



THE  
BRIDGE  
MONTROSE

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Advent IV – Repent & Rejoice

- 12.21.14 -

# INTRODUCTION

As a church... as THE Church, we understand that we are all called and invited to pursue a relationship with our heavenly Father through Jesus. Because we have all been given the Holy Spirit and His Truth, it is God's intent that we would all participate in pastoring one another. This week is an opportunity to foster that kind of community in our Sunday gathering. Paul exhorted each person in the Church in Corinth to come with their own hymn, teaching, and encouragement. We want to do the same today. We have some stepping stones planned but by and large, our prayer is that we each prayerfully pursue the heart and Truth of God and then share with each other what God has made known to each of us.

Today, we want to respond to the fact that there is much reason to rejoice in the coming of Christ to this world and understand that true rejoicing only flows out of true repentance. This is a time to allow God to examine our hearts and lives, confess our need for a Savior and be moved to great rejoicing in the birth of Jesus, our hope, peace, joy, and love.

Hebrews 14:23-25 – “<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

1 Corinthians 14:26 – “<sup>26</sup> ... When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.”

John 15:15 – “<sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”

## Heart of Worship

### Verse 1

When the music fades all is stripped away  
And I simply come  
Longing just to bring something that's of worth  
That will bless Your heart

### (Pre-Chorus)

I'll bring You more than a song  
For a song in itself is not what You have required  
You search much deeper within  
Through the way things appear  
You're looking into my heart

### Chorus 1

I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
And it's all about You all about You Jesus  
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it  
When it's all about You all about You Jesus

### Verse 2

King of endless worth no one could express  
How much You deserve  
Though I'm weak and poor all I have is Yours  
Ev'ry single breath

## Advent - Repent

### Reader:

Our fourth focus of Advent is “repentance.” With the birth of Jesus, came the light of the Messiah into this world. Just as light eradicates darkness, so the life, death and resurrection of Jesus eradicates the hold that sin had on this world. So as we light this candle and more light enters into this room, let us take a moment and allow the light of God’s Truth expressed and given in Christ to invade every nook and cranny of our lives so that we can understand our great need and how it is satisfied in Christ alone. Let us prayerfully read together aloud and find our way to true repentance as we turn from our ways to God’s ways.

-----**(Corporate Reading)**-----

<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

<sup>6</sup> Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”

- Psalm 51:5-12 -

“Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?”

- Romans 2:4 -

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

- John 14:6 -

### Reader:

The journey to repentance is often painful but we can say that it truly is God’s kindness that leads us there. The refinery of repentance produces a vessel prepared for its created purpose. Through repentance, there is peace because, through repentance, there is forgiveness of sin.

## Scripture - Repent

- **Jeremiah 8:6** – “<sup>6</sup> I have paid attention and listened, but they have not spoken rightly; no man relents of his evil, saying, ‘What have I done?’ Everyone turns to his own course, like a horse plunging headlong into battle.”
- **Ezekiel 14:6** – “<sup>6</sup> “Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations.”
- **Matthew 3:2** – “<sup>2</sup> Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- **Luke 3:3** – “<sup>3</sup> And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”
- **Acts 8:22** – “<sup>22</sup> Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.”
- **Romans 2:4** – “<sup>4</sup> Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that **God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?**”
- **John 3:10** – “<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.”
- **Luke 15:7** – “<sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”
- **Acts 2:38** – “<sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- **Acts 17:30-31** – “<sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

## Only You

### Verse 1

Take my heart I lay it down  
At the feet of You who's crowned  
And take my life I'm letting go  
I lift it up to You who's throned

### Chorus 1

And I will worship You Lord  
Only You Lord  
And I will bow down before You  
Only You Lord

### Verse 2

Take my fret take my fear  
All I have I'm leaving here  
Be all my hopes be all my dreams  
Be all my delights be my ev'rything

### (Ending)

And it's just You and me here now  
Only You and me here now  
And it's just You and me here now  
Only You and me here now  
**(REPEAT)**

## O Holy Night

### Verse 1

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

### Verse 2

Truly He taught us to love one another,  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,  
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

### (Ending)

Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

## O Come All Ye Faithful

### Verse

O Come All Ye Faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels;

### Chorus

O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

## First Noel

### Verse 1

The First Noel the Angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

### Chorus

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel

### Verse 2

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night

### Verse 3

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made Heav'n and earth of naught  
And with his blood mankind has bought

### *(Ending)*

And the angels sing  
It was heavenly

Glory, Glory  
Glory, in the highest

## Advent - Rejoice

### **Reader:**

If Advent is about the faithful waiting of the coming Messiah, then in Christ, what had been anticipated, prepared for, and proclaimed has come. For God so loved the world, He gave His one and only Son. As we light the Christ candle, we must know that light has entered fully into the world. Sin is overcome, death is conquered and eternal relationship with the Father is known. As these words from Isaiah 9:2-6 are read, allow every fiber of your being, every breath of your lungs, every thought of your mind be consumed, overcome, and overtaken but a resounding exclamation of rejoicing in the reality of hope and redemption in Christ alone.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—light! sunbursts of light! You repopulated the nation, you expanded its joy. Oh, they're so glad in your presence! Festival joy! The joy of a great celebration, sharing rich gifts and warm greetings. The abuse of oppressors and cruelty of tyrants—all their whips and cudgels and curses—Is gone, done away with, a deliverance as surprising and sudden as Gideon's old victory over Midian. The boots of all those invading troops, along with their shirts soaked with innocent blood, Will be piled in a heap and burned, a fire that will burn for days! For a child has been born—for us! the gift of a son—for us! He'll take over the running of the world. His names will be: Amazing Counselor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness. His ruling authority will grow, and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings.

– Isaiah 9:2-6 (The Message) -

### **Reader:**

Let us rejoice as one who slumbered but sleeps no longer. Rejoice as one who was wayward and lost and is now found. Rejoice as one who was dead and now is ALIVE! Only in Jesus is there such cause to joy. We can and must rejoice always in every season because our hope is steadfast and our God unchanging. Let us think on how deep, far, and wide is the love of Christ and respond with words though they fall short. And all God's people said... AMEN!!!

## Scripture - Rejoice

- **Luke 2:10-11** – “<sup>0</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”
- **Matthew 2:10** – “<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”
- **Psalms 16:11** – “<sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
- **Philippians 4:4** – “<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.”
- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** – “<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
- **John 3:16-18** – “<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”
- **Habakkuk 3:17-19** – “<sup>17</sup> Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, <sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. <sup>19</sup> God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer’s; He makes me tread on my high places.”
- **Matthew 5:12** – “<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
- **Romans 5:2** – “<sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”
- **Romans 14:17** – “<sup>17</sup> For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
- **1 Peter 1:8-9** – “<sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

## Forever

### Verse 1

Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King. His love endures forever  
For He is good He is above all things. His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise

### Verse 2

With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, His love endures forever  
For the life that's been reborn, His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise

### Pre-Chorus

Sing praise sing praise

### Chorus 1

Forever God is faithful. Forever God is strong. Forever God is with us.  
Forever, forever

### Verse 3

From the rising to the setting sun, His love endures forever  
And by the grace of God we will carry on. His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise

## Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

### Verse 1

Joy to the world the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing. And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

### Verse 2

Joy to the world the Savior reigns. Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy. Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

### Chorus 1

Joy unspeakable joy; an overflowing well. No tongue can tell  
Joy unspeakable joy. It rises in my soul; never lets me go

### Verse 3

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love. And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders of His love

# NOTES & THOUGHTS