



## Worship resources

### INTRODUCTIONS

*For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines*

#### **2 Samuel 7 : 1-11, 16**

The Ark, a chest containing the Ten Commandments, represented the presence of God. The prophet Nathan tells King David that no grand place is needed to house it, because God's promise is to be with his people for ever, and a great new king will be born of David's line.

#### **Romans 16 : 25-27**

Paul's letter to the Roman Christians end with glory to God, because the mystery of salvation, secret for long ages past, is now disclosed. Jesus Christ is present with us, and this revelation is for al people everywhere.

#### **Luke 1 : 26-38**

The angel Gabriel's visit to Mary announces the coming of Jesus. He is the one to whom will be given the throne of David, and his kingdom will be without end.

[Click here to view the readings](#)

[http://bible.oremus.org/?show\\_adj=no&passages=2%20Samuel%207:%201-11,%2016%0Acw%20Psalm%2089:%201-4,%2019-26%20%0ARomans%2016:%2025-27%0ALuke%201:%2026-38](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=2%20Samuel%207:%201-11,%2016%0Acw%20Psalm%2089:%201-4,%2019-26%20%0ARomans%2016:%2025-27%0ALuke%201:%2026-38)

### COLLECTS OF THE DAY

#### **Collect One**

Lord,  
we beseech thee, give ear to our prayers,  
and by thy gracious visitation  
lighten the darkness of our hearts  
by our Lord Jesus Christ;

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who liveth and reigneth with thee  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Almighty God,  
Give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness,  
and put upon us the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which thy Son Jesus Christ  
came to visit us in great humility;  
that in the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty  
to judge both the quick and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who liveth and reigneth with thee  
and the Holy Spirit, now and ever.

*This collect is said after the Collect of the day until Christmas Eve.*

### **Collect Two**

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
Grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 1**

In expectation, we come before our God offering our petitions and intercessions to the Creator and Lord of Life saying, "The Spirit and the Bride say come.," and responding, "Come Lord Jesus!"

O Adonai and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in fire, in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Mount Sinai. Come with all your power and redeem the people who serve you.  
The Spirit and the Bride say come.

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### **Come Lord Jesus!**

O Wisdom that proceeds from the mouth of the Most High, suffusing all creation, guiding, ordering. Teach the peoples and all their leaders, the way of wisdom and justice.

The Spirit and the Bride say come.

### **Come Lord Jesus!**

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, what you open, no one can shut and what you shut, no one can open. Come and free captives from their prisons and bondage.

The Spirit and the Bride say come.

### **Come Lord Jesus!**

O Dayspring, splendour of eternal light and Sun of justice, coming bearing light

to all who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, we remember especially those

who are sick and those who mourn \_\_\_\_\_.

The Spirit and the Bride say come.

### **Come Lord Jesus!**

O Ruler of the nations, you alone can fulfill their hopes. You make opposing nations one.

The Spirit and the Bride say come.

### **Come Lord Jesus!**

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations, hear our prayers and come soon to save us.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 2**

As we wait with pregnant expectation for the coming of Jesus, let us offer prayers to God who sends his Son in the womb of a virgin.

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

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For *N* our bishop and all bishops, for the presbyters, for the deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, and for those in prison.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For the dying and the dead.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need.

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Joining our voices with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord.**

O Wisdom, breath from the mouth of God most high, who reigns from one end of the earth to the other, and governs all creation with strong and tender care, come and teach us the way of wisdom. Glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

### POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,  
you have given us a pledge of eternal redemption.  
Grant that we may always eagerly celebrate  
the saving mystery of the incarnation of your Son.  
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

## PRAYERS

O God of Elizabeth and Mary,  
you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption  
in the coming of the Savior.

Make our hearts leap with joy,  
and fill our mouths with songs of praise,  
that we may announce glad tidings of peace,  
and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

God of promise,  
you have given us a sign of your love  
through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior,  
who was promised from ages past.  
We believe as Joseph did  
the message of your presence  
whispered by an angel,  
and offer our prayers for your world,  
confident of your care and mercy for all creation. Amen.

Ever faithful God,  
through prophets and angels,  
you promised to raise up a holy child  
who would establish a household of peace and justice.  
Open our hearts to receive your Son,  
that we may open our doors  
to welcome all people as sisters and brothers,  
and establish your household in our time. Amen.

## LECTIONARY NOTES

### **2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16:**

David feels bad that he's living in a nice house while God travels via tent in the ark. So he offers to build God a cedar house. And God says, "who says I need a house? I've been doing just fine without one!"

I think David's impulse is ours - wouldn't it be nicer if we could put God somewhere where we would always know where God was? But we get into trouble when our wanting to know where God is turns into wanting just to control God - period.

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What would it mean if you would just let God travel through your life, and not try to restrict God to only a part of your life?

### **Romans 16:25-27:**

"the mystery that was kept secret for long ages" - I've never thought of Jesus as a secret that was kept until his coming in human form. Is that what Paul means?

Maybe we keep Jesus a secret or mystery today, by not clearly sharing who he is and who he calls us to be. What do you think?

"my gospel" Paul says. He boldly claims the gospel as his own. Is the gospel yours too?

### **Luke 1:26-38:**

Gabriel twice names Mary as favoured in this passage. Do you think she felt favored? Being favored by God in the Bible usually gets people into trouble!

I can't imagine reacting as coolly as Mary does. Could you take it all in like she does? Say, "Sure, ok." I just wouldn't believe it to begin with. And yet...Mary's nobody special before this happens to her. She's from a certain family line, but so are lots of people. She's just a faithful follower of God.

"nothing is impossible with God." Do you believe this? We have only 2 options really: we believe that *really*, things aren't always possible for God. That God's power is limited, because somehow, we are *beyond* God's power. Or, we believe that anything is possible for God, so God could make anything work through us. Those are really the only two possibilities. Which do you choose?

*By Beth Quick*

## ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

### **Day 1 - Its not about Mary.** Luke 1:26-38

Begins with: "The story is told that one day in heaven Jesus approached Peter who, acting in his roll as admissions officer, was sitting at the pearly gates. Jesus complained about the quality of people Peter was admitting into heaven, noting how many of them were of significantly questionable reputation. Peter responded, "I know Lord. But what am I to do? They come to me here and I turn them away. So they go around to the backdoor, talk to your mother, and she lets them in."

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The focus of this sermon is that, "A theological look at this lesson reveals something startling: it's not about Mary. To be sure, without her, there would be no gospel. But that said, this story is far less about Mary than it is about God." It is about the wondrously impossible things God is going to do in and through this child. The second theme this story reveals is that the God of the impossible is also the God of grace. What does it mean to respond to such grace? Here is the third great theme we lose when we try to make this about Mary. We have so focused on the prosaic "Let it be to me," that we have missed the precondition to those words. Mary's first response is an acknowledgement: "I am the Lord's slave."

[http://day1.org/1124-its\\_not\\_about\\_mary](http://day1.org/1124-its_not_about_mary)

### **America - People of the Promise**

"The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father" (Luke 1:32). The promise to David is explored. Early Christians, like the Evangelist Luke, believed that God's promise to David was in fact fulfilled in Jesus, the Son of David. At the heart of the narrative of the announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary is a reminder of God's promise to David, "The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of this kingdom there will be no end." The unlikely recipient of this promise is Mary of Nazareth, a young Jewish woman without a husband. She has to overcome her initial turmoil and confusion. She asks, "How can this be?" Given the sign of Elizabeth's pregnancy with John the Baptist, Mary accepts her mission with trust, "May it be done to me according to your word." Her willing response makes her a person of the promise to David.

The concluding doxology appended to Paul's Letter to the Romans captures the early Christian conviction that in Christ the promises of God were being fulfilled. The covenant of grace established by God with David about 1,000 years before was reaching new definition and new clarity in the person of Jesus. The readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent remind us that God's promise is best fulfilled not in buildings or even great kings like Solomon but rather in those, like Mary, who in the midst of turmoil and confusion trust in God's promise.

[http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article\\_id=4539](http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=4539)

### **Rockies Net - Mary's questions**

<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/b-ad04sn.php>

### **Frederick Buechner - [Gabriel](#)**

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She struck the angel Gabriel as hardly old enough to have a child at all, let alone this child, but he'd been entrusted with a message to give her, and he gave it.

He told her what the child was to be named, and who he was to be, and something about the mystery that was to come upon her. "You mustn't be afraid, Mary," he said.

As he said it, he only hoped she wouldn't notice that beneath the great, golden wings he himself was trembling with fear to think that the whole future of creation hung now on the answer of a girl.

<http://frederickbuechner.com/content/weekly-sermon-illustration-gabriel>

### CHILDREN

#### **Worshiping with children**

Several ideas for celebrating this day - each has a visual object and a theme based on the readings.

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2011/07/year-b-fourth-sunday-of-advent-december.html>

#### **God's Visit**

Object needed - Christmas Tree Angel. Scroll down for talk on angels: "Angels are messengers from God. They do special things. And angels have names just like us. Can anyone think of the name of some angels (Michael... Raphael... Uriel... Gabriel)

Today I want to talk to you about the angel Gabriel. Gabriel is the most important of all God's angels."

<http://www.rockies.net/~spirit/sermons/b-ad04sn.php>