

11-28-2022

Come Jesus, Come

Anna Bennett

And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.” 1 Peter 1:8-9.

Come Jesus, Come

"In one of his many 'Coop's Columns' on the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship website, former Calvin College chaplain, Dale Cooper, recalls a moment in which he was traveling home to his young family after spending the summer in Geneva. He was calling his wife from Chicago's O'Hare airport to arrange his pick-up in Grand Rapids, when his then four-year-old son asked for the phone. Cooper writes, 'His only words to me—a sigh really: 'Daddy, when am I going to be where you are?' (Cooper, 'Coop's Column - Spirit at Work: Guarantor')." I read this short story this past weekend and the question echoed in my heart: *When am I going to be where you are?*

Charles Wesley wrote the familiar hymn "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" in 1744. You may be familiar with the song, but if not, here's a [link](#) to one of my favorite renditions. In a world wrought with war and turmoil, hate and oppression, pain and injustice, grief and despair, I find that the words articulate a deep longing in my heart for Jesus.

"Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne."

While we live with the gift of Immanuel, God with us as we move through our every day, mundane tasks and academic pursuits, you, like me, may long for a day when we are with Jesus in the earth made new. Just as a young child longs to be wrapped in the arms of his father's embrace after a return home, join me in praying these lyrics this week as an invitation for Jesus to come reign in our hearts. During this holiday season and close of the semester, may the hope of Jesus keep you in perfect peace.

REFLECT

- What words or phrases stand out to you from this short hymn?
- What emotions do these lyrics evoke within you?
- Is there anything that is keeping you from experiencing the presence of God with you right now?
- Is there anything that is standing in the way of you having joy or a longing for Jesus' return?

NEWS & RESOURCES

- Join us for a special Vespers this Friday evening at 7:30pm in the University Church.
- If you are feeling anxious or have recently experienced loss or grief, call 423.236.2782 to talk to a counselor on campus! (This is a free service for Southern students.)
- **Talk** with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or have a desire to grow spiritually.

Blessings