

# Advent

## WEEK 2

DECEMBER 5-7, 2014

ANNUNCIATION

### FRIDAY

DECEMBER 5, 2014

#### FROM REFLECTIONS FOR RAGAMUFFINS BY BRENNAN MANNING

*"The Christmas contemplative knows that hope is a gift, an undeserved gift of peace, but that it is also a call to decision -- the decision to trust..."*

*Hope thrives on the difficult and challenges the conclusion that our only contribution to the world will be, in the words of T. S. Eliot, 'an asphalt driveway in front of our home and a thousand lost golf balls.' Hope convinces us that our clinging to a miserable sense of security and status quo, the possibility of growth and greatness is utterly defeated. Hope says that I no longer need be dismayed over my personal dishonesty and self-centeredness and feeble life of faith. That I no longer need to feel defeated, insensitive, and superficial.*

*Because the question no longer is: Can I do it? Am I able? Can I overcome my moodiness, my laziness, my sensuality, my grudges and resentments? The only question is: Is Jesus Christ able? Can my Savior, the Lord of my life, revive my drooping spirit and transform me at Christmas as he transformed the world through his birth in Bethlehem?"*

### SATURDAY

DECEMBER 6, 2014

TODAY, TAKE TIME TO  
PRAY THROUGH THE TEXT  
OF THIS GREAT HYMN,

#### O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

*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!*

*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!*

*O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
And order all things, far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

DECEMBER 7, 2014

READ LUKE 1:46:55 (ESV)

<sup>55</sup> *as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."*

[illegible]