

## Introduction

- *Advent is traditionally counted as the four Sundays before Christmas in the Church Year.*

Many faith traditions also consider this church year as the "Common Time" after Jesus' resurrection. It is noted in the "Common Book of Prayer". These are daily prayers and weekly meditations lifted up at 9 am each day across the world by the followers of Jesus. The prayers and reflections of Advent hold close a time of expectation, waiting, anticipation and reflection.

- *Towards that goal, we enter into this Scripture study with great hope and expectation.*

Advent is anticipating the coming of Emmanuel-translated "God with Us". Our greatest hope is Jesus Christ-embodied as the miracle of the **Spirit** of God come into the **body** of this world.

- *Our study will revolve around the "Witness Scriptures" in our Advent worship themes.*

The witness Scriptures this year are passages written in Isaiah and Psalms in the *Old Testament*, and Matthew and Romans in the *New Testament*. The first two studies will be focused on the passages in Psalms and Isaiah. The second two studies will focus on Mathew and Romans.

## **Psalm 122: Theme-Peace Be Within You**

### Overview

The book of Psalms is composed of one hundred and fifty spiritual songs and poems used by the church in all ages and cultures for both worship and devotional purposes. This book was also used by the Hebrews as the hymn book during the time of the second Jewish Temple.

The main themes of this Book of the Bible are *prayers and praises* to the One God. Psalms are quoted more frequently in the New Testament than any other book, except Isaiah. This book is often called the "psalms of David" because he was the author of a large number. There are 73 Psalms attributed to David, Solomon wrote 2, Moses wrote 1, Asaph wrote 12, the sons of Korah wrote 11, and many are either anonymous or questioned as to the true author.

It is important to note there are a group of Psalms called "Messianic Psalms". They contain either direct or indirect references to Jesus Christ.

1. Christ as King: 2, 45, 72, 110, 135:11
2. Jesus sufferings: 22, 41, 55:12-14, 69:20-21
3. The resurrection: 16
4. The ascension: 68:18

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 24: 36-44

Romans 13: 11-14