

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

God Comes

Isaiah 40:1-11; 64:1-9; Malachi 3:1-7a; 4:1-2; Luke 2:6-7; John 1:29

♩ = 84

N.C. $\frac{Cm}{Eb}$ G7 Cm $\frac{Cm}{Bb}$ Ab Fm7 $\frac{Cm}{G}$ $\frac{G}{B}$

1. Come quick - ly, O God! We beg and we wait. Come
2. But Lord, when You come, Can an - y en - dure Your
3. But gent - ly You come, As soft as a Lamb, An

Cm $\frac{Bb}{D}$ Eb $\frac{Ab}{Eb}$ $\frac{Ab}{C}$ $\frac{Eb}{Bb}$ Ab Ab6 $\frac{Eb}{G}$ Ab

save from this world We help to cre - ate. Come, Might - y
all - see - ing eye, So pierc - ing and pure? Nak - ed, un -
in - fant, a child, Ex - alt - ed I AM Hum - ble and

$\frac{Eb}{Bb}$ $\frac{D^{\circ}}{F}$ $\frac{Ab}{C}$ Bb $\frac{G7}{B}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{Cm}{Eb}$ G7

God- We cry, we wait. In sor - row and
clean, Can we en - dure? How fierce is Your
weak, A new - born lamb. O God in our

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: George Frederick Handel and Ken Bible

WHO MAY ABIDE
5.5.5.5.4.4.5.5.12.

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Cm Cm/Bb Ab Eb/Bb Ab Ab Eb/Bb Fm7 Eb/G Abadd9 Eb/Bb

grief We can't un - der - stand: Why all this dy - ing and
 love, Your crush - ing em - brace! Who then can stand when Your
 flesh, Now what should we do? Help - less, un - wor - thy, in

Fm7 Cm/G Ab6 Cm/G G7 1, 2 D.C. 3
 Cm Csus Csus C

pain from Your lov - ing hand?
 pres - ence is face - to - face?
 won - der we come to You!

TOPICS: Advent; Christmas; Hymns based on Handel's *Messiah*

LEAD-IN: *Suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple...But who can endure the day of His coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire.* (Malachi 3:1-2, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

God's Promise to Noah

Hear these words from Genesis 6:

The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them."

*But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord...Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.
(Genesis 6:5-9, NIV)*

Hear these verses from Genesis 8 and 9, as Noah left the ark:

Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on the earth—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

*"As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."*

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature...Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will

remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.”
(Genesis 8:18-22; 9:8-15, NIV)

When we read Genesis 6:5-9, describing the days leading up to the flood, we sense the heart of Almighty God.

First, we feel His deep grief at the evil that had corrupted our race. “His heart was filled with pain” (Genesis 6:6, NIV). He had lovingly formed us in His own image. He had created us to share His mind, His heart, and His holy presence. Now “every inclination of the thoughts of [our hearts] was only evil all the time” (Genesis 6:5).

Second, we see His deep pleasure in one righteous man, whom He found “blameless among the people of his time” (Genesis 6:9, NIV). When it seemed that destroying our entire race was the only solution to the sin problem, a single individual who “walked with God” (v.9) made us worth saving. God took such delight in Noah that He rescued not only him, but also his family and every species of life on earth. No effort was too much.

Then when the waters had dissipated and the ark was emptied, God made a promise to Noah and to all life on earth. It was a promise that would endure as long as the earth endures, a promise made with one of the most beautiful sights in all creation—a rainbow. God’s promise was this: never again would He destroy all living creatures (8:21). No matter how bad evil might become, death would not win. Life would win. Holy God was committed to our redemption.

Just as God had preserved our race because of the pleasure He found in one righteous man, God was already working to rescue, restore, and radically transform our entire race because of one completely Righteous Man, perfect and pleasing in His sight. As when sin destroyed our garden paradise, so here when evil threatened to completely overwhelm the earth, God gave us hope and pointed us toward our future in Jesus Christ.

Consider this:
Death,
with all its threats and intimidation,
cannot restrain the life of God.

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