

# *He Comes Again*

an Easter Cantata  
by Amy Webb

## *Narration: #1*

“Easter is that sacred season when the heart of each devout Christian turns in humble gratitude to our beloved Savior. It is a season that should bring peace and joy to all who love Him and show it by obeying His commandments. Easter brings thoughts of Jesus, His life, His Atonement, His Resurrection, His love.”<sup>1</sup>

“For four thousand long years—from the day Adam was cast out of Eden to the day John baptized at Bethabara—all of the prophets and all of the Saints looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. They talked and taught of Christ; they preached and prophesied of Christ; they centered their lives and all of their hopes in the promise of his coming. They knew that as God’s Son he would ... work out the infinite and eternal atonement, that immortality and eternal life would come by him.”<sup>2</sup>

As the day of His mortal birth approached, Nephi heard the voice saying, “Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, ... on the morrow come I into the world”<sup>3</sup>

“Thus, on the next day in Bethlehem of Judea, a tiny babe lay in a manger while an attentive mother gloried in the presence of her newborn son, the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh, a God come to earth.”<sup>4</sup>

## **He Comes Again**

He came to us a lowly babe.  
He came so meek and mild.  
The star above shone down on Him;  
Who in a manger lay.  
He came as man, though Son of God.  
He is the Lord of all.

He came to Earth from Heav’n above,  
The long awaited One.  
The angels sing,  
The shepherds bring,  
Glad tidings for the King.

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<sup>1</sup> Richard G. Scott, “He Lives! All Glory to His name!”, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Bruce R. McConkie, “The Seven Christs,” 1982.

<sup>3</sup> 3 Nephi 1:13.

<sup>4</sup> F. Melvin Hammond, “Trying to Be Like Jesus,” 1994.

He is the One,  
God's only Son.  
We look to Him and live.

***Narration: #2***

“Before we came to this earth we lived in the presence of God, our Eternal Father, and His son, Jesus Christ. We [learned of His plan for us and] shouted for joy when given the privilege of coming to this earth to receive a body and to move forward in God's plan for our happiness.”<sup>5</sup> We knew we would be tested and we were determined to live obediently so that we could return to our Father.

“The Eternal Father well understood ... that in the school of life some of His children would succeed and others would fail. He saw that His commandments would be disobeyed and His law violated; and that men, shut out from His presence and left to themselves, would sink rather than rise and would be lost to the heavens.”<sup>6</sup>

Our loving Heavenly Father anticipated the need for a Savior, whose atonement would win the victory over death, and provide the means whereby we may receive forgiveness for our sins and return to live with Him.

It was Jesus Christ who presented Himself to become the Savior of men, saying, “Here am I, send me.”<sup>7</sup>

**With Healing in His Wings**

A flower rises from the earth,  
Weaving its wondrous path.  
With living waters it blooms and grows;  
Glory and beauty it hath.

Though nature shows it pow'r and wrath,  
The tender blossom lives.  
Because it has a grand design,  
And mercy its creator gives.

As children we are raised from birth,  
Guided along our way.  
We learn and grow with loving hands beside us  
Come what may.

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<sup>5</sup> Richard G Scott, “Jesus Christ, Our Redeemer,” 1997.

<sup>6</sup> James E. Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*.

<sup>7</sup> Abraham 3:27.

Though storms pass by  
And trials loom,  
And waves come crashing by,  
The anchor of our soul remains;  
Our Savior from on High.

No mortal man can ever truly conceive;  
Nor human tongue express,  
The need for His redeeming love.  
He'll rescue us from sin and death,  
With healing in His wings.

We search for comfort day by day,  
For peace, serenity;  
To grow mid life's uncertainties,  
And rest eternally.

O the wisdom of our God;  
His mercy and tenderness.  
His grand design for all mankind;  
To dwell with Him again.  
He'll rescue us from sin and death,  
With healing in His wings

***Narration: #3***

Jesus spent his mortal ministry in unselfish service. He taught the people of Samaria, performed miracles in Cana, and healed those in Capernaum. Upon returning to Nazareth, His former home, “the people were eager for a sign that He was more than Joseph’s son, a carpenter. They wondered, ... why He [would] not treat them to some entertaining exhibition of His powers?”<sup>8</sup> Anger filled their hearts as they threatened to cast him over the rocky cliffs.

Having been rejected by His own Jesus “departed from the unbelieving Nazarenes, and thenceforth, Nazareth was no longer His home.”

**Honored by Strangers, Rejected by His Own**

To the woman of Samaria,  
He spoke wondrous things.  
He taught of living waters,  
And taught how she could never thirst.  
She pleaded for this water,  
She pleaded to hear more.

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<sup>8</sup> Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*.

She told all around her,  
To come and gather 'round.  
To listen to His teachings,  
And hear His sacred words.

And as he knelt,  
They all proclaimed,  
He is the One,  
The Savior of world.

To the father of Capernaum,  
His power was clear.  
His endless grace was evident,  
As He performed a miracle.  
The father's son was healed,  
He rose and hurt no more.  
His love and His glory,  
Were felt by those He touched.  
And He continued healing  
With boundless charity.

And as he knelt,  
They all proclaimed,  
He is the One,  
The Savior of world.

As he traveled to Nazareth,  
He once called His own.  
Joseph's son, a carpenter,  
How could He be God's only Son?  
Honored by strangers,  
Rejected by His own.

His grace and His miracles,  
They did not understand.  
But the power of the words they heard  
Would calm their angry hands.

And as he left,  
He did proclaim:  
I am the One,  
The Savior of the world.

***Narration: #4***

Upon leaving Nazareth, the Lord and His disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee. “There arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship ... And he was ... asleep on a pillow: and they [awoke] him, and [said] unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm”<sup>9</sup>

“The power of Jesus as Master of earth, men and devils, was manifest in miraculous works of the most impressive kind. His word was sufficient in every instance. To the wind and the waves ... the demon –ridden mind of the man possessed, [the woman healed amongst the throng, and the daughter of Jarius,] He had but to speak and be obeyed. ‘Peace, be still.’”<sup>10</sup>

**Peace, Be Still**

Many days I’d suffered,  
Many nights I’d spent,  
Searching for the answers,  
To cease the endless torment.

My body growing worse,  
My heart turned to despair.  
Until I saw a crowd approach,  
I saw Him standing there.

I worked my way through the crowd.  
I approached Him from behind.  
I knew if I could just touch His clothes,  
The healing would be mine.

My daughter layed upon her back,  
Death would surely come.  
In search of an answer,  
I left her and my home.

I waited at the water’s edge,  
Filled with much despair.  
The Man they called the Healer,  
Would soon be coming there.

I humbly came unto Him,  
Believing He was the One.  
I felt His pow’r could make her whole,

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<sup>9</sup> Mark 4:37-39.

<sup>10</sup> Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*.

If He to her would come.

The deaf did hear,  
The blind did see,  
He caused the lame to walk.  
He said to all who came to Him,  
Be not afraid ,  
Only believe.  
Peace, be still.  
The words he spoke many times before,  
Peace, be still.

I touched His clothes,  
He turned and looked my way.  
Daughter be of comfort,  
Thy faith hath made thee whole.

I was healed this day.  
I was made whole again.

The pain I felt no more.  
I knew this was a miracle,  
A miracle for me.

He took Her in His arms.  
He spoke these simple words,  
I say to thee arise.  
They faith hath made her whole.

She was healed this day.  
She was made whole again.

She rose and walked once more,  
I knew this was a miracle,  
A miracle for me.

The deaf did hear,  
The blind did see,  
He caused the lame to walk.  
He said to all who came to Him,  
Be not afraid ,  
Only believe.  
Peace, be still.  
The words he spoke many times before,  
Peace, be still.

*Narration #5*

The Savior ministered to the people with the love of a good shepherd, knowing each by name and often leaving the multitude in search of the one. To Him, each soul was worth saving, His beckoning call meant for all.

**The Good Shepherd**

The sheep know the Shepherd's voice,  
They know His beckoning call.  
He watches with care,  
No harm to befall.  
His love for not one, but all.

All we like sheep have gone astray.  
We have turned everyone to his own way.  
He will seek out His sheep,  
The scattered and lost.  
In the cloudy and the dark day.

He is the Good Shepherd.  
He knows His sheep.  
He will guide and protect us.  
The watch cry He'll keep.  
Fear not little flock, there is no need to fear.  
His comfort He gives us,  
The Good Shepherd is near.

There is only one Shepherd,  
His voice familiar and kind.  
He is not a stranger that leads us away,  
But a friend, our Savior divine.

*Narration: #6*

Near the end of his mortal ministry, in the upper room in Jerusalem, Jesus ate the Last Supper with his chosen Twelve.

It was custom that as a person entered a room, he laid aside his sandals at the door and his feet were washed to remove the dust from his travels. A servant usually performed this lowly task, but on this sacred night, "Jesus Himself, in His eternal humility and self-denial, rose from His place at the meal to do [this] menial service"<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Frederic W. Farrar, *The Life of Christ*, Portland, Or.: Fountain Publications, 1980.

During the course of the meal, He revealed the terrible news that one among them would betray Him, and a deep sadness fell over all of them. Jesus spoke to Judas, “That [which] thou doest, do quickly”<sup>12</sup> And Judas left the room to do his awful deed.

Knowing the end of His ministry was near, He told them of His impending departure: “Yet a little while I am with you. ... Whither I go, ye cannot come.”<sup>13</sup>

Fear, frustration, and concern must have gripped these humble disciples. Jesus had been their security, their help, their light. What would they do without His direction, His instruction, His example, His comfort?

In love and compassion, the Master assured them: “I will not leave you comfortless: ... I will pray [to] the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.”<sup>14</sup>

### **In the Upper Room**

In the upper room,  
He shared the feast,  
With those who loved him most.  
The Son of God,  
The chosen one,  
The King of Heavenly Hosts.

Partaking with His beloved few,  
Who now press unto Him.  
Their Savior who would ransom them,  
From all their mortal sins.

Surrounded by His loving throng,  
Disciples all but one.  
For Judas sat with hate and loathe,  
Prepared to sell the Son.

For thirty pieces he left the feast,  
To surrender the Son of God;  
Who yet must suffer Gethsemane  
And die upon the cross.

Before He left,  
He washed their feet,

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<sup>12</sup> John 13:27.

<sup>13</sup> John 13:33.

<sup>14</sup> John 14:18,16.

He blessed both bread and wine.  
He told them how to understand  
Both ordinance and sign.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God,  
Chosen as the Lamb;  
In the upper room,  
He taught the few,  
The Creator, the Great I Am!

***Narration: #7 – Gethsemane Cello Solo***

On the night Jesus was betrayed, He took three of the Twelve and went into Gethsemane. He suffered the pains of all men, “which suffering caused [Him], even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit...”<sup>15</sup>

The Savior’s solitary task of shouldering alone the burden of our salvation was the loneliest journey ever made.

“...he realized that except it be done perfectly, not one of His Father’s children could return to Him ... In His absolutely pure mind and heart, He had to personally feel the consequences of all that mankind would ever encounter, even the most depraved and despicable sins ... He had to endure the vicious attack of Satan’s hordes while physically and emotionally pressed to the limit. Then, for reasons we do not fully know, while at the extremity of His capacity, at the time the Savior most needed succor, His Father allowed Him to shoulder the onerous responsibility with only His own strength and capacity.”<sup>16</sup>

“It was ... central to the significance of the Atonement, that this perfect Son ... had to feel what it was like to die not only physically but spiritually, to sense what it was like to have the divine Spirit withdraw, leaving one feeling totally, abjectly, hopelessly alone.”<sup>17</sup>

***Narration: #8***

“From the terrible conflict in Gethsemane, Christ emerged a victor. Though in the dark tribulation of that ... hour He had pleaded that the bitter cup be removed from His lips, ... the Father’s will was never lost sight of.”<sup>18</sup> Jesus held on. He pressed on. The goodness in Him allowed faith to triumph even in a state of complete anguish.

“And then came Judas with his betraying kiss; Christ’s surrender to His enemies; the arrest of the Son of God ... then came the final pronouncement of Pilate. After three appeals to the

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<sup>15</sup> D&C 19:18.

<sup>16</sup> Richard G. Scott, “He Lives! All Glory to His Name!,” 2010.

<sup>17</sup> Jeffrey R. Holland, “None Were with Him,” 2009.

<sup>18</sup> Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*.

multitude of Jews to spare one of their own fell upon deaf ears, [Pilate] delivered Jesus to be scourged.”<sup>19</sup>

When the cross had been prepared, they placed it upon His shoulders and led Him to Golgotha. “But Jesus was enfeebled ... by [hours] of violent ... agitation, ... by an evening of deep ... emotion, ... by the mental [anguish] of the garden, [and] by [the] three trials and three sentences of death before the Jews. ... All [of] these, [added] to the [wounds] of the scourging [and loss of blood], had utterly broken ... His physical strength.”<sup>20</sup> So a bystander was enlisted to carry the heavy cross.

### On My Way

The day had come, the sentence made known,  
The fatal order was given,  
That Jesus Christ, the Son of God,  
The nails in whom would be driven,  
Would be lifted up, condemned to death,  
By those who were misgiven.

On my way to Jerusalem that day,  
I watched the fateful march,  
Along the streets and through the city walls they went,  
All under the soldier's charge.  
I saw one who suffered more than all,  
Who from the crowd stood apart.

The terrible strain of the preceding hours,  
The agony already felt.  
It was thought that He could bear no more,  
And down on one knee He knelt.  
The soldiers summoned me to come,  
Ordered me to surrender help.

I lifted up the mighty cross,  
Upon my back it went.  
Blood from His hands was now on mine,  
From drops He'd already spent.  
Why was this man condemned to bleed and die.  
I did not understand.

I followed His footsteps one by one,  
To the place called Calvary.  
The nails were forced in His hands and feet

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<sup>19</sup> David B. Haight, “Jesus of Nazareth,” 1994.

<sup>20</sup> Farrar, *Life of Christ*.

For all who came to see.  
They raised Him up to suffer death,  
His final act would be.

I saw Him look around,  
At those who carried out their task.  
He prayed for them so lovingly;  
No mercy He did ask.  
They crucified the Lamb of God;  
I understood at last.

***Narration: #9***

“As the serenity and solace of a merciful death freed Him from the sorrows of mortality, He returned to the presence of His father. At the last moment, the Master could have turned back. But He did not. He passed beneath all things that He might save all things. His lifeless body was hurriedly but gently placed in a borrowed tomb.

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and other faithful women set out for the tomb to further anoint the body of Jesus. They saw the angel, and were afraid; but he said unto them: “Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen...”<sup>21</sup>

Mary brought word to Simon Peter and John and together they ran to the sepulcher. While Peter and John were within the sepulcher, Mary stood without, weeping. She heard a voice inquire "Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou?" She could scarcely lift her tearful countenance to look at the questioner, but pleaded "Tell me where thou hast laid him." "Jesus saith unto her, Mary."<sup>22</sup>

"The voice, the tone, the tender accent she had heard and loved in the earlier days, lifted her from the despairing depths into which she had sunk."<sup>23</sup>

**I Seek Him**

The tomb is empty on this day;  
The tomb where in the Savior laid.  
My heart is heavy, all hope is lost;  
My thoughts turn to Him on the cross.

He died for me, and all who live.  
His life He did so freely give.

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<sup>21</sup> Mathew 28: 5-6

<sup>22</sup> John 20:15

<sup>23</sup> Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*

With overwhelming sorrow near,  
They have taken away my Lord, I fear.

I seek Him, who died for me that day.  
I seek Him, who knowingly was betrayed.  
I seek Him, who rescued me from sin.  
I long to be with Him again.

As tears with grief pour down my cheek,  
I hear a voice calm and meek.  
My name He spoke so tenderly.  
My Lord was here with me.

For as He had been crucified;  
He rose again, more glorified.  
And in the moment; mercy sweet,  
I rush to be there at His feet.

I seek Him, who died for me that day.  
I seek Him, who knowingly was betrayed.  
I seek Him, who rescued me from sin.  
And I will be with Him again.

### **Alleluia!**

Alleluia!  
Cry out with joyful noise!  
Let the world rejoice!

Christ is risen today.  
Sons of men and angels say.  
Raise your joys and triumph high,  
Sing ye heavn's, and earth reply.

Love's redeeming work is done.  
Fought the fight, the vict'ry won.  
Jesus' agony is over,  
Darkness veils the earth no more.

Lives again, our glorious King,  
Where O death is now thy sting?  
Alleluia!

Once he died our souls to save.  
Where thy victory O grave?  
Alleluia!

***Narration: #10***

The signs of the death and subsequent resurrection of the Savior could be felt around the world. When the people of ancient America gathered together to talk about the destruction and wonders they had seen, they heard God, the Father, declaring from the heavens, “Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name—hear ye him.

At the invitation of their Lord, a “multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did do, going forth one by one until they had all gone forth”<sup>24</sup>

“And he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them.”<sup>25</sup>

“And when they had all gone forth and had witnessed for themselves, they did cry out with one accord, saying:

“Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God! And they did fall down at the feet of Jesus, and did worship him.”<sup>26</sup>

**He Had Come**

We were with our families sitting there,  
To the temple we had come.  
To talk about the signs and wonders,  
And the death of God’s own Son.  
When within our hearts we heard a voice,  
And we looked up to the sky.  
We didn’t understand at first,  
But then heard the voice from on High.

He had come!  
He had come,  
To the place where we gathered.  
He had come!  
He had come,  
To be with us here.  
I’ll remember His voice,  
And the look on his face.  
I’ll remember this day,  
When I felt His embrace.

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<sup>24</sup> 3 Nephi 11:15.

<sup>25</sup> 3 Nephi 17:21.

<sup>26</sup> 3 Nephi 11:16-17.

He told our parents to let us come,  
To gather 'round His knee.  
He took us each one by one,  
He prayed just for me.  
We looked up to the heavens,  
And we saw them coming down.  
The angels had come to be with us,  
And they came all around.

He had come!  
He had come,  
To the place where we gathered.  
He had come!  
He had come,  
To be with us here.  
I'll remember His voice,  
And the look on his face.  
I'll remember this day,  
When I felt His embrace.

***Narration: #11***

After His resurrection Jesus tarried on the earth with his beloved disciples for forty days. When the time had come for Him to return to heaven Jesus chose the Mount of Olives as the place for His ascension, a place He knew well; for nearby, on the slope of the mount at Bethany, He had found rest and affection with Mary and Martha and Lazarus. Also near was the Garden of Gethsemane where He had prayed and agonized alone. He chose the Mount of Olives to ascend from, and upon its summit His feet will rest when He comes again—not as a man of sorrows, but as a glorious and triumphant king.

Let us join with the first prophet of this latter-day dispensation in declaring, “And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!”<sup>27</sup>

Jesus Christ did come. He did live. And He will come again.

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<sup>27</sup> D&C 76:22

## He Comes Again

He came to us with open arms,  
Surrounding all with love.  
His life he gave so willingly,  
To those who did not know.  
The sorrow that the world did feel,  
Was felt from up above.

Alone He knelt in Gethsemane.  
Alone He suffered there.  
On Calvary's Hill He hung and died,  
To fulfill His Father's will.  
To ransom us from sin and death,  
To none we can compare.

He came to those with weary hearts,  
He strengthened the feeble knees.  
He came to those whose hands hung down,  
And he did succor the weak.

And this I know,  
He comes again.

He comes again with outstretched arms,  
"Come unto me," He pleads.  
To all of those who labor,  
And those with heavy cares.  
For I will ease your burdens,  
And you will find your rest.

Sorrow will be turned to joy,  
Happiness will find all,  
Who see His face,  
Who touch His hands,  
And feel his warm embrace.  
The power of His healing touch;  
His love doth conquer all.

He came to those with weary hearts,  
He strengthened the feeble knees.  
He came to those whose hands hung down,  
And he did succor the weak.

And this I know,  
He comes again.