

(Topics, Lead-in, and Lead-in Devotional Reading below)

How God Came

Exodus 19:16-25; Isaiah 64:1-7; Matthew 26:53;
Luke 2:1-7; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 2:9-18

♩ = 80

C Am CM⁷/_G F Em Em⁷/_B F F⁶ C/_G G⁷ C C/_B

Unison

1. Tear the heav - ens! God, come down! Come and res - cue all Your own!
2. But You come, Al - might - y God, Not with thun - der, fan - ning fear,
3. You have come in flesh and bone, Shar - ing all our con - stant needs,

Am Em⁷/_G Em⁷/_G D_F Dm Esus E Am Am/_G F^{o7} D_F⁶ E E⁷ F Dm⁷

Come with earth - quake, wind, and fire! Make Your might - y pres - ence known.
Not with Si - nai's storm and fire, Not with threats or ar - mies near.
All Your glo - ry clothed in shame, God who hun - gers, hurts, and bleeds.

C C/_F C Dm Dm⁷ Esus E F Dm⁷ C/_G G G⁷ C

Burn till all is pur - i - fied. Leave the wrong no place to hide.
Just a whis - per, just a sigh, Just a new - born's help - less cry.
Pur - est Love, You hum - bly bow, With us, for us here and now.

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: J.G. Werner's *Choralbuch*, 1815; arr. by Ken Bible

RATISBON
7.7.7.7.7.

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TOPICS: Advent; Christmas

LEAD-IN: *When the fullness of the time came,
God sent His Son,
born of a woman.* (Galatians 4:4, NASB)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

How God Came

In this troubled world, pounded by
evil,
struggle,
sorrow, and
death,

we cry out with Isaiah:

*God, tear open the heavens and come down!
Even the mountains quake in Your presence!* (Isaiah 64:1-2, para.)

We read Exodus 19 about how God's people experienced Him
when He came down on Mt. Sinai:

thunder and lightning,
a thick cloud,
a loud trumpet sound,
fire and smoke.

All the people
and the mountain itself
trembled with fear.

When Holy God was there,
even touching the mountain
would bring death.

In the Old Testament, God's people were forbidden to craft
any image or likeness of Him.

Any earthly image of the transcendent God
made Him far less than He was: a

boundless,
Almighty,
eternal Spirit,

existing

long before and
high above

anything earthly.

But when He came down at Christmas,
He made Himself a creature,
flesh and blood.

He went through the birth process
just like all the rest of us.

More than that, He came as the
weakest,
lowest,
most humble
of all human beings:
the newborn infant of
an unmarried peasant girl.
The Eternal, Almighty Word made Himself a
crying,
wordless,
helpless baby.

Transcendent God laid aside everything.
He emptied Himself,
humbled Himself,
gave Himself without reservation
to fully embrace us with
all that He is.
His restless love would stop at nothing less.

This Christmas,
be reminded,
be assured
that no matter what comes,
Almighty God is with you!
Almighty God is for you!