

### **Hymn No.383 – “Dream On, Dream On”**

1 Dream on, dream on, children of peace,  
Till on earth God’s kingdom come.  
Wolf and lamb will feed together; lions  
Like oxen will eat straw. Dust shall be the  
Serpent’s food; no one shall destroy  
Or hurt. Children of earth in all colors.

2 Hope on, hope on, Easter people: beyond  
The cross, a dawning sun. Christ, our peace,  
Broke down all barriers: nation, culture, tribe,  
And clan. Reconciling us to God, Christ made  
Us one human race, joined in peace and liberation,

3 Mount up, mount up, like an eagle to  
the heights, beyond the clouds. Strife  
and sorrow shall not stop you; pain and  
tears shall lose their power. Even  
though the young may stumble, God  
the Lord renews their strength. They  
shall run and not grow weary;

### **Hymn No. 163 – “Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”**

1 Wild and lone the prophet's voice  
echoes through the desert still,  
calling us to make a choice,  
bidding us to do God's will:  
"Turn from sin and be baptized;  
cleanse your heart and mind and soul.  
Quitting all the sins you prized,  
yield your life to God's control.

2 "Bear the fruit repentance sows:  
lives of justice, truth and love.  
Trust no other claim than those;  
set your heart on things above.  
Soon the Lord will come in power,  
burning clean the threshing floor:  
then will flames the chaff devour;  
wheat alone shall fill God's store."

3 With such preaching, stark and bold,  
John proclaimed salvation near,  
and his timeless warnings hold  
words of hope to all who hear.  
So we dare to journey on,  
led by faith through ways untrod,  
till we come at last like John  
to behold the Lamb of God.

### **Hymn No. 92– “While We Are Waiting, Come”**

1 While we are waiting, come;  
while we are waiting, come.

Refrain:

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,  
while we are waiting, come.

2 With power and glory, come;

with power and glory, come. (Refrain)

3 Come, Savior, quickly come;  
come, Savior, quickly come. (Refrain)

### Hymn No. 88 – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show;  
and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and  
cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

4 O come, thou Root of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save  
and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

### James 1:26 – 2:13

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

### **Matthew 3:1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'