



O Come, O Come  
Emmanuel

**Luke 21:26-28**

"Then you will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Advent is the anticipation of Christ's coming. The Shepherds running, the Wiseman following their maps, Joseph watching Mary "push."

The feeling of anticipation can almost equal the event itself. I hear my 4 year old grandson begging to open one of the beautifully wrapped gifts! He's so excited!! I watch the clock move oh so slowly, while I excitedly await the arrival of family from out of town.

Sadly for some of us there is not much to anticipate at Christmas. But we all do have the "advent" of seeing our child again. We long for it, we anticipate it, we cry, beg for it to be *sooner* not later !!

I know when I pass into heaven I'm going to hug Jesus first but I'll be looking over His shoulder, straining to see my precious Josiah.  
My heart quickens just thinking of it and today  
I am one day closer to that advent!

I'm also one day closer to the 2nd Advent of Christ, the coming of our Lord for His Bride, the church. My lamp is lit watching for the bridegroom's arrival.

"...O Come O Come thou Dayspring from on high, come and cheer our spirits here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight..."

Death, the final enemy, will be defeated! When we see that this is about to happen we are instructed to straighten up and lift our heads. Take this posture and lift your head in hope.  
Look to the skies because our redemption is drawing near!!