

Three Hymns For Advent

Special thanks to Rev Dr Susan Jones for generously contributing these hymns to this year’s Christmas Appeal resources.

New words to the tune of ‘Deck the hall’

Words (c) Susan Jones 2018

A donkey walks his burden onward

Telling us that Advent’s on the way

Bearing Mary, bearing Jesus,

Under his load, the donkey sways.

We rejoice to see this journey

For it offers hope and joy

We rejoice to hear this story

For it means much more than “It’s a Boy”!

Worldwide, donkeys bear great burdens

Whether in Israel or Haiti

Bearing people, bearing cargo

working all the day on tired feet.

They are transport for the poor

Always being asked for more.

They are key to family business

They are animals worth giving for.

Mary and her stalwart Joseph

Ride the road to Bethlehem

They are trusting in the story

which was shocking news to them.

They are travelling, so we’re told, to

Joseph’s family’s ancient place

They are trusting in the future

What are all the dangers they will face?

When the baby Jesus grew

He taught compassion was the way

He believed we should give water,

feed the hungry, love each day,

Dignity is paramount

For humankind and donkeys too

Every advent, let’s all shout out

To all those who carry burdens new.

Updated Advent hymns

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Words Author Unknown (12th century) alt 2016 Susan Jones Tune: Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,

and to us all your good news tell,

for you are pitching tent with us here

and so the Light of God will appear.

*Rejoice ! rejoice ! Emmanuel shall come to you,*

*and all things will be well*

O come, O son of David, come

and open wide the pathway to home;

draw us into your mystery

and close the way which leads to misery *Rejoice ! rejoice !…*

O come, bright dayspring, come and cheer

our spirits by your advent here;

disperse the gloomy clouds of night

and all dark shadows put to flight. *Rejoice ! rejoice ! ...*

Joy to the World!

Words: Isaac Watts (alt) Susan Jones (2017) Music G F Handel Antioch WOV 224

Joy to the world! A new age dawns

It comes, shalom to bring.

Let ev’ry heart prepare a room,

and heav’n and nature sing,

and heav’n and nature sing,

and heav’n and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! Delight in good;

let all their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

Joy to the world! Let justice come,

To all who need release;

For prisoners held in chains,

the damaged and the anxious,

let them find freedom now,

let them find freedom now

let them, let them find freedom now.

Graceful and true, the Saviour brings

compassion all may share

for poor and homeless,

so may they find

their life becomes more fair

their life becomes more fair

their life, their life becomes more fair.