



Come

Tuesday 24th December



*Christmas Eve Navajo Country by Beatien Yazx (Jimmy Toddy/Little No Shirt) (Diné (Navajo), 1928-2022)
Smithsonian Institute, https://www.si.edu/object/christmas-eve-navajo-country:NMAI_274430*

Scripture: Luke 1:67-79 *Zechariah's Song*

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty saviour for us

in the house of his servant David,

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness

before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

to give knowledge of salvation to his people

by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

To reflect

We've reached the last day of Advent, and it's Christmas Eve. Many of us will have sung, heard and reflected on the ancient hymn of 'O Come O Come Emmanuel' at the beginning of Advent and day we have been waiting for Emmanuel to Come, to arrive is nearly here. There may be much coming and going in your day today – people visiting, last minute things to pick up, picking people up, travelling yourself, going to crib services and services to mark the eve of Christmas and the transition from Advent to Christmas season. In the poem *Christmas Eve* by Christian Rossetti (below), the poet reflects of the warmth to come from Christmas, the joy and light it brings as our Saviour's birth comes to pass.

Today, you're invited to take a moment of stillness, to find a moment of the peace and quiet to reflect on the poem below, pray the Collects and prepare your heart to receive Him still, as the dear Christ enters in and comes to earth, to be Saviour of us all.

Collects for Christmas Eve

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord . Amen

(Church of Ireland, 1996)

Come quickly, we pray, Lord Jesus,
and do not delay,
that those who trust in your compassion
may find solace and relief in your coming.
Who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Christmas Eve by Christina Rossetti

Christmas hath a darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music
For all Angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Originally published in *Verses* (1893). Public Domain.

To Listen (these and other suggestions can be found on a Spotify playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0F5bU2sf4OiOtQY3q78Rf2?si=a99cbbf61e7d4587>)

- 'Wait for the Lord' (J. Berthier) is a Taizé chant with the text – *Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, keep watch, keep heart*. A reminder to keep watching, keeping alert (as the Gospel for the First Sunday of Advent told us) as we approach the birth of Christ. On a night where many Watch Night services will take place, it's a reminder to us of what we are watching for – the one who is to come – God with Us.
- 'Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth', one setting is by Joanna Marsh (one performance is by The Choir of Christ's Hospital'. As we sit at the cusp of the coming of Christ – these words reflect the knowledge of what is to come with Jesus' birth but knowing we are not quite there yet.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.