

# The Coming King

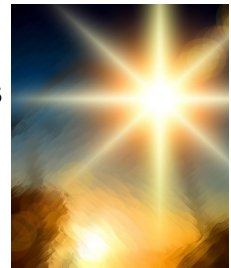
## Christmas Day

The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)

The season of Advent is over. The waiting has finally been fulfilled. Christmas Day is here.

While the commercial and cultural aspects of this season all point toward this day, the Christian celebrations tend to key in on the “silent night” of Jesus’ birth. Christmas concerts, Christmas plays, candlelight services all culminate in Christmas Eve. It is a holy event, yes. Christmas *is* about the birth of the Christ child, but it is also about so much more. The symbolism of the candlelight service, where the congregation sings in almost total darkness, and then one candle and another and another is lit until the whole sanctuary is alight, this picture is the heart of Christmas, the Christ mass. The light of a baby, fragile and soft, piercing the darkness and defeating it.



The coming of Christ was less about the silent night than about dawn. The dawn of a new age, the dawn of a new covenant, the dawn of God with us in the flesh and all the amazing things that entails.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” Perhaps He called Himself the light of the world because when He came, He didn’t just break through the darkness, He broke the darkness. The things of darkness—evil and sin and death—cannot survive in His kingdom. On Christmas Day, we celebrate the beginning of that kingdom. The kingdom of light and peace and hope and joy...and love. Every good thing starts with God’s love, made manifest in His Son. Immanuel, God with us, the light of the world.



How has Christ’s light shone in your life this week?

What dark places in your life need God’s light to shine into them?

## Exercise:

Read through the directions a couple of times first so you don't have to refer back to them during the prayer.

You will need:

- a dark place such as a room with doors closed and curtains drawn, a basement, a windowless place
- a small source of light like a penlight or lighter

1. Commit this time to the Lord, asking Him to show you what He wants you to be aware of.
2. Set a timer for 1 minute. Then turn off the lights and close your eyes.
3. Take a few moments to breathe deeply and become aware of any sounds you might hear or scents you detect. Slowly let go of these outward phenomena and focus on the presence of the Lord.
4. Open your eyes and notice the darkness. Ask God to show you any areas of inward darkness He wants you to be aware of.
5. Notice if there are any glimpses of light in the room, perhaps coming in around the edges of the door. Our eyes are drawn to light. Recognize that God is shining His light even in the darkest places.
6. When the timer goes off, turn on your light source and notice the difference, how much you can see from even a small light. Where is Christ's presence breaking into dark areas in your life or the world around you?
7. Finally, turn on the light or leave the dark room. How much more can you see now? Where is the presence of the Lord shining brightly in your life? Ask the Lord to increase His light in your life.
8. Take a few minutes to journal, in whatever way you choose, about this prayer experience.