



# *Come, Thou long-expected Jesus*

## *Day 5: Stanza 4*

By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

## *Scripture Reference*

'Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the Lord Almighty.

– *Haggai 2:4b*



As we've seen throughout this past week, our King Jesus is the one "who is, and who was, and who is to come" (Revelation 1:8). No matter what circumstances you're going through right now, no matter how happy or discouraging your Advent season feels this year, God has done great things before, and He will do it again. In your life. In our world. For eternity. Take comfort in trusting your Savior. We may not get to see all His promises fulfilled in our lifetime, but take heart, His promises will be fulfilled.

*When have you seen a prayer answered with "no" or "not right now"? How did you feel or react? How can you see that His answer worked for your best? What answers are you praying for now?*

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God says to us, just as He said to the Israelites, "Be strong...and work." Jesus, ruling in our hearts as our song declares, allows us to remain strong and to work while we await Jesus' return. What's our work? Well, Jesus tells us to make disciples throughout the nations (Matthew 28:19). Jesus wants us to help more people enter His kingdom, His family. Making disciples doesn't just happen without our efforts. Jesus wants us to be a part of His redemption story. This world is not just a stopping point or a comfortable stay. We're meant to fulfill our mission in Jesus, bringing more to Him. Don't let the busyness of the holiday season overshadow your efforts to make disciples.

*How are you a disciple-maker? How are you taking your work to make disciples seriously? Where can you focus more on disciple-making during this Advent season?*

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God reassures the Israelites in Haggai 2:4b, and Jesus reassures us in Matthew 28:20b that He is with us always. We are never alone. There is such comfort and hope in that truth. The word hope throughout many verses in the Bible comes from the Hebrew word qavah, which means “to bind together (perhaps by twisting),” coming from the word for cord. When we think of our hope in Jesus, we can bind together with Him and are left so much stronger than on our own. In binding with Jesus, we see a required action on our part. Hope isn’t just simply waiting; it’s actively binding with Jesus while we wait. Hold onto your end of the rope and feel the strength in the tension of Jesus holding His end of the rope as well. Hold onto hope.

*Are you actively binding yourself to Jesus? What does that look like in your daily life? In what areas might you be dropping your end of the rope?*

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Throughout the entire Good News of the Bible, we see God has always been there. He is always with us in our current times, and He will come again. That’s the truth we celebrate during our Advent season and every day of the year. That’s the eager anticipation felt throughout our song. We get to be a part of His great plan on earth. And, someday, we’ll join Him at His glorious throne as our song says.

*What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you during this Advent season? What areas are you being asked to lean into more, and what areas do you need to let go and trust God more? Consider ending this week in communion, thanking Jesus for His sacrifice on your behalf.*

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