



'Twas the Season of Advent

An Advent Poem By Rev. Joel C. Kaiser

'Twas the Season of Advent and all through the Church
God's people were worshiping, awaiting Christ's birth.
They gathered together to sing hymns and pray
Preparing their hearts for that one special day.

Whether Sunday or Wednesday or 'round their own table
('Cuz COVID, of course, made so many watch cable!)
They worshiped the Savior, Who was born in a manger
"Social Distancing Style" to avoid any danger.

"This is what Christians should do!" they would say,
"So the meaning of Christmas will not fade away."
In spite of the virus (COVID-19 notwithstanding)
The people of God met the days—so demanding.

Oh, they still did the rest of the "pre-Christmas stuff"—
Cookies, class parties, Christmas letters 'n' such;
Decorating, shopping, family gatherings (are you sure??)
"Ten, make that eleven!" more trips to the store!

Society hums at this time every year
Filling many with joy and good holiday cheer.
What a blessing it is to be part of this season,
Especially when one knows the Rhyme and the Reason.

"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky look down where he lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay."

It's knowing this BABY, that's REAL for God's people;
E'en more so than going to a church with grand steeple.
For Christians can be lulled into thinking salvation
Is simply a matter of rule and regulation.

"Go to church!" "Read the Bible!" "Say your prayers before bed!"
"If you do what you're told straight to heav'n you'll be led."
All good things for sure, who can argue with this?
But how does one know if one's "good 'nuff" to be His?

Love God above all things, with heart, soul and mind;
Your neighbor as self and always be kind."
"Be joyful always; pray without ceasing;
Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God-pleasing."

"Don't quench the Spirit, hold on to the good;
Avoid every evil, be patient as you should."
"Do unto others as you'd have them do;
Forgive others' debts just as Christ forgives you.

"A ll this must be done before God's people can rest.
But try as they might, though they give it their best
They come up far short with what they have done
Like the last-minute shoppers at the mall, on the run.

No wonder the Christian can get over-stressed
Feel guilt, shame and sadness, get downright depressed.
The demands of the season, trying to please the whole clan,
Not to mention, please God and to serve fellowman.

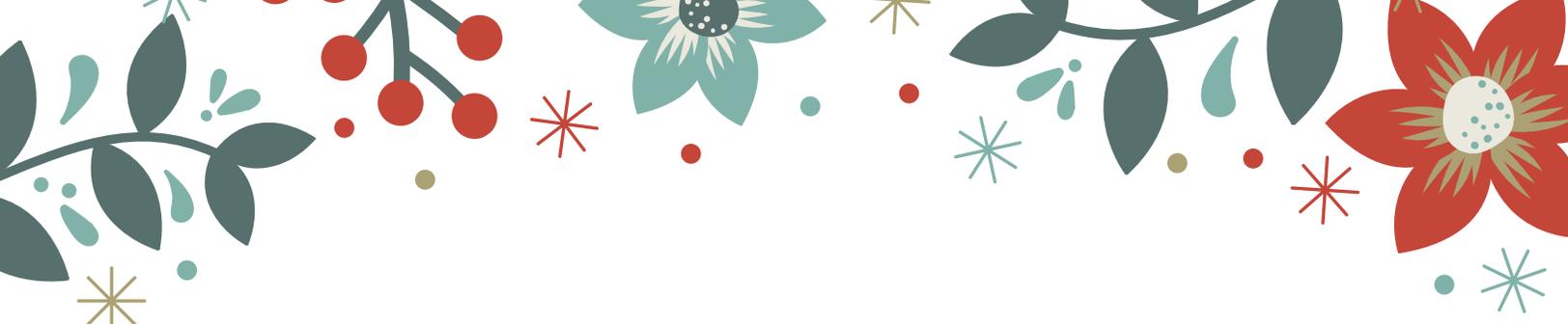
"I just cannot do it!" they cry in despair
As they fall on their knees, bow their heads in deep prayer.
"Have mercy, O God! Grant forgiveness and grace;
Turn not away from me; hide not Your face!"

'Twas the Season of Advent and all through His Church
God's people were worshiping, their hearts they did search;
Confessing their sins, things done, left undone
Baring their souls to Mary's dear Son.

John the Baptizer cried, "Prepare ye the way!
Make straight the paths; the Christ comes today!"
"I baptize with water; He will with fire;
He'll want your heart, your soul, your desire."

Repentance and Advent go hand-in-hand;
It's part of the season, part of the plan.
God pleads with His people to confess their sin
To let it all out so His grace can get in!





And so they came in response to His call
With good motives or bad or with no motive at all.
There's Tyler, there's Thomas, see Connor and Curt;
Now Tonya and Tina, Ruth, Emma and Gert.

God's people together, brothers, sisters, all one;
From all o'er the area—Frankenmuth, Vassar, Birch Run
Form one congregation, among thousands world-wide
Where God's Word is preached and His Spirit abides.

It seems such a small, common, every-day thing
To be in one place, to pray and to sing.
But common? No! This is not common at all
That God is here present for great and for small

In ways that cannot by mere mortals be seen
He moves in their hearts and makes their hearts clean.
Through Water and Word, through Bread and through Wine
His mercy bestows with His Presence Divine.

But more than just grace is dispensed in this hour;
There's comfort, encouragement, the Spirit with pow'r.
To give life direction, fulfillment and feeling;
There's friendship and fellowship through care, love and healing

In the lesson from the prophet, Isaiah sixty-one
There's word about Messiah—Jesus, God's Son:
"The Sovereign Lord chose Me to preach to the poor;
Bring Good News to all and point out freedom's door.

"To bind up the broken, comfort all who mourn,
Proclaim God's good favor to hearts that are torn.
Give a crown 'stead of ashes, some oil 'stead of grief;
A garment of praise and the hope of relief."

These words speak of Christ—that much is true.
But could it be also they're speaking of you?
The work of Messiah is miraculous indeed,
But this passage seems to focus on need.

There are needs still today, people are the same;
The poor are still with us, the hurting, the lame.
They need hope, comfort, love to know they are free;
To feel someone cares and compassion to see.

Where will they find it? From a man in red suit?
From gifts, trees or lights, or a cake made of fruit?
Will they find hope in the "holiday season"?
Or will somebody show them the true Rhyme and Reason?

"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed;
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay—
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay."

'Twas the Season of Advent and all through the town
God's people were active, not slowing down.
Yes, taking care of the Christmas preparation,
But not losing sight of the True Celebration.

The birth of the Christ is more than a day.
It's faith, hope and love; it's a life; it's a way.
To show that a servant is designed by the Maker
To be more of a giver—not just a "taker."

A Christian, like Christ, puts the neighbor's needs first
Serves the good and the bad and yes, even the worst!
And all this because of God's love so true;
Not the threat of the Law--it's just what Christians do!

'Twas the Season of Advent: Christians say with delight:

*"Merry Christmas to all,
for Christ is the Light!"*

