, The flow - er of His grace.
flour - ish In You, our love and life!

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang* (harm. by Michael Praetorius) and Ken Bible

GOD'S FLOWER

7.6.7.6.6.7.6.

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Isaiah 11:2-5

(NASB)

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him,
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of counsel and strength,
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

And He will delight in the fear of the Lord,
And He will not judge by what His eyes see,
Nor make decisions by what His ears hear;

But with righteousness He will judge the poor,
And decide with fairness for the humble of the earth;
And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.

Also righteousness will be the belt around His hips,
And faithfulness the belt around His waist.

Messiah and the Holy Spirit

Seven hundred years before Jesus' birth, the prophet Isaiah foretold that Messiah would be a man of the Spirit.

*The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power,
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.*
(Isaiah 11:2, NIV)

*"Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him."*
(Isaiah 42:1, NIV)

*"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor."*
(Isaiah 61:1, NIV)

Not only would Messiah be fully equipped with the Spirit, but He would pour out that Spirit on all God's people. Hear the testimony of John the Baptist at Jesus' baptism:

"I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."
(John 1:32-34, NIV)

Throughout the events of Jesus' birth, before Jesus even appears, the Spirit is already doing His work. First, hear Luke 1:13-15 (NIV):

*The angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John...He will be filled with the **Holy Spirit** even from birth."*

Hear also Luke 1:30-35 (NIV):

*The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus..." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of the Most*

High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

Listen to what happens when Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth:

*When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the **Holy Spirit**. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear.”*
(Luke 1:41-42, NIV)

The Spirit spoke through Zechariah at the circumcision of John the Baptist:

*[John’s] father Zechariah was filled with the **Holy Spirit** and prophesied: “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.”*
(Luke 1:67-68, NIV)

When Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the temple, the Spirit testified to Him through Simeon:

*There was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the **Holy Spirit** was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the **Holy Spirit** that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. Moved by the **Spirit**, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation.”*
(Luke 2:25-30, NIV)

Later, when Jesus’ earthly ministry was drawing to a close, He would tell His disciples:

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.” (John 15:26; 16:14, NIV)

We see the Spirit already filling that role during Jesus’ birth. He testifies to Jesus through Elizabeth, Zechariah, Simeon, and even through John the Baptist when he is still in his mother’s womb.

In both Old Testament Hebrew and New Testament Greek, the word translated as “spirit” also means “wind” and “breath”. The Spirit is the Wind of God, the Breath of God. He is God’s life and power in motion. As such, He is the one who plants God’s divine life in the womb of the virgin Mary.

Jesus Christ came in the power of the Spirit, lived in the power of the Spirit, and rose in the power of the Spirit. When He returned to His Father, He poured out that same Spirit on all believers. This Spirit is Messiah’s gift to all who trust Him. The Spirit of Christ is your eternal birthright as a child of God. Live in Him. Speak in Him. Minister in Him. Love in Him.

*Father,
today,
in every situation,
I want the Spirit of Jesus to shape the way
I think, speak, and react.*

Hymn recording: [In the Father, Son, and Spirit](#)

In the Father, Son, and Spirit

Isaiah 11:2; Luke 3:21-22; 4:1; John 5:30; 15:5; Colossians 2:9-10

♩ = 88

Dm Dm C Gm⁷ B^b Gm B^b A Dm Dm D^{sus} Dm Gm

1. See how small His life be - gan. The need was so vast,
2. See our lives so weak and small. How lit - tle we know!
3. In our weak - ness we can know The full - ness of life

A^m B^b A^{sus} A Dm Dm

And Christ was a man. See the Spir - it flow - ing Thro'
How eas - y we fall! See the Spir - it flow - ing Thro'
In life here be - low. See the Spir - it flow - ing Thro'

Gm N.C. A A⁷ A⁺

flesh and bone. He lived and moved in His Fa - ther a -
flesh and bone. Come live and love in our Fa - ther a -
flesh and bone. Come live in Christ for the Fa - ther a -

Dm Dm C Gm B^b A⁷ ^{1, 2} ^{sus} A⁷ ³ ^{sus} Dm

lone.
lone.
lone.

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

SIXTEEN TONS 2
7.5.5.6.4.10.

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Isaiah 11:6-9

(NASB)

The wolf will dwell with the lamb,
And the leopard will lie down with the young goat,
And the calf and the young lion and the fattened steer will be together;
And a little boy will lead them.
Also the cow and the bear will graze,
Their young will lie down together,
And the lion will eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra,
And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.
They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
As the waters cover the sea.

Kingdom of Peace

Peace begins in God.
It begins with His completeness in Himself and
with the love and perfect unity among the
Father, Son, and Spirit.

Peace comes to us in Christ.
He who is one with the Father and
one with the Spirit became
one *of* us.
And as we simply trust Him, like children,
He becomes one *with* us.

When Christ has finished what He has started,
when we are one with Him, we will be
one with the Father and
one with the Spirit as well.
As we are one with them,
we will also be one with each other,
and the peace of God will be perfect and complete.
Creation itself will then be transformed.

As Romans 8 says:

*The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.
For the creation was subjected to frustration...
in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and
brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. (vv.19-21, NIV)*

Peace will reign in all creation:
no more disharmony; only
unity,
contentment,
completeness, and
well-being;
full, open, fruitful, unimpaired relationships throughout all reality.
Just imagine!

Beauty and truth,
pleasure and purity,
humanity and holiness,
justice and mercy, will be
full and in perfect harmony,
just as they have always been

full and in perfect harmony in God.

Art and science,
celebration and reflection,
giving and receiving,
worship and play
will simply be facets of being in Him constantly and completely.

Everyone will be
beautiful in their God-breathed individuality.

We will be
 like Him,
 with Him, and
 complete in Him
forever.

O come, Prince of Peace!

Hymn recording: [Sweet Peace](#)

Sweet Peace

Isaiah 11:1-10

♩ = 84

G⁷ C $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{Dm}{C}$ C Dm⁷ G $\frac{F}{C}$ C G⁷

Sweet peace, deep peace in Je - sus Mes - si - ah; No

C $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{Dm}{C}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{Fadd9}{A}$ G⁷_{sus} G⁷ C

fear, no fear is found in Him. His

F $\frac{G}{F}$ E⁷ E⁺ E⁷ A_{sus} A_m $\frac{Dm}{F}$

Spir - it will flow and fill all cre - a - tion With

$\frac{C}{G}$ $\frac{F}{G}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ $\frac{F}{G}$ G⁷ C

1st time, continue
2nd time, Fine

peace in the full - ness of God.

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

ISAIAH 11
Irregular

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C G⁷ C G⁷ $\frac{F}{C}$ C F

The wolf with the lamb, The calf with the li - on- A

F $\frac{G}{F}$ F $\frac{C}{E}$ C F $\frac{Am}{F\#}$ $\frac{Dm^7}{G}$ G C

child will be their shep - herd. They will live as one. The

F $\frac{G}{F}$ E⁷ E⁺ E⁷ A^{sus} A^m $\frac{Em}{G}$

Lord will reign In jus - tice for - ev - er, And

F Em⁷ Dm⁷ G^{sus} G D.C. al Fine

wrong will be no more.

Isaiah 28:16

(NASB)

This is what the Lord God says:

“Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a tested stone,
A precious cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed.
The one who believes in it will not be disturbed.

Isaiah 63:1-6

(NASB)

Who is this who comes from Edom,
With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah,
This One who is majestic in His apparel,
Marching in the greatness of His strength?
“It is I, the One who speaks in righteousness, mighty to save.”

Why is Your apparel red,
And Your garments like one who treads in the wine press?
“I have trodden the wine trough alone,
And from the peoples there was no one with Me.
I also trod them in My anger
And trampled them in My wrath;
And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments,
And I stained all My clothes.
For the day of vengeance was in My heart,
And My year of redemption has come.
I looked, but there was no one to help,
And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold;
So My own arm brought salvation to Me,
And My wrath upheld Me.
I trampled down the peoples in My anger
And made them drunk with My wrath,
And I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.”

Revelation 19:11-21

(NASB)

And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many crowns; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great feast of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, both free and slaves, and small and great."

And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse, and against His army.

And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire, which burns with [e]brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Pictures of the Messiah

Psalm 72:5, 8; Isaiah 40:9-11; 42:2-4

When we think of Christ at Christmas,
we picture an infant in a manger.

But that is only one small part of
the living, eternal Christ.

The Psalms and the prophets draw many pictures of
all He is and
all He is to us.

He is a king,
a warrior,
a mighty champion,
a priest,
a prophet,
a shepherd, and
a servant who suffers willingly, horribly for His people.

He is the glory of God,
a light to the nations,
the cornerstone chosen and precious.

As you think of Him this Advent and Christmas,
as you celebrate Him,
celebrate all He is and
all He is to you.

Hymn recording: [Christ Is Come](#)

Christ Is Come

*Psalms 22; 72; 80:1-7, 17-19; 97; 110; 118:22;
Isaiah 28:16; 40:11; Micah 5:4-5a*

♩ = 84

E♭ B♭ E♭ E♭_G B♭ A♭ Fm6 E♭_G Fm A♭ E♭ B♭_F B♭

1. Christ is come, our War - rior King, Might - y Champ-ion great and strong,
2. Christ, the Gen - tle Shep-herd, comes. Lambs all know His ten - der care.
3. Christ the Shep-herd, Christ the King, Christ the pre - cious cor - ner - stone,

E♭ B♭ E♭ E♭_G B♭ Fm A♭ Fm6 E♭_G A♭6 E♭_{B♭} B♭_{7sus} B♭₇ E♭

Heav-en's Prince and Sov-'reign Son, Heir to whom all worlds be - long.
See them rest - ing in His arms! Need can nev - er reach them there.
Christ our high and ho - ly priest, Christ who suf - fers for His own,

A♭ Fm6 E♭_{add9} E♭_G Fm7 B♭₇ E♭_{add9} E♭ Cm G D Cm E♭ Gm Cm F7 C B♭_{7sus} B♭

Lord of Lords, Quick to bless, All He does is righ-teous-ness.
All a - round, All with - in, Love and peace are rich in Him!
He who was And will be, Light and time - less mys - ter - y,

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Johann Rudolf Ahle and Ken Bible

CHAMPION
7.7.7.7.3.3.7.7.7.

Eb Bb Eb Eb/G Bb Fm/Ab Fm6 Eb/G Ab6 Eb/Bb Bb7sus Bb7 Eb

See as now both sin and death Die be - neath His might - y breath.
 Soon His love will o - ver - flow, Giv - ing more than sheep can know.
 God o - beyed and God a - dored, Christ our Broth - er, Christ our Lord!

Isaiah 40

(NASB)

“Comfort, comfort My people,” says your God.
“Speak [a]kindly to Jerusalem;
And call out to her, that her warfare has ended,
That her guilt has been removed,
That she has received of the Lord’s hand
Double for all her sins.”

The voice of one calling out,
“Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness;
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Let every valley be lifted up,
And every mountain and hill be made low;
And let the uneven ground become a plain,
And the rugged terrain a broad valley;
Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
And all flesh will see it together;
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Call out.”
Then he answered, “What shall I call out?”
All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
When the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
The people are indeed grass!
The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever.

Go up on a high mountain,
Zion, messenger of good news,
Raise your voice forcefully,
Jerusalem, messenger of good news;
Raise it up, do not fear.
Say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
Behold, the Lord God will come with might,
With His arm ruling for Him.
Behold, His compensation is with Him,
And His reward before Him.
Like a shepherd He will tend His flock,
In His arm He will gather the lambs

And carry them in the fold of His robe;
He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand,
And measured the heavens with a span,
And calculated the dust of the earth with a measure,
And weighed the mountains in a balance
And the hills in a pair of scales?
Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord,
Or as His counselor has informed Him?
With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding?
And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge,
And informed Him of the way of understanding?
Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales;
Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust.
Even Lebanon is not enough to burn,
Nor its animals enough for a burnt offering.
All the nations are as nothing before Him,
They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.

To whom then will you liken God?
Or what likeness will you compare with Him?
As for the idol, a craftsman casts it,
A goldsmith plates it with gold,
And a silversmith fashions chains of silver.
He who is too impoverished for such an offering
Selects a tree that does not rot;
He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman
To prepare an idol that will not totter.

Do you not know? Have you not heard?
Has it not been declared to you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,
And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
And spreads them out like a tent to live in.
It is He who reduces rulers to nothing,
Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.
Scarcely have they been planted,
Scarcely have they been sown,
Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth,

But He merely blows on them, and they wither,
And the storm carries them away like stubble.
“To whom then will you compare Me
That I would be his equal?” says the Holy One.
Raise your eyes on high
And see who has created these stars,
The One who brings out their multitude by number,
He calls them all by name;
Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power,
Not one of them is missing.

Why do you say, Jacob, and you assert, Israel,
“My way is hidden from the Lord,
And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God”?
Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth
Does not become weary or tired.
His understanding is unsearchable.
He gives strength to the weary,
And to the one who lacks might He increases power.
Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,
Yet those who wait for the Lord
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.

You Come to Me

You come
 comforting me,
 forgiving me,
 recreating me,
 giving me a destiny.

You come
 teaching me,
 healing me,
 nourishing me, and
 sharing Yourself with me.

Though infinitely above me, You come to be
 all around me,
 all within me,
 ever before me,
 ever beside me.

Almighty, all-holy, all-loving God,
 You wrap me in Your presence,
enabling me to
 speak and
 live and
 be like You.

Praise to You!

Hymn recording: [Isaiah 40](#)

Isaiah 40

TUNE: I'll Praise My Make While I've Breath (OLD 113th)

♩ = 104

D $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{E_m}{B}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ G M7 G $\frac{D^{add9}}{F\#}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{A^7_{sus}}{D}$ D E m7 $\frac{B_m}{F\#}$ G⁶ G B m E⁷

1. You come, the peace of God re - stored. You come, the glo - ry of the
2. A - bove the world we touch and see You reign, tran-scend-ent de - i -
3. All things are o - pen to Your sight, Your per - fect wis - dom, love, and

A sus A G E m7 $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{D}{A}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ A sus A⁷ D

Lord, Bath - ing our world in ho - ly light. You
ty, Sov - 'reign and just in all You do. Lead -
might. You are Your ser - vants' rich re - ward! You

$\frac{D}{F\#}$ D A $\frac{B_m^7}{D}$ E⁷ A B m $\frac{B_m}{C\#}$ $\frac{B_m}{D}$ $\frac{B_m}{E}$ F[#]m E⁷ sus E⁷

come, the King in full com - mand With shep-herd's heart and gen - tle
ers and na - tions far be - low Rise up in pride, then quick - ly
come, new pow - er to the weak. You give Your - self to all who

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: *Genevan Psalter*, 1539; arr. by Ken Bible

OLD 113th
8.8.8.8.8.8.

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A B m E_m D E_m⁷ B_m B_m A sus A D
 F_♯ F_♯ G

hand. go. seek, Praise All Je - sus, be his - t'ry our You, lifts its Life, Lord its our Je - sus Christ! You! Lord!

Isaiah 42:1-4

(NASB)

“Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold;
My chosen one in whom My soul delights.
I have put My Spirit upon Him;
He will bring forth justice to the [b]nations.
He will not cry out nor raise His voice,
Nor make His voice heard in the street.
A bent reed He will not break off
And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish;
He will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not be disheartened or crushed
Until He has established justice on the earth;
And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law.”

The Servant King

Hear the affection and enthusiasm in God's voice as He talks about this Special One. God takes particular delight in Him. Note that this is the same way God spoke of Jesus at His baptism, when Jesus was revealed in His humility (Luke 3:21-22), and at His transfiguration, when Jesus was revealed in His glory (Luke 9:35).

God says that He himself has chosen Him, and He will uphold Him. He will equip Him with His own Spirit (see also Isaiah 11:2).

This Chosen One will need this equipping, for His task is a huge one: to establish justice on earth. He will fully establish God's will, God's rightness, God's own character, throughout all creation, in every aspect of society, in every human relationship, and within every heart. He will rid a very unjust world and a very unjust people of all injustice. What a responsibility!

But notice that God calls Him "my Servant." Elsewhere in Isaiah He describes Him as a Mighty Deliverer and the King of All Kings, One who would rule completely, everywhere and forever (Isaiah 9:6). A sovereign king and a servant? This seems like a strange combination of descriptions for the same person.

But think of the qualities of a good servant:

- obedient
- humble, not calling attention to himself.
- selfless, focused only on the agenda and will of his master;
- single-minded, completely devoted to the task

These qualities match the way the Servant will approach His task. Though the work seems overwhelming, notice the unlikely way He will accomplish it.

- He will not shout or cry out.
- He will not raise His voice in the streets or call attention to himself.
- He will be so gentle that He won't break a bent blade of grass nor snuff out the final smoldering of a candle wick.

What a way to conquer the world! Social activists plan public protests and shout their causes in the streets. Politicians spend millions of dollars to fill every communications medium with their voices and images. Conquerors mount military campaigns with brute force, crushing anyone who gets in their way.

This Leader, this Conqueror is humble and gentle and refuses self-promotion. But don't mistake His methods for weakness. He will not falter. He will not be discouraged. And He will fully accomplish His task.

This is my favorite Old Testament picture of Christ. This is the Servant I see in the gospels: single-minded, obedient to His Father, completely dependent on Him, and totally devoted to His will and His glory. He doesn't call attention to Himself. In fact, we're told that when He healed people, He demanded that they not spread the word about what He had done for them (see Matthew 12:15-21).

He was humble. He came as seemingly the illegitimate son of a peasant girl. He was born in a stable and cradled in an animals' feeding trough because He had no other place. As an adult, He traveled the country without a home. He operated outside human authority. He was as an outcast, scorned as a heretic and a madman. And though completely non-violent and non-political, He was brutally executed as an enemy of church and state.

Yet He will succeed where all others have failed. He will conquer the earth forever and establish perfect justice everywhere, at every level, in every human heart.

This is the Savior I know. I recognize Him. This is the way He works in my life. He is so very gentle and patient, yet so persistent and faithful. I have failed more times than I care to remember. I'm such a slow learner. But He never gets impatient with me or in a rush. He doesn't give up on me, and He doesn't leave me in my sin. He continues to work to establish God's beautiful rightness in absolutely every corner of my life.

What a King! What a Servant! What a Savior!

*Father, let all I am be consumed by a passion
to glorify Jesus Christ.
I want everyone to fully realize
just how marvelous He is!*

Hymn recording: [See the Servant](#)

See the Servant

Isaiah 42:1-4

♩ = 52

Dm Am⁷ Am Dm C_E F C

1. See the Ser - vant Ris - ing from the heart of God.
2. See the sta - ble. See the dirt and dark - ness there.
3. Hear Him pray - ing, Bow - ing to His Fa - ther's will.

Dm Am⁷ Am Dm Am⁷ Dsus Dm

See Him com - ing With noth - ing of His own.
See a ba - by With noth - ing of His own.
Watch Him dy - ing, As si - lent as a Lamb.

Dm Am⁷ Am Dm C_E F C

Feel His Spir - it, Spir - it of the Liv - ing God,
See Him heal - ing, Just a sim - ple car - pen - ter.
See Him ris - en, Lead - ing now a might - y throng.

Dm Am⁷ Am Dm Am⁷ Dsus Dm

Bring - ing jus - tice To ev - 'ry tribe and tongue.
Hear Him ask - ing For noth - ing in re - turn.
See them march - ing With just a bowl and towel.

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

ISAIAH 42
4.7.4.6.D. w. Ref.

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Refrain

Refrain

Meek and low - ly, see Him con - quer. Strong and

F A F F E B \flat D B \flat E F C sus C B \flat G m B \flat G m ⁶ B \flat

si - lent, hear Him call. O so

ten - der to the weak - est, Gen - tle Lamb and

Isaiah 42:5-7

(NASB)

This is what God the Lord says,
Who created the heavens and stretched them out,
Who spread out the earth and its offspring,
Who gives breath to the people on it
And spirit to those who walk in it:

“I am the Lord, I have called You in righteousness,
I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You,
And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people,
As a light to the nations,
To open blind eyes,
To bring out prisoners from the dungeon
And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.”

Isaiah 49:6

(NASB)

He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant
To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the protected ones of Israel;
I will also make You a light of the nations
So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Isaiah 60:1-3

(NASB)

“Arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness will cover the earth
And deep darkness the peoples;
But the Lord will rise upon you
And His glory will appear upon you.
Nations will come to your light,
And kings to the brightness of your rising.”

The Light of the World

Jesus is not just the central figure of Christianity.

He is the central figure of all history,
of earth and heaven.

He is the Creator,
the Sustainer of all that is,
seen and unseen,
the Sovereign Word of
the Sovereign God.

He is not just the wisest person who ever lived.

In Him are all the treasures of
wisdom and
knowledge.

He is not just the leader of one
group,
culture, or
movement.

He is the King of all Kings and
the Lord of all Lords.

Isaiah said:

*"See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you."* (Isaiah 60:2, NIV)

Jesus is the Light of the World, and
as He is lifted up,
all nations, all peoples will come to Him.

*We know what the holy and wise of all ages
have longed to discover.
We see Jesus Christ.
How very blessed we are!*

Hymn recording: [Light of Every Nation](#)

Light of Every Nation

TUNE: Rise Up, Shepherds, and Follow (alt.)

Psalm 72; Isaiah 42:5-7; 49:5-13; 60:1-3; Amos 5:24;

Matthew 2:1-11; Philippians 2:9-11

♩ = 96

Chords: D D G $\frac{G}{D}$ D D C CM7 $\frac{A}{C\#}$ $\frac{G}{A}$

1. God's chil - dren come from far and near, Come to kneel in wor - ship. The
2. He shat - ters all the chains that bind. Glo - ry in the high - est! Now
3. See jus - tice like a might - y stream! God Him - self is with us! Now

Chords: D G $\frac{D}{A}$ $\frac{D^6}{A}$ $\frac{F\#7}{A\#}$ Bm GM7 Em7 $\frac{G}{D}$ D

dawn - ing of His reign is here. See them come and wor - ship!
life is rich and un - con - fined. Glo - ry in the high - est!
love and good - ness reign su - preme. God Him - self is with us!

Refrain

N.C.

Chords: D C CM7 $\frac{A}{C\#}$ A Bm7 $\frac{A}{C\#}$

Je - sus! Je - sus! Light of ev - 'ry na - tion!

Chords: D $\frac{A}{C\#}$ A G A $\frac{F\#7}{A\#}$ Bm GM7 Em7 $\frac{G}{D}$ D

Ev - 'ry knee will bow to You, Lord of all cre - a - tion!

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Afro-American Spiritual and Ken Bible

RISE UP

C.M.w.Ref.

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Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

(NASB)

Behold, My Servant will prosper,
He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted.
Just as many were appalled at you, My people,
So His appearance was marred beyond that of a man,
And His form beyond the sons of mankind.
So He will sprinkle many nations,
Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him;
For what they had not been told, they will see,
And what they had not heard, they will understand.

Who has believed our report?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,
And like a root out of dry ground;
He has no stately form or majesty
That we would look at Him,
Nor an appearance that we would take pleasure in Him.
He was despised and abandoned by men,
A man of great pain and familiar with sickness;
And like one from whom people hide their faces,
He was despised, and we had no regard for Him.

However, it was our sicknesses that He Himself bore,
And our pains that He carried;
Yet we ourselves assumed that He had been afflicted,
Struck down by God, and humiliated.
But He was pierced for our offenses,
He was crushed for our wrongdoings;
The punishment for our well-being was laid upon Him,
And by His wounds we are healed.
All of us, like sheep, have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the Lord has caused the wrongdoing of us all
To fall on Him.

He was oppressed and afflicted,
Yet He did not open His mouth;
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,
So He did not open His mouth.

By oppression and judgment He was taken away;
And as for His generation, who considered
That He was cut off from the land of the living
For the wrongdoing of my people, to whom the blow was due?
And His grave was assigned with wicked men,
Yet He was with a rich man in His death,
Because He had done no violence,
Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

But the Lord desired
To crush Him, causing Him grief;
If He renders Himself as a guilt offering,
He will see His offspring,
He will prolong His days,
And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.
As a result of the anguish of His soul,
He will see it and be satisfied;
By His knowledge the Righteous One,
My Servant, will justify the many,
For He will bear their wrongdoings.
Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great,
And He will divide the plunder with the strong,
Because He poured out His life unto death,
And was counted with wrongdoers;
Yet He Himself bore the sin of many,
And interceded for the wrongdoers.

Sharing His Suffering

Lord, when I'm dealing with disappointment, what a comfort to turn to You and think of Your sufferings. Thinking of You turns my world right-side-up. Thinking of Your sufferings when I am "suffering" brings me comfort and joy.

When my suffering is unjust, it is lost in Your greater suffering. It finds meaning in You. I realize that my suffering is some small part of Your work, Your mercy, Your salvation. The apostle Paul felt that his sufferings were somehow completing Your suffering (Colossians 1:24). I realize that when I lay my life down in Your service--not in mere intention, but in action--my destiny becomes wrapped up in Yours. I share Your suffering. I will share Your glory (2 Timothy 2:11-12).

When my suffering is a sad part of life, beyond my control, I realize that You suffered. You understand suffering. I often think of You as holy, omnipotent, perfect God, high above and detached from my gritty struggles. But when I suffer, I'm reminded that You, the God I know, with whom I live face-to-face, have been scarred and shaped by suffering yourself. It's part of Your personal experience. It's who You are--I can see it in Your eyes.

How amazing that Holy God would come to earth and become known as the "Man of Sorrows." You have felt as I feel, and I find sympathy with You: You "feel along with" me. Our suffering becomes something we share, as my spouse and I share the suffering we've endured for our children. Our hearts, Yours and mine, are bonded together by our pain.

When my suffering is the result of my own sin, I find in You the Fountain of mercy and tenderness. You long only for my forgiveness and restoration, not recrimination and punishment. I experience again how complete is salvation. You want not only to forgive my sin but also to heal it to its core. You work patiently but persistently to banish sin's awful curse from my life, completely and forever.

Lord Jesus, thank You for the wonderful gifts You give through suffering. Our pain brings us a fuller, sweeter understanding of life here and hereafter. It is part of turning loose of what is temporary and grasping what is eternal and of infinite value.

*Suffering Savior,
Man of Sorrows,
Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,
I thank You and worship You with all my being.
Praise to You forever and forever!*

Hymn recording: [Isaiah 53](#)

Isaiah 53

♩ = 60

Bm Bm11 F# E# G F# E# D Dsus A A/G F#m7 F#m

1. See Him re - ject - ed. Who could im - ag - ine The
 2. Blood - y, dis - fig - ured, Now bare - ly hu - man, Re -
 3. Hear all the guilt - y Mock - ing and curs - ing. Our
 4. Watch as our Fa - ther, Eag - er to crush Him, Now

Em Em D Em Bm7 C# C# 1 Bm Bm A GM7 Em Em Em6 C# C# F#

glo - ry of heav - en In One now a - ban - doned?
 pul - sive and
 Sav - ior is
 of - fers His

2, 3, 4 Bm Bm Bm9 A A Em7 F#sus C# F# Bm Bm Bm Bm

3rd time to Coda

scarred, His on - ly cloth - ing is shame. But
 still. This is the rea - son He came! For
 Son To bring His chil - dren back

WORDS: Ken Bible
 MUSIC: George Frederick Handel and Ken Bible

SARABANDE
 Irregular

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$\frac{A}{C\sharp}$ A D^{sus} D $\frac{F\sharp m7}{C\sharp}$ Bm $\frac{Bm}{F\sharp}$ Bm Esus Em $\frac{Em7}{B}$

our shame He suf - fers, Our sin He car - ries.
 our shame He suf - fers, Our sin He car - ries.

$\frac{F\sharp}{A\sharp}$ $\frac{F\sharp sus}{G\sharp}$ F \sharp Bm $\frac{F\sharp7}{C\sharp}$ $\frac{Bm}{D}$ $\frac{A}{C\sharp}$ B⁷_{sus} Bm $\frac{F\sharp7}{A\sharp}$ D.C. Φ CODA Bm

See what a beat - ing He bears in our name! home.
 How deep the sor - row He bears in our name!

Isaiah 61:1-3

(NASB)

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
Because the Lord anointed me
To bring good news to the humble;
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim release to captives
And freedom to prisoners;
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,
To grant those who mourn in Zion,
Giving them a garland instead of ashes,
The oil of gladness instead of mourning,
The cloak of praise instead of a disheartened spirit.
So they will be called oaks of righteousness,
The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

Jesus Introduces Himself

When Jesus introduced Himself
to His hometown crowd in Nazareth,
He did so with these words:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He anointed Me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives,
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set free those who are oppressed,
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.'...
Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."
(Luke 4:18-19, 21, NASB)*

He was reading Isaiah 61:1-2a,
which is part of a longer passage describing the
comfort and
total transformation
that God's Messiah,
His specially Anointed One,
would bring to God's people.

He would bring
relief and release to all held captive,
healing for every broken heart,
the righting of every wrong.
He would clothe His people with
joy and praise
from head to toe.

But most importantly, He would glow with
the loving compassion,
the tender, all-out, self-giving love of
Almighty God.

Friends, He has come!
The day of God's grace is now!
Come know Him!
Come trust Him!
Come rejoice in Him!
Messiah is HERE!

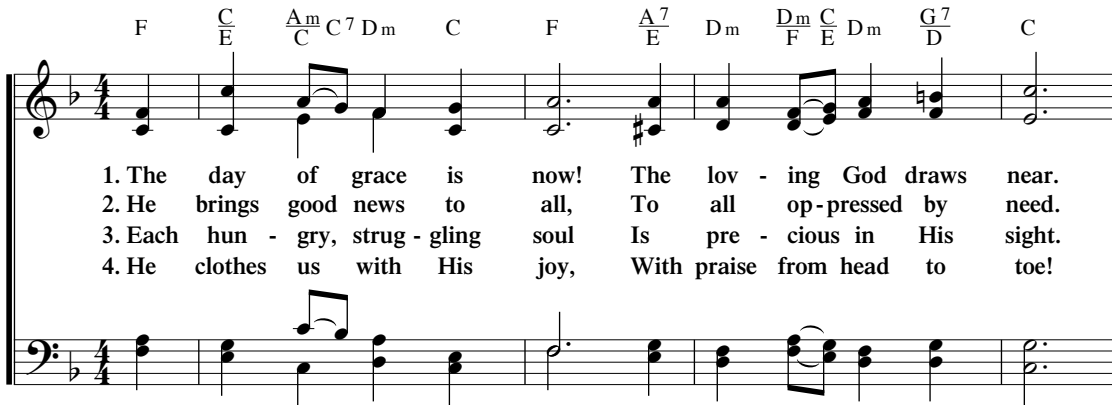
Hymn recording: [Isaiah 61](#)

Isaiah 61

TUNE: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (MARION)
Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11; Luke 4:16-22

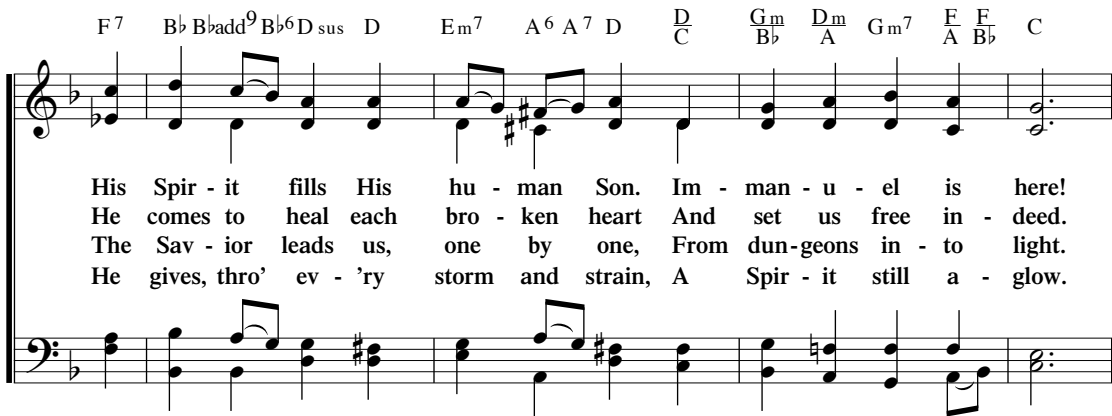
♩ = 96

F C E A^m C⁷ D^m C F A⁷ E D^m D^m C⁷ E D^m G⁷ D C



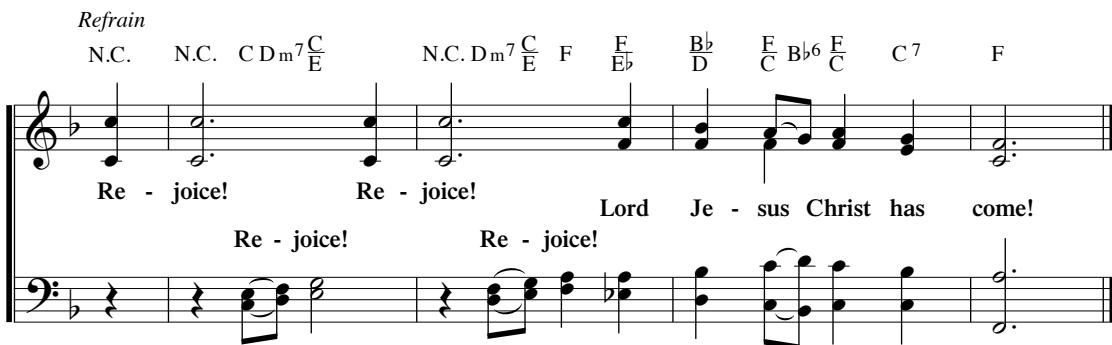
1. The day of grace is now! The lov - ing God draws near.
2. He brings good news to all, To all op - pressed by need.
3. Each hun - gry, strug - gling soul Is pre - cious in His sight.
4. He clothes us with His joy, With praise from head to toe!

F⁷ B^b B^badd⁹ B^b D⁶ sus D E^m⁷ A⁶ A⁷ D D⁷ C G^m B^b D^m A G^m⁷ F⁷ A B^b C



His Spir - it fills His hu - man Son. Im - man - u - el is here!
He comes to heal each bro - ken heart And set us free in - deed.
The Sav - ior leads us, one by one, From dun - geons in - to light.
He gives, thro' ev - 'ry storm and strain, A Spir - it still a - glow.

Refrain
N.C. N.C. C D^m⁷ C⁷ E N.C. D^m⁷ C⁷ E F E^b B^b D⁷ E^b C⁷ B^b⁶ C⁷ C⁷ F



Re - joice! Re - joice! Lord Je - sus Christ has come!
Re - joice! Re - joice!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Arthur H. Messiter (1834-1916)

MARION
S.M.w.Ref.

Isaiah 65:17-18a, 24

(NASB)

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;
And the former things will not be remembered or come to [a]mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create.

“It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer;
while they are still speaking, I will listen.”

Isaiah 25:6-9

(NASB)

Now the Lord of armies will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain;
A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow,
And refined, aged wine.
And on this mountain He will destroy the covering which is over all peoples,
The veil which is stretched over all nations.
He will swallow up death for all time,
And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces,
And He will remove the disgrace of His people from all the earth;
For the Lord has spoken.
And it will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
Let’s rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”

God Will Make All Things New

Isaiah 24; 25; 26; 65:17-25; 66:18-23

Evil is not forever.

Having separated itself from the only Source of life,
it will finish all its destructive course,
leaving desolation in its wake.

Then the Creator
in perfect power, wisdom, and love,
will create a new heaven and
a new earth.

He will make all things new!

All that is
will fully reflect
His glory,
His holiness,
His love,
His abundant, overflowing life.

Everything else,
everything that is not of Him,
will have burned away.

He will be glad in His people, and
His people will be glad in Him.

Death is not forever.

Now it seems to rule over life with an iron fist.
But the life of God will swallow it up,
finally and
completely.

All its curse,
its grief,
its weeping and
separation,
will be gone forever.

Life will permeate everything around us.
It will flow in the water.
It will bloom on the trees.

Our God,
the long-desired One,
the long-awaited One,
will come to us.
He will come!

He will gather His people from
every nation and
every age.

We will be one
with Him,
and together, we will all be one
in Him.

He will feed us forever
with all the best.

He will eternally nourish our life with
all He is.

Hymn recording: [Make All Things New](#)

Make All Things New

TUNE: My Faith Looks Up to Thee (OLIVET)

Isaiah 24: 25; 26; 65:17-25; 66:18-23; Mark 13:26-27, 32-37;
Luke 13:29; 1 Corinthians 15:53-57; Revelation 21:1-5; 22:1-5

♩ = 84

D D sus D A C# A A7 Bm Bm F# Em Em B Em G D

1. Lord God, life's on - ly source, E - vil will
2. Death is a bru - tal lord, Wield - ing will
3. Fin - ish Your gift be - gun. Gath - er its us

A7 C# D A7 A#7 Bm Bm A E7 G# A sus A sus A A G D F# D sus D A Em7

run its course, Leave earth a waste. Love will make
sov - 'reign sword. Soon death will die. Life will a -
all as one. Make all things new! Je - sus, our

D F# A7 E D D C# Bm7 D A G M7 A7 G D F# A7 E D D C#

all things new. Worlds will flow fresh from You.
rise, un - bound, Life burst - ing all a - round,
Lamb, our Priest, Je - sus, Your - self the feast,

Bm Bm A Gadd9 G D F# A#7 Bm Em7 Em7 A A7 D

Beau - ty now pure and true Is but a taste.
Life, love, and joy pro - found In Je - sus Christ.
Je - sus, with love in - creased We wait for You!

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Lowell Mason (1792-1872); arr. by Ken Bible

OLIVET
6.6.4.6.6.6.4.

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