

Come, Thou Un (!) expected Jesus! [The Long expected: 'I didn't expect that!']

On Pearl Harbor Day (!): Here are a few 'Prompts' for Advent conversation, December 7, 2025. [Spending time with Isaiah & Matthew & carols & poets & Paul & Luther]

[We'll finish listening to Bach's Cantata 140: "Jesus is the lover of my soul!"]

Advent Scripture & other Readings, Listening & Dance Steps [Wait, Wait! 'Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day!'] [Speak Memory! Remember December Longing: "The oak leaves strain to be unbound..." Theodore Roethke]

Advent –arrival- is the season of longing. ['Then I said, "How long, O Lord?"'] Isaiah 6:11 [Don't forget 6:9 & 10: 'Make the mind of this people dull...' ('make the heart of this people fat!' KJV)]

Advent Prayers: ELW pg. 16ff 'Stir up *YOUR* power' & 'Stir up our hearts' & 'Stir up the wills...' [Don't forget Isaiah: 'Drop down ye heavens...' 45:8] [Psalms from Prison camp]

Advent Gospel readings: Matthew 3:1-12/11:2-11 [John the B's longing]/1:18-25 ['And the Angel, taking some pains, told/Considerately the man who clenched his fists...' Rainer Maria Rilke]

Advent Responsory: 'Tell us! Art Thou He that shall reign over Thy People Israel?' [YouTube]

Advent hymns/carols: "O Come, O Come Immanuel" ELW 257: Who *are* we waiting for? 'Blessed Be the God of Israel' [Luke 1:68-79] ELW 250. Wait! Wait! 'Hark! A Thrilling Voice' 246 'Unexpected Mysterious' 258 'As the Dark Awaits the Dawn' 261 [We'll keep seeking more carols and we'll find at the end of our hymnal journey: Christmas! "All Christendom be merry therefore and live in thanks forever more" Miles Coverdale after Martin Luther/Vaughn Williams composer] 'He Came Down' 253

Reading Isaiah for fun and fear: Isaiah 11—Jesse's heir will bring victory! Is. 26: The great picnic with lots of wine [meanwhile the enemies (Moab) will be sloshing around in the merde (!) beneath the chosen ones.] 'The Lord has comforted *His People*...' [49:13]

Reading Isaiah in Advent. Thank you God (& St. Paul) for the servant songs: 42:1-4/49:1-6/50:4-9/52:13-53:12. Good time to read Acts 8:26-40 & Romans 5:3ff & Luke 2:32 [Song of Simeon—Nunc Dimitis- 'A light to lighten the Gentiles...' Whew!] [1997 St. O festival/49:07]

Reading Luther in Advent: *"Our Lord Jesus Christ was born of a line of ancestors among whom were a number of disreputable characters and no savory women. God holds before us this mirror of sinners that we may know that he is sent to sinners, and from sinners is willing to be born."*

In the meantime –living as we do in the time between *the* times—we welcome in the stranger-practicing love of strangers -we're xenophilic! -(Romans 12:15) holding fast to what is good (12:9) and we build up the neighbor (Romans 15—today's 2nd reading).

"There's always more to Jesus!" Norman Nage