

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
That the King of glory may come in.

It will be said on that day, "Lo, this is  
Our God; we have waited for him, that  
he might save us. This is the Lord; we  
have waited for him; let us be glad and re-  
joice in his salvation."

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Gracious God, whose love for us is revealed  
so beautifully in the Christ Child of Bethlehem,  
Come among us, again, we pray, as we prayerfully  
expectantly await your advent.

In a world constantly at war, where the  
innocent suffer, the powerful are arrogant,  
and the poor are victimized, Come and  
stand among us in compassion and power.  
Into lives that are often filled with de-  
spair and misery due to hunger, lack of shelter,  
injustice, racism, tyranny, and inhumanity,  
Come and let us see our humanity embodied  
in your incarnation among us.

In a time when there is much uncertainty  
among us, when we are fearful for the future  
and are ~~uncertain~~ unsure of which way to  
turn, Come and make straight our crooked  
paths and guide us by the light of your love.  
Our Church that is often discouraged by a  
lack of results, that often seems to be ignored  
by the world, Come and remind us of the  
ways the world ignores you, even though you  
were the world's Savior, and encourage us to  
continue the course you set before us.

In hearts that feel yearning and need, even  
though they are unable to express their need,  
Come and let us feel the warmth of your  
compassion for us, Our Lord and Savior, our hope  
and our friend -