

COME, CHILD OF LIGHT

Narration for Each Sunday in Advent

Come, Child of Light is an Advent anthem that may be used in a variety of ways during worship or related Advent observances, by both children's and adult choirs (please see performance notes on page 8). The following narratives may be read on each Sunday of Advent and may be expanded or shortened as necessary.

WEEK 1 — HOPE

Jeremiah 29: 11

The promises of God are promises of hope: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

Attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th c.; translated by Edward Caswall, 1849

O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind Thou art! How good to those who seek!

WEEK 2 — PEACE

Isaiah 9: 6b-7a

The prophets promised that the coming Messiah would bring the presence and peace of God: "His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end."

12th c. Latin hymn; translated by John M. Neale, 1851

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

WEEK 3 — LOVE

Psalms 89: 1

The fulfillment of God's promises were ultimately to be displayed
in a kingdom founded on love:

"I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations."

H. Ernest Nichol, 1896

The darkness shall turn to dawn, and the dawn to noon-day bright;
And Christ's great kingdom shall come to earth, the kingdom of love and light.

WEEK 4 — JOY

Luke 2: 9b-12

The Messiah's coming was punctuated by joy: "The angel said to the shepherds,
Do not be afraid, for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people;
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child
wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Isaac Watts, 1719, paraphrased from Psalm 98

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King!

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COME, CHILD OF LIGHT

for unison or 2-part voices, accompanied,
with opt. C-Instrument, and narration for each Sunday in Advent*

Words and Music by
LLOYD LARSON

Incorporating *O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL*,
adapted from plainsong by **THOMAS HELMORE (1811-1890)**

Gently (♩ = ca. 88-92)

ACCOMP. *mp*

UNISON VOICES *mp*

⑤

Come, O Child of Hope, we pray.
Peace,
Love,
Joy,

C-INSTRUMENT *mp*

9

En-ter our hearts and show us Your way. Prom-ise of God, Heav-en's pure Light,

* Part for C-Instrument may be found on page 8. Reproducible narration may be found on page 2.

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13 *mf* *dim. e rit.*

Hope for our world shin- ing bright! Come, O Child of Hope, we
 Peace Peace, we
 Love Love,
 Joy Joy,

mf *rit.*

mf *dim. e rit.*

1. *opt. repeat*
a tempo
 17 *mp*

pray.

2. *p a tempo*

pray.

1. *opt. repeat*
a tempo

mp

2. *a tempo*

1. *opt. repeat*
a tempo

mp

2. *a tempo*

p

22 *rit.*

rit.

NARRATION (opt.): (Isaiah 40: 3) A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

26 *a tempo*
mp

* *a tempo*
mp

(Latin hymn, 12th c.; tr. John M. Neale) O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; And drive away the shades of night, pierce the clouds and bring us light!

31

mf

mf

36

1. opt. repeat || 2.

dim. e rit. *a tempo*
mp

dim. e rit. *a tempo*
mp

* Mm. 26-37 may be repeated as necessary to accommodate narration (see page 2) and/or the lighting of the Advent wreath.

41 PART I (melody)
mf

Come, O Child of Hope, we pray.
Peace,
Love,
Joy,

PART II (opt.)
mf

Come, O Child of Hope, we
Peace,
Love,
Joy,

C-INSTRUMENT

41
mf

45

En-ter our hearts and show us Your way. Prom- ise of God, Heav- en's pure Light,
pray. En-ter and show us Your way. Prom- ise of God, Heav- en's pure Light,

45

49 *f* *dim. e rit.*

Hope for our world shin - ing bright! Come, O Child of
 Peace
 Love
 Joy

49 *f* *dim. e rit.*

Hope for our world shin - ing bright! Come, O
 Peace
 Love
 Joy

49 *f* *rit.* *dim. e rit.*

52 *a tempo mp* *molto rit.*

Hope, we pray.
 Peace,
 Love,
 Joy,

52 *a tempo mp* *molto rit.* *p*

Child of Hope, we pray.
 Peace,
 Love,
 Joy,

52 *a tempo mp* *molto rit.* *p*

*C-INSTRUMENT

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COME, CHILD OF LIGHT

Incorporating *O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL*,
adapted from plainsong by THOMAS HELMORE (1811-1890)

Gently (♩ = ca. 88-92)

The musical score is written for a C-instrument in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Gently' with a quarter note equal to approximately 88-92 beats per minute. The score consists of seven staves of music, with measure numbers 4, 10, 15, 26, 32, 37, and 49 indicated at the start of their respective lines. The music features a variety of dynamics including *mp*, *mf*, *rit.*, *a tempo*, *dim. e rit.*, *molto rit.*, and *p*. There are several repeat signs with first and second endings. A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

*May be played by flute, violin, or handbells.

Come, Child of Light is an Advent anthem that may be used in a variety of ways during worship or related Advent observances:

- 1) It may be performed without ceremony as a regular Advent anthem, without repeats, singing "Come, O Child of Hope, we pray" (see mm. 5-7).
- 2) It may be used in the weekly lighting of the Advent wreath and/or in conjunction with the traditional observances of the Advent themes of hope, peace, love and joy, singing the corresponding text.
- 3) It may be performed by unison voices (singing Part I in mm. 41-53) or by 2-part treble or mixed voices. It may also be sung by children's choirs or adult choirs, or by combined choirs, assigning Part I to one choir and Part II to another.

Lloyd Larson is a free-lance composer living in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is an ordained minister and widely published composer.

