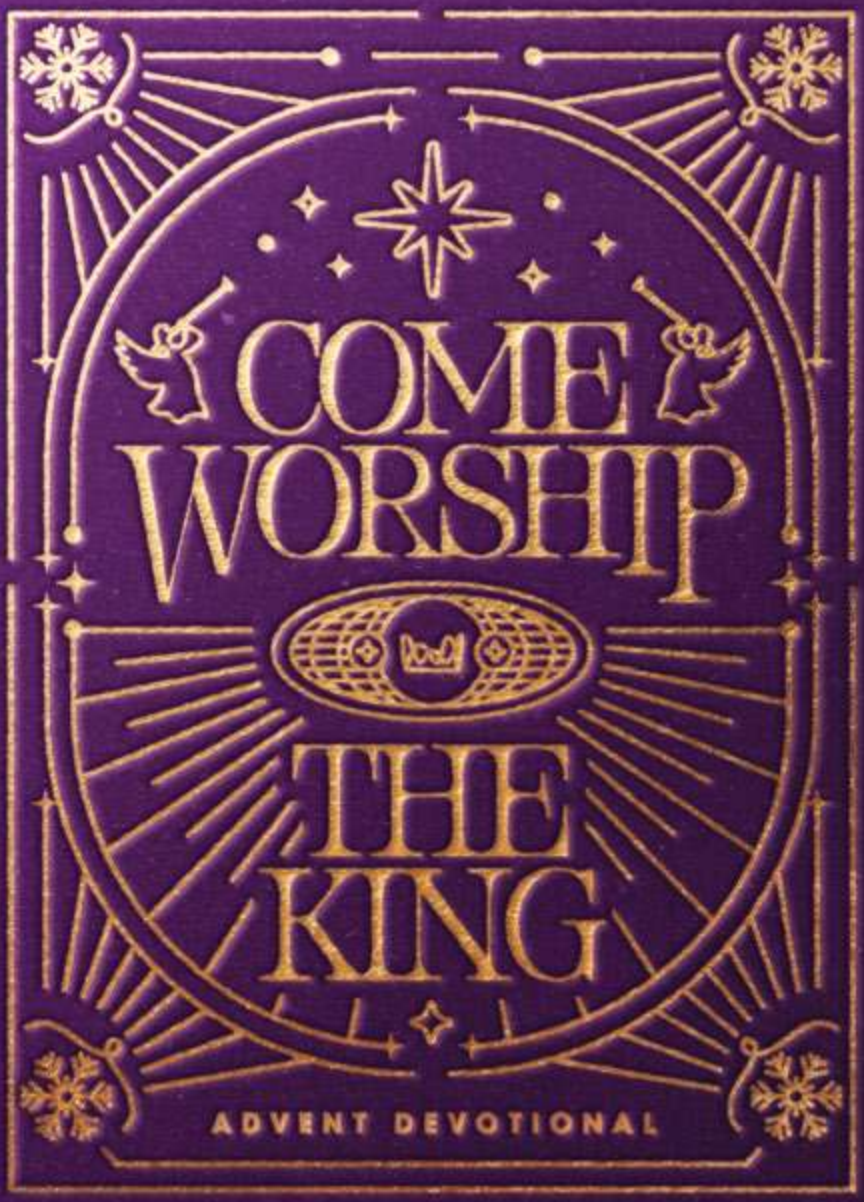
Reach

crossroads.

REVEALING THE STORY OF JESUS THROUGH MEDIA

CHRISTMAS 2025



Reach Magazine
BY crossroads.

CHRISTMAS EDITION

2025 • VOL. 7, ISSUE 2

COPYRIGHT© 2025. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

PUBLISHER
CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATIONS INC.

EDITOR
AMY LAFORET

MAIL TO CANADA
CROSSROADS
P.O. BOX 5100
BURLINGTON, ON L7R 4M2

MAIL TO USA
CROSSROADS
P.O. BOX 486
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14302

24/7 PRAYER LINES
1-866-273-4444

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
REACH@CROSSROADS.CA

SUBSCRIBE TO
CROSSROADS ENEWS

crossroads.ca/newsletter

@crossroadsmedia

FOUR EASY WAYS TO GIVE

1-800-265-3100

crossroads.ca/gift

SEND CHEQUE TO CROSSROADS,
PO BOX 5100, BURLINGTON, ON L7R 4M2

INTERAC ETRANSFER TO
etransfer@crossroads.ca

(Include your name and address
in memo for tax purposes)

The devotions in this issue are drawn from the rich inspiration of Royal Anthems' music. To experience the songs that shaped these reflections, we invite you to visit their website and listen:

RoyalAnthems.com/songs

WORSHIP THAT PREPARES THE HEART

Worship prepares us to receive.

It tenderizes the heart, gently loosening the grip of fear, control, and distraction. In the presence of God, we become more aware — of His nearness, His beauty, His invitation. Worship is not just something we offer; it is something that forms us.

As we lift our voices, or sit in stillness, or simply whisper "Jesus," we are changed. Not by performance, but by proximity. Worship aligns us with truth and anchors us in grace. It clears space for joy. It awakens longing. It reminds us who we are and whose we are.

This Advent, as we make room for Jesus, may worship lead the way. Not as an obligation, but as a posture of welcome — a holy readiness to behold the King who comes close.

GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING

DECEMBER 01

The First Light

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." - Isaiah 9:2

I grew up as the 9th of 11 kids in a French Roman Catholic home in a small northern Ontario town, where winter felt like a season you had to survive. The snow piled high, the nights came early, and our living room was almost always full of noise—usually because we were playing "chit-chit" (mini hockey with plastic sticks and rolled-up socks) until someone cried or a lamp broke.

Back then, Christmas meant midnight mass, tourtière, and cramming into pews with extended family, half-asleep but fully aware that something holy was happening. It was chaotic, but beautiful.

Now, decades later, I live in the countryside outside the city with my wife of 20 years and our three amazing kids—two daughters and a son. Life has changed, but the need for light hasn't. Darkness still creeps in—not just the kind that settles outside by 4:30 p.m., but the kind that sneaks into the corners of our minds, our relationships, our world. The kind that makes you wonder: Are we going to be okay?

Advent is God's answer to that question. In Genesis 3:15, right after everything goes wrong in the garden, God makes a promise: someone is coming who will crush the serpent's head. That's not just damage control—that's hope. That's the first light.

Jesus didn't show up because we had things under control. He came because we didn't. Because we still don't.

I look at my kids and wonder what kind of world they'll inherit. Some days it feels heavier than it used to. But then I remember: Jesus has already come. Light has already dawned. And He's not finished yet.

Prayer: Jesus, shine Your light into the dark places of my heart and world. Into the shadows I still carry. Into the stories my kids are growing up in. Into our griefs, our headlines, our waiting.

JOEL AUGE
Chief Growth Officer at Crossroads & YES TV, Burlington, Ontario

DECEMBER 02

Treasure Found in Humility

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of His government and peace there will be no end." - Isaiah 9:6-7

In late 2008, a sharp-eyed Goodwill employee discovered two rare 1895 paintings by esteemed Venetian landscape painter Federico Del Campo tucked away in a Toronto donation bin. These masterpieces, worth over $150,000, were hidden among everyday discards—treasures found in the most unlikely place.

How might we expect the Creator of the Universe to arrive on Earth? With military might? Political power? Divine fanfare? Instead, Isaiah prophesied that the Mighty God would come as a child. The Christmas story reveals God's heart: He came gently, humbly, born in a stable behind a crowded inn.

Like a treasured work of art in a donation bin—the *"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"* (vs. 6) arrived in the most humble conditions. And yet, Isaiah says, *"of the greatness of His government and peace there will be no end"* (vs.7). This humble child was, and is, the Lord of all.

Prayer: Lord of all, thank You for Your Son Jesus—the greatest treasure, present with us even in the broken and forgotten places.

MATT TAPLEY
Lead Pastor at Lakemount Worship Centre, Grimsby, Ontario

DECEMBER 03

Waiting in Worship

"Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy." - Psalm 130:1-2

Waiting is defined as the action of staying where one is or delaying action until a particular time. A difficult skill to master, especially in a world where we can get what we want at the click of a button.

If we are not careful, this culture of instant gratification can easily seep into our relationship with God. Humans are wired not to enjoy discomfort or strain. We tend to want to avoid it if we can, and if we can't avoid it, then we try to get through the uncomfortable experience as quickly as possible.

But what if these moments had purpose and meaning? Psalm 130 says: "Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord."

What if we understood that Jesus was inviting us to converse with him? Let's practice waiting for the Lord with our whole being and put our hope in Him.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to worship even as I wait on You.

ALEXANDER GRANT
Worship Leader & Speaker, Winnipeg, Manitoba

DECEMBER 04

The Lineage of a King

"Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah." - Matthew 1:17

From the beginning—Abraham's ram in the bush, Israel's deliverance through Moses, Ruth's Kinsman Redeemer—the coming of the Messiah was whispered. Through shifting cultures and dark seasons, hope for change stirred, and heaven knew it. The lineage of Jesus was no accident; every story pointed to Him. The anticipation of creation itself looked to Yeshua.

He came for you, and He came for me, bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. Matthew 1:1 is more than a list of names; it is prophecy upon prophecy declaring why we needed a Saviour. It is testimony upon testimony of God's faithfulness, hope, and redemption revealed in Jesus.

If the whole span of time—from the beginning until now—was orchestrated for victory, how much more can your Father redeem your story? He sees the highs and lows of your unique life. He restores what was lost, heals what is broken, and breathes hope where doubt tries to reign.

As you reflect, where can you see the greater story of redemption in your life?

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for coming, and for sending Your Spirit to walk with us in every story we live.

PASTOR NIKKI MATHIS
Co-Pastor/Worship Director at The Summit Church,
Edmonton, Alberta

DECEMBER 05

The Strong & Free Messiah

"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners."
- Isaiah 61:1

One of my dear friends and worship leaders, Amanda Cook has a line in her song "New King" that says, *"He'll bind up the broken-hearted, carry children on His shoulders. Break through the darkness with a burst of radiant light."*

That is the message of Christmas: our new King has come. A King like no other. God has equipped us to bring beauty into brokenness, to remind the weary that freedom is coming, and to embody the Good News of Christ in every word and action. This is not a passive waiting. It's a Spirit-led, purpose-filled Advent.

During this season of anticipation, ask yourself:
Where am I proclaiming Good News?
Who around me needs to experience freedom?

There's a new King in town, born in a manger for you and for me. And His kingdom is near.

Prayer: God, make us messengers of Your arrival. May we proclaim Your Good News, declare freedom for all, and prepare the way for Your coming.

MELISSA MCEACHERN
Chief Operating Officer & Chief Content Officer
at Crossroads & YES TV, Burlington, Ontario

DECEMBER 06

Let Heaven & Nature Sing

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for He is our God." - Psalm 95:6–7

There's something about Christmas that always brings me back to the simplicity of worship. Maybe it's because the story itself is so simple. There were no lights, no rehearsals, no big stage—just a young couple, a manger, and the presence of a King.

When I close my eyes and picture that night, I can almost hear the quiet rustle of hay and the soft sounds of animals in the stable. The Saviour of the world had come; heaven's glory wrapped in swaddling cloths. And worship was the only fitting response.

The shepherds didn't bring polished words; they came with hearts racing from all they had just been through to get to Jesus. The wise men came to see their long-awaited King and laid down their gifts before Him. Mary's worship wasn't loud or showy—it was quiet, hidden in the stillness of her heart as she treasured every moment with Jesus.

Their worship wasn't defined by circumstance. It wasn't about where they were or what they had. It was about who was right in front of them.

Every day, we too, have the opportunity to encounter Jesus. Not in a stable, but in the ordinary moments of our lives. And just like the shepherds, our response doesn't have to be polished or perfect; it just has to be genuine, offering Him what we have. Because the truth is, He's right in front of us, longing to meet with us and wanting to fill us with all that we need.

Prayer: Jesus, may we bring what we have, lay it at Your feet, and worship You with hearts fully surrendered.

BROOKE NICHOLLS
Worship Pastor & Songwriter at Village Church,
Surrey, British Columbia

DECEMBER 07

A Thrill of Hope

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." - Micah 5:2

"Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the Darkness, my God, that is who You are." This powerful worship anthem—written and first recorded by Nigerian artist Sinach—echoed around the world during the COVID-19 pandemic. It became a song of hope for millions in dark and uncertain times.

That same hope is what Christmas reminds us of: the arrival of a promise long awaited, the birth of a King who would bring light into the darkness. From the Old Testament to today, Jesus has always been in the picture—coming to deliver us and lead us into freedom.

And that's only just a few. When I was younger, I went through many years of my life battling fear, anxiety and depression. I never understood why I had to go through what I went through at the time. It wasn't until I got older and Jesus brought me through a full process of healing that it started making sense. He was teaching me how to trust in Him fully! He was teaching me to trust the process; the crushing brought a new level of anointing that needed to be poured out in order for me to be able to take on what He had planned for me next in life (stepping into full time pastoring and worship ministry).

Sometimes, in our darkest hours, Jesus comes and interrupts our pain with His divine presence. When we fix our eyes on Him, the burdens of life grow strangely dim, and His eternal perspective anchors our souls.

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for being the thrill of hope in my life. You make a way where there is no way. Help me trust Your promises, and worship You not just with songs, but with a surrendered heart. Amen.

KYLIE BERRY
Campus Pastor at People Church, Toronto, Ontario

DECEMBER 08

Fear Not

"'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her." - Luke 1:38

What must it have felt like for Mary—so young, yet asked to carry the Son of God? Fear could have made her walk away, saying, "I'm not good enough, I'm not capable." The enemy must have whispered many lies.

Yet when the angel spoke, Mary simply answered:
"I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."

There is peace in walking in the perfect will of Christ—a peace only God can give.

My husband often calls me the bravest girl he knows, which makes me smile because I feel afraid of so many things. Still, I refuse to let fear stop me from what God has asked me to do. When God places you in a room and calls you to a task, who are we to say we don't belong?

When God says, "This is for you," we are called to step forward in faith.

Prayer: God, open my eyes to see You, my ears to hear You, and my heart to receive what You have for me. Amen.

ANGIE ROGERS
Worship Leader at SonRise Ministries, Corner Brook, Newfoundland

DECEMBER 09

Hallelujah, You Are Here

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her!" - Luke 1:45

As Christians, we believe that every blessing comes from God, who is good, loving, and compassionate. In Luke 1:45, Elizabeth calls Mary "blessed" because she believed God would fulfill His promises. Her blessing was not only in becoming the mother of Jesus, but in trusting God completely.

St. Augustine points out that Mary's faith itself was her blessing. God, through the Holy Spirit, gave her the capacity to believe and trust Him. Because of this gift of faith, Mary could receive her calling with joy and confidence. Her example shows us that true blessedness is not about status or achievement, but about trusting God's promises.

God never fails—He is infinitely strong, wise, and good. Like Mary, we are invited to put our faith in Him and to see His blessings not only in what He gives, but in the very gift of faith itself. Today, let us remember that the deepest blessing is to trust God without fear, knowing He will never disappoint.

Prayer: God, give me a heart of faith so that I can see Your true goodness and trust my life to your perfect faithfulness.

JEREMY JOHNSON
Senior Pastor, Ministries & Staff at Village Church,
Surrey, British Columbia

DECEMBER 10

A Song of Surrender

"And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour." - Luke 1:46-47

Life can be unpredictable. Often, the way we react to the unexpected reveals the depth of our trust in God and our true belief in His promises. Consider Mary. At the time she received the news that she would give birth to Jesus, she was likely no more than 13 or 14 years old. Recently engaged to Joseph, she faced an uncertain future in an ancient society that did not look kindly upon a young bride-to-be who would be visibly pregnant before her wedding night. Gabriel's announcement that she would give birth by supernatural means to a child that was not Joseph's must have been equal parts confusing and terrifying for her. And yet, how does she respond? Thanksgiving. Wonder. Worship. What an example!

For a surrendered heart like Mary's, if God was in it, it could only be good. May we choose the same response in the face of uncertainty and fear, no matter what life may throw at us.

Prayer: God, may my soul choose to magnify You in every season of my life.

JAY MUIR
Worship Pastor at Kings Church,
Saint John, New Brunswick

DECEMBER 11

Prepare the Way

"...a voice of one calling in the wilderness,'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.'" - Mark 1:3

Christmas is a busy season filled with preparation. There is food to make, trees to put up, and rooms to clean. There is so much work we put into being ready for the big day, so when our guests arrive, we can experience the fullness of Christmas.

In Mark 1:3, John the Baptist challenges us to prepare our hearts in anticipation of the Lord's arrival. He encourages us to "clear the road for Him."

Preparation can sometimes look like clearing out the things that take up the space in our hearts. Just as we prepare our home for guests by clearing our space, we must also clear our hearts to receive all God has.

As we go about this Advent season, let us be intentional about making room in our hearts for the Lord. Let us clear away the things that hinder us from welcoming Him in, so that we may fully experience the love and light He brings.

Prayer: Prepare my heart, Lord, to make room for Your arrival.

SADIE SHEPHERD
Worship Leader & Songwriter at Glad Tidings Church, Burlington, Ontario

DECEMBER 12

A Silent Strength

"Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God." - Luke 1:64

It was my 25th birthday, and while some close friends wished me happy birthday, the day seemed to be going much like any other. There were no balloons, no cards, no cake, and by late afternoon, I was questioning if anyone really cared. In the evening, my best friend called and asked if I wanted to grab dinner together. At least this was something.

When we arrived at the restaurant I couldn't believe my eyes, so many of my friends and loved ones were there to surprise me. It was then I realized, that unbeknownst to me, there had been a plan all along.

In Luke 1:64, Zechariah was told that John would be preparing the way of the Lord, but he was made mute and unable to speak and make clear the message until John was born.

The 400 years before Jesus came are often referred to as "The Silent Years". God's prophetic voice had seemed to stop. Little did the world know that even in the silence, God was moving and preparing for the Greatest Gift ever—Jesus!

Maybe in this season, you don't hear Him, maybe there is silence. But be encouraged, you can stand firm knowing God is working, and His plan is better than we could ever imagine.

Prayer: God, even in silence, help me trust You are still at work.

ALEXANDER STEPHEN
Worship Leader at Nova Church, Halifax, Nova Scotia

DECEMBER 13

Peace on Earth

"...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them." - Luke 2:7

As I write this, I am 33 weeks pregnant. I have two other young children, and our house is consistently in some degree of chaos.

These days, being this pregnant (hello, back pain), a tidy house is just not a frequent occurrence. I wonder what Mary felt when she held Peace incarnate in her arms. Was she so acutely aware of God's presence as she was surrounded by the literal mess of a stable?

Sometimes the 'chaos' of the Christmas season can be overwhelming – long to-do lists, financial pressures, busy schedules, family wounds – but we must take the time to consider the One who offers us true, life-giving peace that surpasses all understanding. Peace is a person; He is Emmanuel, God with us, right there in the mess.

Pause and invite the Lord to step into your situation, wherever it lands on the spectrum of chaos. He is with us, and it is His joy to offer us peace. We can relinquish control and trust in His good plans. May you experience His abundant peace this season.

Prayer: Jesus, enter the chaos of my life with Your peace.

KATRINA ROBERT
Creative Director at Tapestry Church & Tapestry Collective, Stouffville, Ontario

DECEMBER 14

Worship From the Fields

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'" - Luke 2:10

I once asked my dad if he ever missed life on the farm. He didn't mention gathering eggs, ripping around on dirt bikes, or swinging from the hayloft. He said, "I felt closer to God when I was alone in the fields."

There's something about wide skies, fresh air, and the symphony of nature that draws our hearts to God. I remember skating on a frozen pond in a field near our home, under a full moon, the snow sparkling in the stillness. As my blades scraped the ice, I sensed God's presence moving with me in rhythms of gratitude and delight. The beauty of that moment felt like a holy echo of heaven's glory.

I wonder if the shepherds felt something similar that night—as crickets chirped and the wind rustled through the tall grass. Before the angels appeared—before glory broke through—were their hearts already open in quiet worship?

Prayer: Jesus, we look forward to You coming again. May we be awake to wonder, watching the signs, and ready in worship.

AMY LAFORET
Director of Marketing & Communications at Crossroads, Burlington, Ontario

DECEMBER 15

The First Gathering

"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told." - Luke 2:20

In my role as creative director, I'm accustomed to orchestrating visuals, sound, and narrative, carefully arranging details so beauty and stories can emerge.

Yet there are moments when God takes the lead in ways we could never plan. During the filming of our Royal Anthems song "Thank You," we finished the final note and expected to wrap. But the cameras kept rolling, and something sacred began to unfold. For several minutes, people worshipped freely, praying, weeping, and resting in God's presence. No one hurried to leave. We all stood back, wide-eyed, sensing we were witnessing something holy that needed no direction from us.

That unscripted moment reminds me of the shepherds, ordinary people invited into extraordinary wonder. The greatest gatherings are not always the ones planned to perfection. They happen when hearts are open, and God's presence meets us there.

Advent draws us back to that first gathering for Jesus, reminding us His arrival is still filling hearts with awe today.

Prayer: God of wonder, fill me with awe at Your glorious arrival.

KEVIN PANLILIO
Creative Lead for Growth/Content at Crossroads,
Burlington, Ontario

DECEMBER 16

Emmanuel (God is With Us)

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Emmanuel (which means 'God with us')." - Matthew 1:23

Earlier this year, my wife and I welcomed our little boy into the world. As we held him, we marvelled at the fact that this was how the Messiah entered the world. The God who drew up the very canvas of creation wrapped Himself in the flesh of a helpless newborn babe. He who is inimitable by nature, "being born in the likeness of men", dwelling among His people, not only to save but share in our weaknesses, empathizing with our humanity. He chose to intimately draw near in the person of Christ, who then would pour out the gift of His blood, that we would receive salvation and the gift of The Holy Spirit - Emmanuel (God with us), every day, every hour, every second.

As Christmas approaches, whether it be with anticipation of celebration or with each day stretching over you like a cloud of grief, take hope, for our God draws near, empathizing in our moments, weeping and dwelling amongst us as we shout songs of joy.

Prayer: God, would Your Spirit help me recognize Your nearness, be it in moments of joy or sorrow.

BOBBY LANE
Pastor of Arts & Worship at Bluewater Church Devine Campus,
Sarnia, Ontario

DECEMBER 17

Wrapped in Glory

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." - John 1:14

Think about how exciting it is on Christmas morning when you come downstairs and see a gift wrapped under the tree. Something of great value is hidden inside ordinary paper, concealing the treasure within. In many ways, that describes the truth of what we celebrate at Christmas—the greatest treasure of all coming, wrapped in human form. This is known as the doctrine of the Incarnation.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"—these words communicate the glorious reality of Jesus stepping into this world on a rescue mission for sinners. Think about this: the second person of the Trinity—the Logos, the Son of God, Jesus Christ—became flesh. He assumed a true human nature, becoming fully human without ceasing to be fully divine, in order to redeem humanity. That's amazing! Jesus Christ subjected himself to becoming like us so that He could save us. Truly, this is the King of glory wrapped in humility. What a Saviour!

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for coming and becoming like us so You could redeem us. May we marvel at this act of humility and respond with sincere praise to You.

BRANDON BECKMAN
Worship & Creative Arts Pastor at Hope Bible Church,
Oakville, Ontario

DECEMBER 18

Come, Let Us Adore Him

"For he is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care." - Psalm 95:7

During this Advent season, we celebrate Him, our Lord (Yahweh), Rock of our Salvation, the great King above all gods, our Maker, and our Shepherd.

Psalm 95 does more than describe who God is; it invites us into relationship with Him. It calls us to lift our voices in songs of joy, to bow low in humility, to kneel in reverence, and to listen attentively for His voice. It warns us not to harden our hearts, reminding us that true worship is not only expressed in song or posture, but in a heart that responds in obedience.

In the Advent story, we see these very postures lived out. Mary and Joseph surrendered themselves to God's plan. The shepherds left their flocks and hurried to find the Saviour. The wise men travelled far, bringing costly gifts and bowing before the child-King. Each, in their own way, embodied the invitation of adoring Christ the Lord with their whole being.

To what posture does this Psalm call you to today—in your heart, your home, and your worship?

Prayer: Jesus, help me to worship You with joy, humility, and an open heart. Amen.

MARISSA OCHOA
Worship & Arts Pastor at Peace Portal Church,
Surrey, British Columbia

DECEMBER 19

The Sound of Hope

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." - Romans 15:13

Life offers many choices, but the most meaningful gifts—joy, peace, and hope—aren't achieved by effort; they're given. Too often, I treat them as tasks to accomplish. But this verse reminds me: the only thing I'm called to do is trust in Him.

When I choose trust, the Holy Spirit fills me—abundantly—with what I could never manufacture on my own: deep joy, true peace, and overflowing hope.

It's not earned; it's received.

My favourite songs express a response that rises up without force, born from a moment of revelation. In the same unforced way, we can let worship overflow from our lives, responding to the joy, peace and hope He gives.

Prayer: Lord, let a sound of hope, a song of peace, and a joyful praise rise up in my heart today, as I choose to trust in You, the God of Hope. Amen.

LUKE STONES
Campus Pastor/Worship Pastor at Coastline Church, Vancouver Island

DECEMBER 20

Born for All People

"So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are His child, God has made you also an heir." - Galatians 4:7

It would have been enough to be saved from judgment, to be shown mercy and be forgiven; It would have been enough. But what God had in His heart was so much more than we could ever imagine; so much more than we could ever deserve. He longed in His heart to take sinners and invite them to be sons; to give those who are destitute a chance to be daughters.

I have the rare experience of knowing what it means to be adopted. When a family in the Philippines found me in front of their house, they gave me something I had no ability to ask for; they gave me a place I could call home.

That's what Jesus came to give us; That's why He paid a great price. It wasn't just for salvation. It was an invitation to be a part of His family.

Prayer: Father, open our eyes to see Your great love for us. What a treasure it is to know You; what a privilege it is to call You Abba.

REX VERZOSA
Worship leader at Eglise Sans Frontières, St. Hubert, Quebec

DECEMBER 21

Heaven Touched Earth

"...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth..." - Philippians 2:10

There is no one like Jesus. Our world celebrates strength, influence, and fame. Some live with humility, others with power—but rarely do we see both held perfectly together. In Jesus, we find the One whose name causes every knee to bow, yet He chose the path of humility.

Philippians 2:10 shows us that all creation will one day bow before Him—not just those who follow Him now, but every ruler, every nation, every person. Jesus could have ruled with pride and force, but instead He served with gentleness, kindness, and love. He knew exactly who He was—the Son of God—yet He bent low to wash feet, welcome sinners, and ultimately lay down His life.

When we are tempted to grasp for recognition or status, we can look to Jesus. His name commands honour, yet His life models humility.

Prayer: Jesus, help me bow before You with both reverence and humility. Teach me to follow Your example, laying down pride to serve others in love. Amen.

ADAM HOSKINS
Executive Pastor of Services at Sanctus Church, Ajax, Ontario

DECEMBER 22

Wise Worship

"On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." - Matthew 2:11

Growing up in church led to many worship experiences. Some quiet, some loud. Some large, some small. Some stewarded well, others not at all. Yet in any setting, worship can be authentic when it flows from the posture of our hearts. The question, then, is how we worship with wisdom.

As we know from Proverbs 9:10: "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." Therefore, our worship must also begin with a sober moment of re-orientation before the Lord, one of Holy fear.

What this looks like practically may differ from one person to another, but it will always be marked by gratitude, humility, and submission to His will. Our responsibility as believers is to always worship with wisdom. Without it, we're vulnerable to pride, arrogance, and self-righteousness sneaking in and wreaking havoc in our lives.

Brothers and sisters, rest assured, your position before the Lord is secured because of the cross. Let there be no other burden on you but the grace of God to bring worship that is pleasing to Him.

Prayer: Wisdom of God, lead me to worship with joy and generosity.

JESSE BOLAND
Worship Leader at People Church, Toronto, Ontario

DECEMBER 23

The Long Road to Joy

"Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah." - Luke 2:25-26

Waiting….

Is there anything more frustrating than waiting? As a musician, waiting feels like listening to a song that never resolves —a song that builds but has no release, no closure.

Waiting is tension, and in our passage today, we clearly see that Simeon knew that tension well. He lived faithfully, clinging to God's promise that he would see the Messiah before death. It's as if his entire life was a melody hanging on the edge of resolution, year after year, note after note.

Then one day, the Spirit led him to the temple, and there it was —the fulfillment he had waited for. The unfinished song suddenly swelled into harmony as Simeon held the Son of God in his arms. The long road of waiting gave way to joy, like music finally coming to rest on the right chord.

We've all experienced seasons where the song feels unfinished — seasons of waiting for answers, for healing, for provision. Simeon's story reminds us that God is faithful to complete the melody. The waiting is not wasted; it's part of the beautiful song He's writing in us.

Prayer: God, help me praise You in the waiting and in the fulfillment.

RYAN WEGNER
Music & Creative Pastor at Hope City Church, Edmonton, Alberta

DECEMBER 24

Royal Anthems Rise

"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music." - Psalm 98:4

Anthems are important. Have you ever stopped to reflect on what an anthem is? Every country has a national anthem. At sports arenas, teams often have theme songs—sometimes called their anthem.

What makes an anthem special is that it represents "we" instead of "I." Our Canadian anthem declares, "We stand on guard for thee," not "I stand on guard." Even the famous rock anthem by Bon Jovi that fills arenas worldwide doesn't say, "I'm halfway there," but "Whoa, we're halfway there—whoa-oh, living on a prayer!"

We may all have personal anthems or beliefs worth raising our voices for, but God knows the power of "we." Everyone needs a "we." He created marriage as two becoming one. The Church, the body of Christ, shows how much more we can do together. Yet the greatest "We" is Jesus Himself—God with us—so that anyone who accepts Him can say, "He's with me."

That is the heartbeat of Royal Anthems in Canada—songs for the King that unify His Church so that we can shout of His greatness. Jesus came quietly, so that we would have something to shout about!

Prayer: Lord, thank You for uniting us in Christ. Help us lift our voices as one to declare Your greatness. Amen.

MATTHEW GRIEVE
Royal Anthems Project Partner at Crossroads,
Burlington, Ontario

DECEMBER 25

Christ is Here to Stay

"Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them." - Revelation 21:3

My wife, Sherri, was driving with our five-year-old daughter, Sadie, one Christmas. "Away in a Manger" played softly. Sadie suddenly declared, "This song is true, Mom." Sherri agreed, and a few moments later, Sadie added, "I know why God made music, so people could sing about God and other people would hear them." In her childlike way, Sadie named something profound: music itself was created to glorify God and to carry His presence from one heart to another. Our songs are more than tradition or sentiment—they are part of God's design to make His dwelling known to all people.

On Christmas morning, we celebrate not just a baby in a manger, but a God who came to stay. In Revelation 21, we see the fulfillment of that arrival. "Now the dwelling of God is with His people," John writes. The story of Christ in a manger ends in a city where He makes all things new. From stable to throne, He is Emmanuel: God with us.

So today, let's sing and proclaim again: Christ is here. Not only was He born into our world, He is remaking it. And through every carol, every anthem, and every whispered word of worship, the world hears it again.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for being here with us, in us, among us, now and forever. May my worship today carry the truth of Your presence to those who need to hear.

KEVIN SHEPHERD
CEO at Crossroads & YES TV

ONE GENERATION SINGS TO THE NEXT GREAT IS YOUR LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS.

"GREAT IS THE LORD"
By Dallas Wigston, Luke Stones, and Trevor Robert

Listen Now!