

Friday  
December 11, 2020



## *E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

*Peace be to you and grace from him  
Who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed his blood  
That we might saved be.*

*Sing holy, holy to our Lord,  
The Lord, Almighty God,  
Who was and is and is to come;  
Sing holy, holy, Lord!*

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,  
For Christ is coming soon!  
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,  
And night shall be no more;  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,  
For Christ will be their All!*

In March of this year, my niece created a Google Hangouts group for our family and, with a touch of dark humor, dubbed the hangout “Apocalypse 2020.” We were all a little frantic about how we were going to shop and act and live in the onset of a pandemic. We were messaging our finds about curbside grocery pickup, about the 5-minute window when toilet paper was in stock at Sam’s online, about what we were using for masks, and so on. We later flocked together to commiserate over startling pieces of news of George Floyd, hurricanes, Breonna Taylor, statues and riots, and neighbors fighting neighbors over masks and politics.

When the call came to contribute an Advent devotional based on a favorite Christmas song, I wondered if I would have anything to offer. For some reason, the traditional Christmas hymns and carols that crossed my mind were feeling as tired as I was. I stopped and tried to recall what hymns or anthems have truly moved me year after year – both in regard to the message and to the music itself. Gradually the beautiful strains of the choir’s anthem “*E’en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come*” began to surface and re-surface in my mind. Even after my choir days, I would find myself closing my eyes and wanting to sing along as I would listen to this exquisitely rendered offering of God’s Word from the choir.

At Monumental, this anthem has been sung as an Advent anthem. Ironically, the text comes from Revelation, the “Book of the Apocalypse,” one more reason for it to resonate with me this year. What does it mean in 2020?

“Sing holy, holy to our Lord...Who was and is and is to come.” It is, I think, about Jesus coming to Bethlehem and dying in Jerusalem, Jesus being present with us now, and then Jesus coming in final victory. Also, we hear a message of hope from St. John as he implored Christians, many of whom who were facing martyrdom, to “Rejoice...For Christ is coming soon!”

Sometimes it has been hard to rejoice and to hope in this hurting and broken world; and the prayer on my lips has been “*E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come.*” With that whispered prayer, I feel the assurance that He *IS* here and He will truly have the victory.

**Connie McCook**