

*“But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.” -Habakkuk 2:20*

The season of Advent is usually the exact opposite of still and quiet. The planning, cooking, gift-giving, and feasting can often amplify the hectic busyness and noise in our lives. Though these works of love are undertaken in the spirit of gathering, remembering, and praising God for whatever the passing year has yielded, we are often neglectful in our duty to stop, sit, and ponder: *“Christ our God to earth descending...”*

That the God of all the cosmos descended from his holy reign on high, to take the form of a helpless babe, ought to, *“silence all mortal flesh.”*

That the perfect God, *“Lord of Lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,”* came to live, breathe, heal, give, sleep, eat, drink, play, work, amongst a broken, weary, sinful people, showing compassion, mercy, and grace to all who would respond, ought to tinge our celebration with awestruck wonder, and chastened lips.

That the, *“Light of light... from realms of endless day, comes the powers of hell to vanquish,”* ought silence our need to self-justify ourselves in words or actions, and lay us bare at the thought that, “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son” to make war against the principalities of darkness and save us from the clutches of our own flesh and sin.

And yet in Advent, how quickly we jump to add noise and activity. How quickly we run to distraction, worldly temptations, consumerism, gluttony, vice – at the expense of sitting in the longing and sobriety that comes when we reflect on how desperately we need a Savior.

While Advent is a season of expectant arrival, we must not jump so fast to the actual event of Christ’s arrival. It seems to me that to faithfully worship our descended Lord in this season, we would be wise to cultivate practices and rhythms of quiet amidst the noise and to seek stillness during the busyness for the sake of treasuring more deeply the gift that comes on Christmas morn.

As we approach that manger this Advent, may we do so not with entitlement or busyness, but with Cherubim-like awe for the majesty and power given to us in a humble babe:

*“Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”*

May all mortal flesh keep silent, and may our song come bursting forth on Christmas day.

### **[Read Habakkuk 2:20, 1 Timothy 3:14-16, and Revelation 4:8-11](#)**

1. What do we learn about God, man, and how we are to live from these passages?
2. We live in the reality that Jesus is a God-man who does not have an attribute of holiness but is holy. Discuss the idea of how silence can be an act of worship to a holy God.
3. Does the reality that Jesus is a God-man, able to sympathize with our weaknesses, affect how you speak truth into your daily life? Or does Jesus still seem “untouchable” and “unrelatable”?
4. What is one way you can lead your family to worship in “silence” this week, taking a break from the noise of Christmas?

LYRICS

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood;  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
“Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”