Joy to the World, the Lord has Come

The Child, The Savior, The Lord

This is not just a song for December 25th. No, this is a proclamation that reverberates through eternity. Advent is not confined to the flickering lights of a Christmas tree or the hymns we sing in candlelit sanctuaries. Advent is a movement, a revolution of hope and restoration that begins in a manger and reaches into the hearts of every man, woman, and child who dares to seek Him.

The earth, where God's creation lived in tyranny under the weight of injustice, brokenness, and sin. Humanity was looking for a savior, someone who would rescue them, someone who would deliver them. But they were not expecting what they received on that holy night in Bethlehem. Humanity had been looking for centuries, since the days of Egyptian slavery, longing for a Messiah, who would lift them above the misery they experienced every day. And yet, when the answer came, He did not arrive with royal fanfare or legions of angels. He did not come the way they had hoped. No, He came quietly, humbly, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

This child, born to Mary and Joseph, had not come that He would be sought and believed to possess something extraordinary within. He was the Creator clothed in creation, the infinite who became finite, the Word made flesh, Emmanuel—God with us. Heaven's King took the lowest seat at humanity's table to show us the depth of His love and the heights of His grace.

Advent reminds us of the beginning of Christ's story and the purpose for which He came. This child was not merely born to live; He was born to give His life. As the prophet Isaiah declared, **"Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6).** This giving began in the cradle and was brought to its conclusion on the cross.

The wood of the manger foreshadowed the wood of the cross. The cries of the baby foreshadowed the cries of the Savior: *"It is finished."* Advent points us to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The baby in the manger is the same Savior who willingly carried the weight of the world's sin to reconcile us back to God.

The truth of Advent is not just about remembering His coming but about remembering what His coming means. The song says it all. ***Let every heart prepare Him room***. The manger

may have been small, but it held the infinite. Your heart may feel weary, broken, or unworthy, but it is exactly where Christ longs to dwell.

Advent reminds us of the contradiction of our King. He was born in humility but reigns in glory. He came in weakness but conquered with grace and mercy. His kingdom was not built by swords or wealth but by love, restoration, and reconciliation.

And the beauty of Advent is that His kingdom is not just for one time or one place—it's for all time and all people. This is why wise men traveled from afar to kneel before Him. They recognized what the world did not: This was not just a child. This was the King of kings.

Their journey is ours as well. Advent extends beyond December 25th because the King we celebrate continues to invite us to seek Him. He is still drawing hearts to Himself. He is still reigning, still restoring, still reconciling.

To those who feel lost, He says, *"Come to me."*
To those who feel broken, He says, *"I will give you rest."*
To those who seek truth, He says, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life."*

The Power of Advent: Beyond the Season

As we reflect on this season, let us remember that Advent is not just about looking back to His first coming; It is about carrying the light of His love into a world still shrouded in darkness.

It's about becoming like wise men—seeking Him with a devoted heart, offering our lives in self-giving, and worshiping with awe and reverence. Their journey didn't end when they encountered the Child; instead, they returned to their homeland forever transformed by His presence. In the same way, Advent calls us to carry the message of hope into all the world, letting the light of Christ shine through us.

So let every heart prepare Him room—not just during this sacred season but for a lifetime. Let the joy of the Lord fill our hearts and overflow into the lives of others as we boldly declare, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!"

Be Blessed, and have a Blessed and Merry Christmas,

Pastor Gool