

Christian New Year's Eve Celebration | November 28, 2020

What season are we ending? What season are we beginning? Colors?

Where have we seen God present in our lives in the past year?

Preparing for Advent

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

All: Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shown.

Readings from Isaiah 40

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

2

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

3

A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

4

Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

5

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Refrain: *O Come O Come Emmanuel (vs. 3)*

*O come Thou key of David come
And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.*

Reflect: What does preparing for a guest involve? This Advent, let's think about how we can prepare our hearts for Jesus. For his first coming and his second coming!

Refrain:

*Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
And all people will see the salvation of our God.*

Closing prayer:

Humble Lord, we place our trust in you. In you we find the rest we so greatly desire. Help us prepare our hearts and our home for your coming. Pardon our shortcomings and bless our path toward you. Give us strength to lovingly perform your work here on earth until you come again in glory.

The Lord's Prayer (together)

Blessing

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. (Psalm 27:14)