

O Come, O Come Emmanuel...

These are the words that we cry out during the Season of Advent. They are the words that have echoed down through the centuries as Christian men and women have waited with great anticipation for the coming of the Lord. Advent is a time of preparation, a time for us to prepare ourselves for the Second Coming of Christ. But as most of you are aware it also carries with it a time to remember when God entered the world in the form of man as a newborn babe. This is done because it is only in understanding His First Coming that we can truly anticipate His return in glory.



From the earliest days of God's revelation to man there has always existed an anticipation of the glories yet to come. In Ancient Palestine God's chosen people, Israel, awaited the Messiah. They envisioned Him as a great and powerful king who would vanquish their foes and deliver them from bondage. Due to this expectation when Our Blessed Lord entered the world as a humble infant and grew up to be a carpenter they could not accept Him as the longed for Messiah. Especially, after He was condemned to die on the tree.

We, however, as the inheritors of the Apostles' message have a different view. We recognize that sin and death were our great foes and that they held us in bondage. We recognize that it was only through the courageous act of a mighty warrior king that they could be vanquished and we could be freed. And so His crown was made of thorns, His throne was a cross, and His royal jewels were nails driven into His hands and feet. And as a result of this one act He redeemed the world and freed us from ourselves.

Fully aware that God always fulfills His promises therefore we wait, as those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith have waited. We wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We wait fully aware that He will come again. But we must remember while we wait that He promised that He would be with us until the end of time. That promise has been kept as well. Every time we receive His Body and Blood in the Eucharist we are untied more closely to Him who has remained with us through the Sacrament.

In Christ,

Fr. Long