



ADVENT WREATH CELEBRATION WEEK THREE – LONGING

Leader: We gather today to celebrate the third week of Advent. As we light three candles on our Advent wreath, we rejoice in the fact that we are more than half way through Advent and the time for Jesus' coming is very near.

Our readings today remind us that through the Spirit we give witness to Christ's presence in the world. In that witnessing we are called to be happy, prayerful, thankful people. May we, like John the Baptist, bring others to know Christ through the way that we witness to his presence.

Lighter: (Lights two purple candles and the pink candle)
Lord, as Christmas draw nearer we decorate our homes in preparation for the birthday of Jesus. Help us to remember always that Jesus is the reason for our celebration.

All: We give you thanks and praise.

Leader: Let us begin our celebration by singing "John Cried Out" (from Yr. 4 born of the Spirit - attached, or a song of your choice.)

Reader 1: The Spirit of the lord God has been given to me, for the lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to the captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord. (Isaiah 61)

Reader2: A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

Reader 3: Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Jesus Christ.

Leader: God comes to us each day in countless little ways. Like the people of early biblical times who awaited the coming of their Messiah, we too, await in anticipation and joy the coming of Christ. Like the people asked John, "What must we do to prepare?" so we also ask, "How can we witness to Jesus?"

Reader 4: May all waiting to be touched by Christ through the goodness of others find him among us, we pray.

All: In joyful hope we long for Jesus.

Reader 5: Anointed in the Spirit we are called to bring good news, bind broken hearts and proclaim liberty to captives.

All: In joyful hope we long for Jesus.

Reader 6: When we are open to the lord, we will see him in the people and daily events of our lives.

All: With open hearts we wait for the Lord.

Reader 7: We give you thanks Lord for this Advent, for this time to prepare ourselves for your coming.

All: With open hearts we long for Jesus.

Reader 8: You have given us so much, Lord. May we always be generous in sharing with other people.


All: With open hearts we long for Jesus.

(At this point, if your classes have been involved in any project for the poor, each class could bring their contribution forward and place it near the advent wreath.)

Leader: Lord, hear our prayers and be present to us. Give us the light of kindness and justice as we live in your presence. Enlighten the darkness of our minds and open us ever more to the needs of others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us conclude with the second verse of our hymn.

13  **John Cried Out**

Recorded on Come and See
Words and Music by: TIMOTHY M. CROWLEY
Arranged by: Len J.K. McCarthy

M.M. $\text{♩} = 92$
D⁺ 8

Introduction | **Chorus** D G

John cried out with a mes-sage from the Lord.

A D G

John cried out, "Change, turn to the Lord."

Descant

Pre - pare the wav...

A G D G

Pre - pare the way, — make straight his path, — Change your heart, — love

Make straight his path. —

Em A D G A

first not last. Oh, John cried out, with a mes-sage from the Lord.

Verses

D Last time to D G

1. "God is com - ing," John
2. John said, "Look, — there

D A G

said, "We must pre - pare, by lov - ing one an - oth - er, and that
is the Lamb of God, a light — in the dark - ness

A D G

mak - ing sure we share. — Lord, for - give an - y wrongs —
shines his light on all. — Come, Lord Jesus fill our wait -

D A

— that we have done. Our hearts pre - pare for Je -
ing hearts with light that we might be God's chil -

G Em A D

— sus dren by and lov - ing ev - 'ry - one. —
and fill the world with light. —

D G A D

John cried out, with a mes-sage from the Lord. —

D G A D

John cried out, with a mes-sage from the Lord. —