

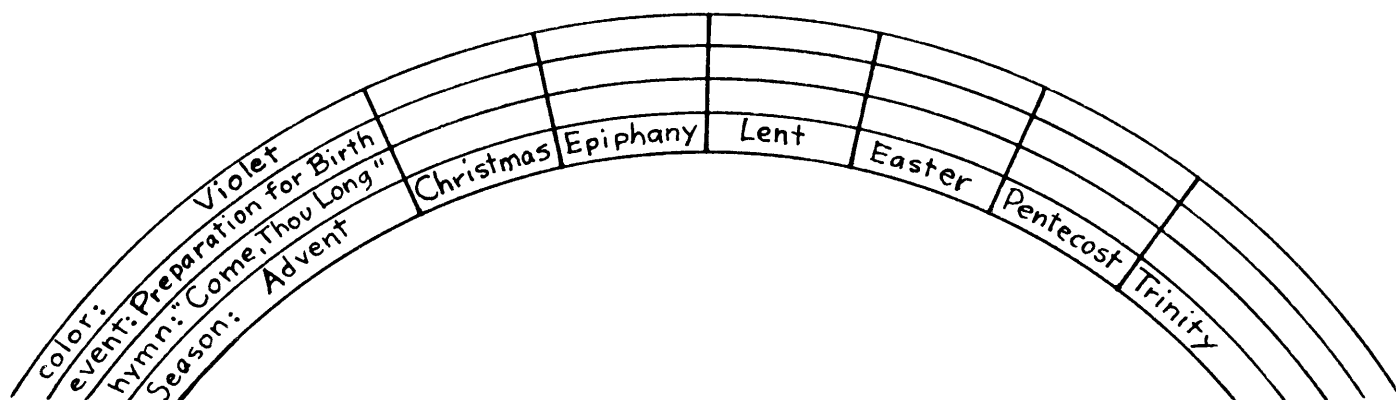
COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Say! Are you looking forward to Christmas this year? Are you expecting to get something you've been wanting for a long time?

For generations the Hebrew people had been expecting a Messiah to restore their kingdom to power. But so much was going on in the world of almost 2000 years ago that only a few persons took any notice of His actual coming. Just those persons who had kept on *watching* and *listening* and *expecting* His coming recognized *who* He was.

So much is going on in our world today that people still forget to expect the Living Presence of Christ to be reborn in their hearts – especially during the Christmas season. Charles Wesley's Advent hymn, "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus," helps remind us of a sense of expectation not only for Christmas worship but for the Second Coming of Christ that is promised in Matthew 25: 31-46. What are two other advent hymns you can think of?

Do you remember the other seasons of the Christian year? Can you fill in the blank spaces with color, event, and a hymn for each of these seasons?



Often when we are young we think of Jesus as a robed, bearded man who lived a long time ago and whose lap was full of children. Later on our beliefs about Jesus changed to images of a baby in a manger and a man on a cross. But now as an older person, the words of Wesley can help express some of the mystery and miracle about the part of God that is Jesus: "Born a Child and yet a King, Born to reign in us forever."

Have you tried expressing your own belief about Jesus?

Isn't "Hyfrydol" a joyful tune? Try sight-reading the melody by scale steps. Did you notice the slurs? You might try singing the alto, tenor and bass parts too, to discover how interesting the rhythm patterns are throughout the tune. Then go on an "interval hunt" to see how many 3rds and 4ths you can find.

Say! Are you expecting something special this Christmas? Now that you're older, why not expect the Spirit of the Living Christ to be reborn in *your* heart:

“By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.”