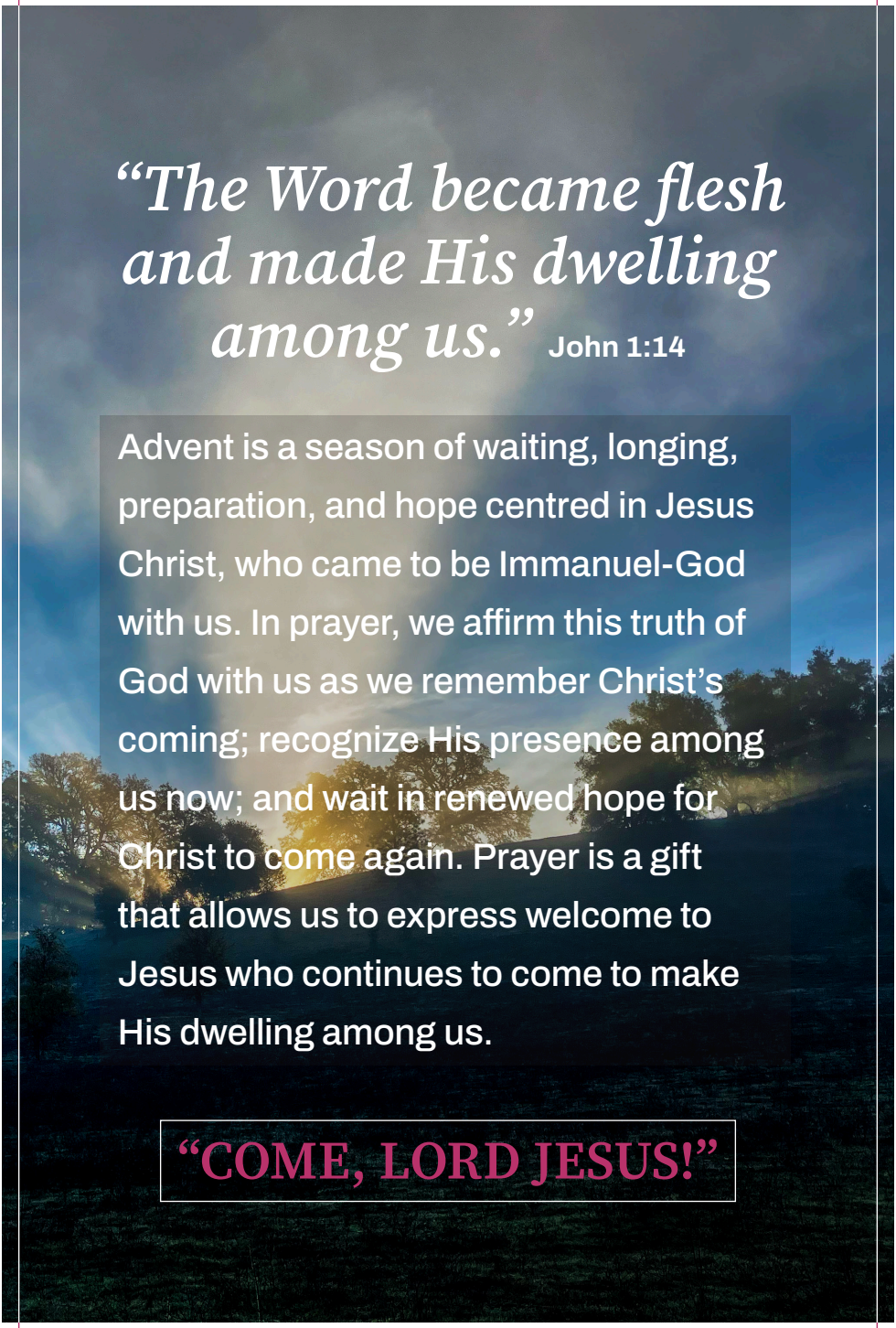


CBOQ Prays Together This Advent

CANADIAN BAPTISTS of Ontario and Quebec



"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." **John 1:14**

Advent is a season of waiting, longing, preparation, and hope centred in Jesus Christ, who came to be Immanuel-God with us. In prayer, we affirm this truth of God with us as we remember Christ's coming; recognize His presence among us now; and wait in renewed hope for Christ to come again. Prayer is a gift that allows us to express welcome to Jesus who continues to come to make His dwelling among us.

"COME, LORD JESUS!"

Week 1 • Luke 1:5-25
Zechariah and Elizabeth



Here we are invited to sit with Zechariah and Elizabeth in their place of waiting and waiting and waiting for God's answer to their prayer for a child. The angel assures Zechariah, **"Do not be afraid your prayer has been heard." (v. 13)** How do we receive the assurance of God hearing our prayers regardless of how long we wait for the answers or how the answers come? Will we choose to trust God as we express gratitude that He hears all of our prayers?

"COME, LORD JESUS!"

Prayer Leading into Praying with Your Own Words:

Our Loving God, thank You that in our praying and waiting and waiting and praying, You are waiting with us. Again this Advent season, we come to You for the reassurance that through Jesus Your Son, You are with us and our prayers have been heard. Thank You that we can trust You to hear all of our prayers and to answer them out of the fullness of Your love...

Week 2 ♦ Luke 1:26-38

Mary



When Mary is troubled by the words of the angel Gabriel, she is reassured, **"Do not be afraid. You have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son and You are to give Him the name Jesus."** Mary chooses to surrender to God's plans and purposes. What will that look like for us? Are we willing to pray with Mary's words, **"May it be to me as You have said." (v. 38)**

"COME, LORD JESUS!"

Prayer Leading into Praying with Your Own Words:

Our God of mercy, we admit to You that there are things beyond our understanding. We want to pray for Your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. As Jesus lingers near, please calm our fears and give us the courage to pray with Mary, "May it be to me as You have said."...

Week 3 ♦ Luke 1:39-45

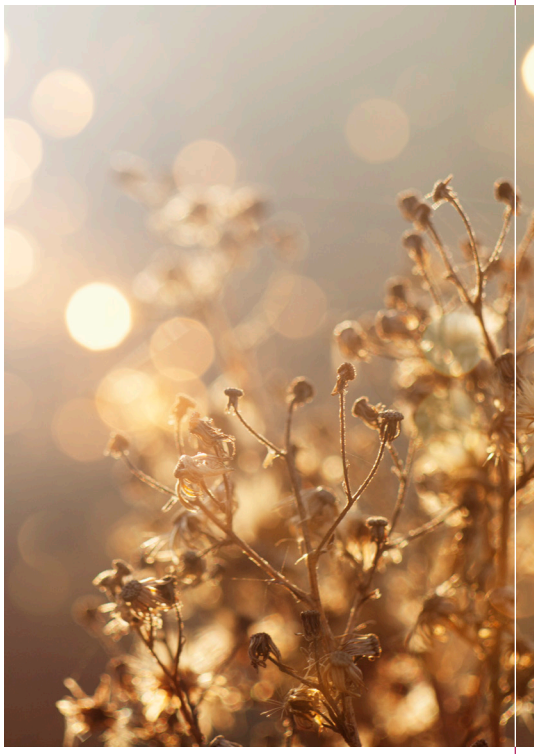
Mary and Elizabeth

Something significant happens to the faith of both Elizabeth and Mary as they taste the joy of recognizing that, **"Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished."** How do the prayers we pray get shaped by believing God's promises? What will our joy and praise urge us to pray and to proclaim about who Jesus is and how God keeps His promises?

"COME, LORD JESUS!"

Prayer Leading into Praying with Your Own Words:

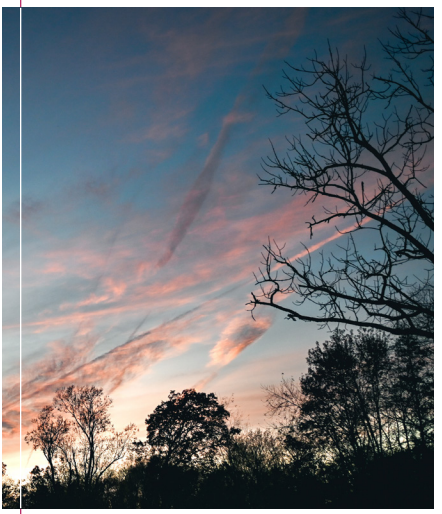
Promise-Keeping God, thank You that the coming of Your Son Jesus is powerful evidence that You keep Your promises! We pray with our faith in You recharged by the awareness of the promises You keep on keeping for each of us. We come with joy and praise that You knew what was needed and so You sent Jesus to be our Saviour...



Week 4 ♦ Isaiah 9:2,6,7

Waiting for the Messiah

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." **Isaiah 9:2**



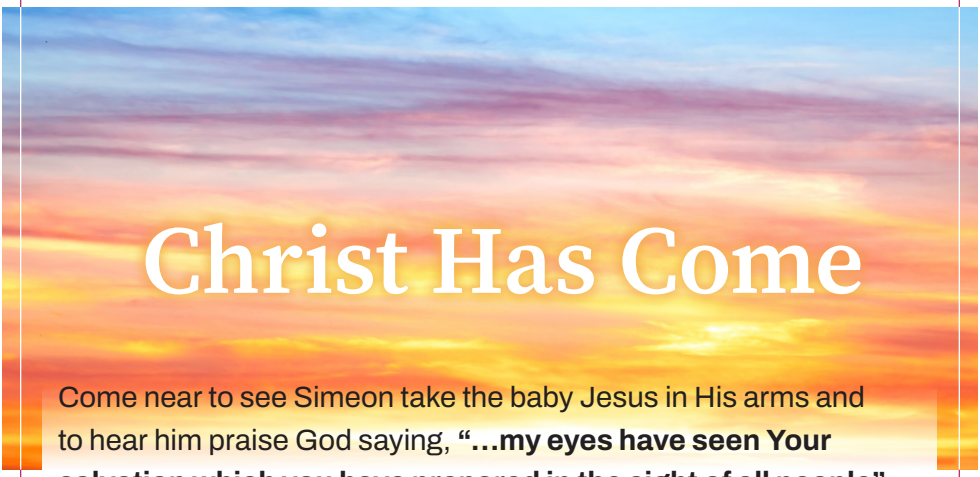
Waiting in the darkness for light to shine can weigh heavily on our souls. We are in the company of others through the ages, who have waited in the darkness. Praying in the darkness and longing desperately for light to shine, positions us to welcome eagerly the light of Christ. In this next week as You pray, You can invite Christ's light to shine for You and for others who are waiting in the darkness.

"COME, LORD JESUS!"

Prayer Leading into Praying with Your Own Words:

Our Compassionate God, when we wait in the darkness for the light of Christ to shine, we pray that You will rekindle our hope in You. Our struggles are well known to You. There are struggles in our personal lives; in our families; in our churches; in our communities; and in our world. Dispel the darkness, we pray, and allow each of us to see Jesus our Messiah among us shining the great light of who He is for us all...

Christmas Luke 2:21-32



Christ Has Come

Come near to see Simeon take the baby Jesus in His arms and to hear him praise God saying, **"…my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people" (vv. 30–31)**

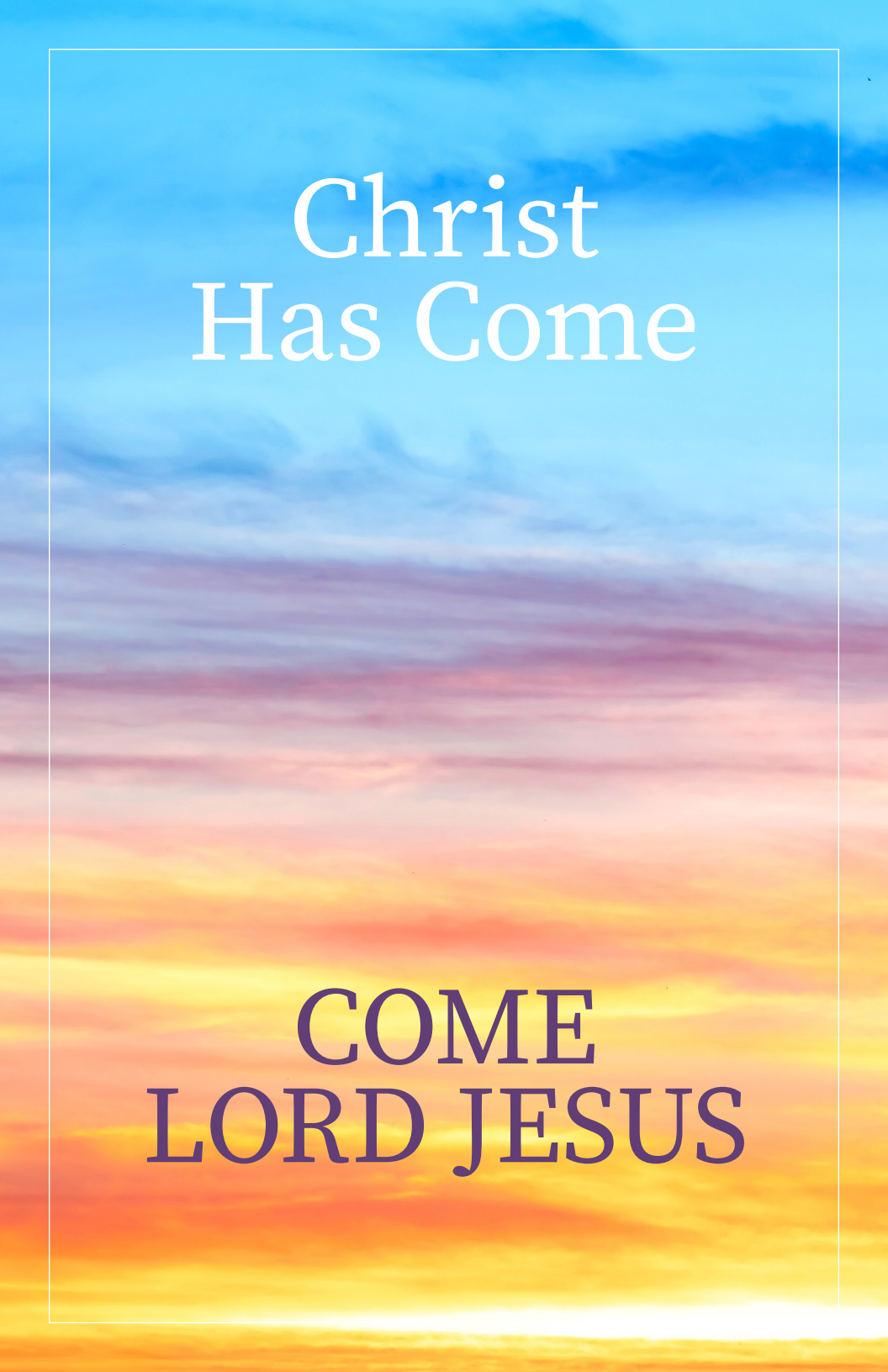
What have Your eyes seen of Jesus as You have been praying through Advent? How does this renew Your hope in the promised return of Jesus? In what ways does this renewed hope impact Your everyday prayers and actions?

"COME, LORD JESUS!"

Prayer Leading into Praying with Your Own Words:

Thank You, our incomparable God, for what You have allowed us to see and to know of You and Your Son Jesus through this season of Advent! We do find our hope renewed that as You entered our world to display Your salvation over 2,000 years ago, we have the certain promise that Jesus will come again! From the depths of our souls, we pray, "So be it."

"COME, LORD JESUS!" …


Christ
Has Come
COME
LORD JESUS