



**Wednesday, December 9**

**Advent Vespers**

*(Please have a candle ready to light)*

**Call to Worship**

**ALL: Come, O Christ, be our light!**

**Prepare the Way**

Prepare the way, prepare the way,  
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

You are the light of the world,  
You are the light of the world,  
You are the light of the world, Jesus!

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# Christ, Be Our Light

## **Verse 1**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness,  
Longing for truth, we turn to You.  
Make us Your own, Your holy people,  
Make us Your living voice.

## **Refrain**

*Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts, shine in the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in Your church gathered today.*

## **Verse 3**

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
Shared until all are fed.

## **Verse 4**

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering other,  
Walls made of living stone. *(Refrain)*

## **Verse 5**

Many the gifts, many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
Making Your kingdom come. *(Refrain)*

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# Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

## **Verse 1**

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
It will lead to the place where the Savior's born,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Leave your ewes and leave your lambs,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Leave your sheep and leave your rams,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow, follow,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow the star of Bethlehem,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

## **Verse 2**

If you take good heed to the angel's word,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
You'll forget your flock, you'll forget your herd,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Leave your ewes and leave your lambs,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Leave your sheep and leave your rams,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow, follow,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow the star of Bethlehem,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

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# What Child is This

## **Verse 1**

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?

## **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!*

## **Verse 3**

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings, salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone him. *(Refrain)*

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# Closing Poem/Prayer:

## **When the World was Dark...You Came**

*(from the Iona community)*

When the world was dark  
And the city was quiet,  
You came.

You crept in beside us.  
And no one knew.

Only the few  
Who dared to believe  
That God might do something different.  
Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

Will you come into the quietness of this town,  
Not the friendly quietness  
As when lovers hold hands,  
But the fearful silence when,  
The phone has not rung  
The letter has not come,  
The friendly voice no longer speaks.  
The doctor's face says it all?

Will you come into that darkness  
And do something different  
Not to distract, but to transform your people?

Will you come into the dark corners  
and the quiet places of our lives?

We ask this not because we are guilt ridden  
Or want to be,  
But because the fullness our lives long for  
Depends upon us being as open and vulnerable to you  
As you were to us,  
When you came,  
Wearing no more than diapers,  
And trusting human hands  
To hold their maker.

Will you come into our lives,  
If we open them to you

So that you might do something different?

When the world was dark  
And the city was quiet  
You came.

You crept in beside us.

Do the same this Christmas, Lord.  
Do the same this Christmas.

*Together:* **Come, Lord Jesus, come. We are  
preparing a place for you.**

## Passing the Peace of Christ

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you!**