

Holidays and Holy Days – Fall 2019

Week 9: Christmas

- **Holidays and Holy Days**
 - Part 1: OT Feasts and Holy Days (weeks 1-4 ... handouts for 1-3)
 - Part 2: NT Fulfillment (week 5)
 - Part 3: Church Practice (Week 6)
 - **Part 4: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany (week 7-9 – Dec. 1,15,22)**
- **Advent Wreath**
 - 1st Sunday & 1st Purple Candle – Prophecy / Hope
 - 2st Sunday & 2st Purple Candle – Bethlehem / Love
 - 3st Sunday & 3st Pink Candle – Shepherd / Joy
 - 4st Sunday & 4st Purple Candle – Angel / Peace
 - **Christmas Day & Middle White Candle – Christ / Light and Purity**
- **Christmas and Epiphany**
 - History of Christmas
 - 12 Days of Christmas
 - Season of Epiphany & Candlemas
- **Christ Candle – Light and Purity (White Candle)**
 - **Passage:** Birth Narrative ... **VIDEO:** The Greatest Story Ever Told
 - **Song:** What Child is This?

What Child is this
Who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come Peasant, King to own Him
The King of Kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Oh, raise, raise a song on high,
His mother sings her lullaby.
Joy, oh joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Refrain

- **Fulfilling our Every Longing.**

- **Discussion:** How do you see Christ fulfill OT promises of Messiah
 - **God's "Longing" for Us:** OT full of God longing to save/ change people
- **Discussion:** How do you see Christ fulfilling your own longing
 - **Unexpected Fulfillment:** not peace but sword, Love as God/Christ giving life, love enemy, not store treasure in this life, hope for eternity
- **Discussion:** As you have been reading, singing, mediating this advent, any other thoughts God has brought to your heart you would like share
 - **"Glory to God":** not just 'for us' – for God's glory, huge benefit to us

- **Epiphany – Light all Candles**

- **Passage:** Coming of the Wise Men: **Matthew 2:1-12**
- **Coming to a King!**

- **How Does Christmas Effect Our Daily Lives?**

- **Song:** Christmas Offering

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth, they traveled from afar
Hoping to find the child from heaven
And falling on their knees they bow before the humble Prince of Peace

Refrain

We bring an offering of worship to our King
No one on earth deserves the praises that we sing
Jesus, may you receive the honor that you're due
O Lord, I bring an offering to you

The sun cannot compare to the glory of your love
There is no shadow in your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before your throne
Before the Holy One of heaven
It's only by Your blood, it's only through Your mercy Lord, I come

Refrain (x2)... Refrain again with we are an offering

- **Discussion:** How will Christmas shape your 2020?

- **Longing for Heaven, Living on Earth**
 - **C.S. Lewis**
 - “If I discover within myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world”
 - “You don't have a soul. You are a Soul. You have a body.”

 - **Romans 8:18-25** – Groaning for Heaven
 - **Discussion:** What would it look like to “groan inwardly”?

 - **SONG - Hymn of Heaven** (Words by Bernard of Cluny ; Music by Sarah Burdick)

Brief life is here our portion, Brief sorrow short lived care:
 The life that knows no ending, The tearless life is there.
 Oh happy retribution: Short toil, eternal rest,
 For mortals and for sinners, A mansion with the blest.

And now we fight the battle But then shall wear the crown
 Of full and everlasting And passionless renown.
 And now we watch and struggle, And now we live in hope,
 And Zion in her anguish With Babylon must cope.

But he whom now we trust in Shall then be seen and known
 And they that know and see him Shall have him for their own.
 The morning shall awaken, The shadows shall decay
 And each true-hearted servant Shall shine as doth the day.

There God our king and portion, In fullness of his grace,
 Shall we behold forever And worship face to face.

Jesus in thy mercy Bring us To that dear land of rest,
 Who art with God the Father And Spirit ever blest.

 - **Hebrews 11** – Longing for Heaven while Living on Earth

 - **C.S. Lewis: The Last Battle** (pages 212-213, 228)

 - **Revelation ...** Especially 5:1-14 and 19-22

- **Song: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

O ye beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
Oh rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heaven and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace, their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

- **Revelation 22:20-21**