Words by CHARLES WESLEY
3rd Verse by LOWELL ALEXANDER
Music by LOWELL ALEXANDER

Arranged by RUSSELL MAULDIN

and RANDY COX

From DiscoverWorship.com

First Sunday of Advent: Choir sings Verse 1 as a Call to Worship.

Second Sunday of Advent: Choir sings Verse 2 (opt. Children's Choir and Congregation).

Third Sunday of Advent: Children's Choir sings Verse 3 (opt. Congregation).

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Choir/Congregation sing all 3 Verses with optional Verse 3 harmonization.

**Performance tracks are provided for all 4 versions, including full arrangement.

Reverently (= 107)







Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus - 2



Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus - 3







FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(lights up on CALEB, a first-century Jewish innkeeper; JUDAH, a first-century shepherd; and ZOPHAR, a first-century wise man of the East)

CALEB: Advent. A season of expectation.

JUDAH: A season of longing.

ZOPHAR: A season of hope.

CALEB: In the book of Genesis—the book of beginnings—we see a dark and troubled world, anticipating the voice and visitation of the Lord God.

JUDAH: Genesis chapter one reads: "And God said, 'Let there be light,' (he strikes a match and lights the first Advent candle) ...and there was light."

ZOPHAR: On this, the first Sunday of Advent, we too look forward to the voice and visitation of the Lord.

CALEB: We are a people living between the ages—looking back to the first coming of the Lord Jesus as the Light of men, come to dispel the works of darkness...

JUDAH: As the Shepherd come to seek the lost sheep of Israel...

ZOPHAR: As the King of Kings come to reign over His people...

CALEB: And we are a people looking forward. To his second coming. When he will once again visit a world of darkness and speak Light. (pause) Today, as we begin to prepare our hearts for his Advent—his coming—will you ask him to shine his wonderful grace into the dark places of your life? To be your Light?

JUDAH: To be your Shepherd?

ZOPHAR: To be your King?

(lights down)

SONG: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (verse 1)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(lights up on CALEB; reverently:)

CALEB: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

(he strikes a match and lights the second Advent candle)

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."

"There was the true Light, which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him."

(pause)

Scripture is full of instances in which the Lord appeared to his people and they didn't recognize him. From Jacob, who prayed for the deliverance of God and then wrestled with him all night long when he appeared. To Jesus—the Light of the world, God's only begotten Son—crucified by the very men most anxious for the coming of the Messiah.

On this, the second Sunday of Advent, we remember the first coming of our Savior in a humble manger, and look forward to his second glorious appearance in the clouds. But today, if he visits your heart, will you recognize him? Or will the darkness blind you from seeing the true Light?

Jesus encouraged us to be like a bride waiting for her bridegroom, with our lamps ready and waiting for his appearing. Will you be ready for the Lord if he appears to-day?

(lights down)

SONG: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (verse 2)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(lights up on JUDAH)

JUDAH: The prophet Micah said that from Bethlehem, One would go forth to be ruler in Israel:

"When she who is in labor has borne a child ... And He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth. This one will be our peace."*

(strikes match and lights third Advent candle)

So many times in Scripture we are pictured as sheep, looking for the arrival of our Shepherd. We are called "His people, the sheep of his pasture," and Jesus referred to himself as "the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for the sheep."

(pauses, smiles)

How fitting, then, that it was a group of shepherds who received one of the first "birth announcements" of the newborn Messiah. An angel appeared to them as they kept watch over their flocks by night and said, "I bring you glad tidings of great joy, which will be for all people."

On this, the third Sunday of Advent, we remember the joy of the coming of Jesus in Bethlehem and rejoice with the angels of heaven who said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men!"

(lights down)

SONG: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (verse 3)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(lights up on ZOPHAR; CALEB and JUDAH unlit in background)

ZOPHAR: Isaiah prophesied that the people who walk in darkness would see a great Light. The sixtieth chapter proclaims, "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." "They will bring gold and frankincense, and will bear good news of the praises of the Lord."

(strikes match and lights fourth Advent candle)

On this, the fourth Sunday of Advent, we remember the star that appeared in the dark Judean sky and led the wise men of the East to the holy child, born the King of kings, where they laid their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh at his feet.

His light still shines in the darkness of the world, calling wise men to himself that they might lay their gifts at his feet and find the true King. The royal son God promised through his servant Isaiah, who said: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders. And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor...

CALEB: (*stepping forward*) the Mighty God,

JUDAH: (stepping forward) the Everlasting Father,

ZOPHAR: the Prince of Peace.

CALEB: Of the increase of his government there shall be no end,

JUDAH: upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom,

ZOPHAR: to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.

CALEB, JUDAH & ZOPHAR: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

ZOPHAR: This Christmas season, will you have the wisdom to seek out the Light of the world and lay your gifts at his feet?

(lights down)

SONG: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (Full Version)



(Reprise)

From DiscoverWorship.com

Words by CHARLES WESLEY
3rd Verse by LOWELL ALEXANDER
Music by LOWELL ALEXANDER
and RANDY COX
Arranged by RUSSELL MAULDIN

Reverently ($\downarrow = 107$)











