

Advent Meditation Moments

This Advent Time of Meditation is meant to offer you an opportunity to escape from the mad rush of the world for a few moments, and to focus on God, God's attentiveness to you, and your response to God's activity in your life. Each week Beautiful Savior will offer a different meditation, based on the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, hallmarks of the abundant life that Jesus offers us.

Advent I: Hope

Again the LORD spoke to [King] Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. . For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. Isaiah 7:10-14, 16.

Context: Jerusalem is being threatened by two foreign kings, and King Ahaz is getting more uneasy as he knows that alone he cannot defeat the kings. The prophet Isaiah says God will give a sign of hope, the birth of a child, in the midst of this crisis. Ahaz is to trust God in the midst of danger. Christians have long understood this to be a foretelling of Jesus---who is Immanuel, "God with us."

To think about: Have you ever been in a difficult personal situation and felt all alone? When the alligators are snapping at our feet, it's tough to know God's presence. But God promises to be with us (Immanuel), especially in the person of Jesus. How has this truth given you **HOPE**?

Psalm of Hope: 62:1-8

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

How long will you assail a person, will you batter your victim, all of you, as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

Their only plan is to bring down a person of prominence. They take pleasure in falsehood; they bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse.

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

Closing Prayer

O God, in the midst of life's troubles, we can only turn to you as our source of hope. Grant us your Spirit, that we trust your words that we are indeed in your hands in all of life's circumstances. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Hope

The saddest day will have an eve,
The darkest night, a morn;
Think not, when clouds are thick and dark,
Thy way is too forlorn.

For ev'ry cloud that e'er did rise,
To shade thy life's bright way,
And ev'ry restless night of pain,
And ev'ry weary day,

Will bring thee gifts, thou'lt value more,
Because they cost so dear;
The soul that faints not in the storm,
Emerges bright and clear.

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From *Songs from the Wayside*,

by Clara Ann Thompson, a poet, teacher,
and civil rights advocate

who was born on January 22, 1869,
to parents who were former slaves.