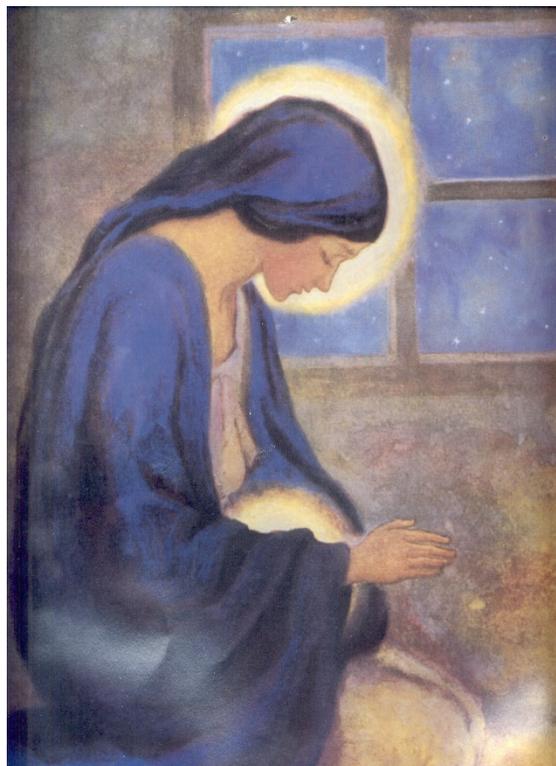


## Advent Week Four



Waiting with Expectation

St Margaret's Rosyth  
Rosyth Methodist Church

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Lighting the 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Candle

God our Father,  
The angel Gabriel  
told the Virgin Mary  
that she was to be  
the mother of your Son.  
Though Mary was afraid,  
she responded to your call with joy.  
Help us, whom you call to serve you,  
to share like her in your great work  
of bringing to our world  
your love and healing.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ  
the Light  
who is coming into the world.  
Amen.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December

In the psalms of David,  
in the words of the prophets,  
in the dream of Joseph,  
your promise is spoken, eternal God,  
and takes flesh at last  
in the womb of the Virgin.  
May Emmanuel find welcome  
in our hearts,  
take flesh in our lives,  
and be for all peoples  
the welcome advent  
of redemption and grace.

*Roman Missal*

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Bright God of Advent:  
Blaze in our darkness.  
Incinerate our iniquity.  
Light up our road.  
Riddle the ashes  
of our desires.  
Rekindle in us  
your justice and love.

*Ruth Burgess*

## Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

### *The Shepherds*

It was done plainly enough.  
The night sky was a perfect billboard,  
the sound effects were spectacular.  
Only a few were awake  
and in the right place  
at the right time when heaven  
unable to contain  
its amazement any longer  
spilled out momentarily into earth  
and explained itself.  
The message was as clear as day  
but God's timing was,  
as always, surprising  
and the show ran  
for one performance only.

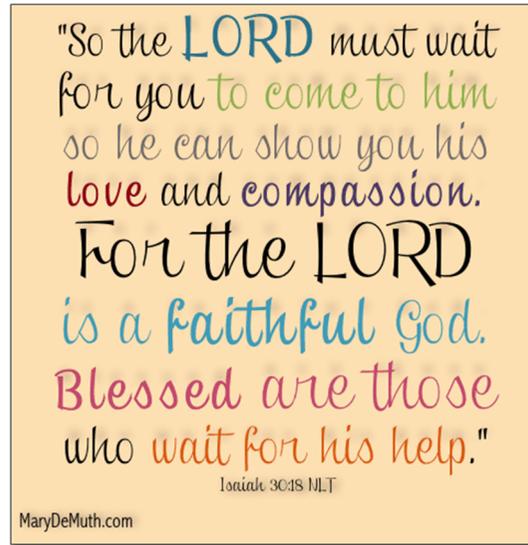
*Godfrey Rust*

## Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

Maybe it is in the waiting for God,  
not in the wandering from store to  
store that we find our way.  
Maybe it is in the friendship of God,  
not in the frenzy of the crowds  
that we are led to the manger.

Maybe, just maybe,  
in these last hours of Advent  
we will let God lead us to Bethlehem.

*Thom M. Shuman*



## Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve

It was quite an entrance.  
The only Son of God  
homeless, illegitimate, a refugee  
owning nothing  
but the world that he grew up in  
had made himself quite empty,  
His birth a kind of dying where  
he abdicated power, omniscience,  
was needy, hated and misunderstood.

Two deaths, two births,  
the manger and the cross:  
The first brought hope,  
the second brought salvation.  
Out of his poverty,  
this child has made us rich  
beyond imagination.

*Godfrey Rust*

## Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

What child is this who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet  
with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard  
and angels sing:  
Come, greet the infant Lord,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

*W. Chatterton Dix*