

# Why Don't We Sing Christmas Carols During Advent?

For the same reason we don't sing "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, Alleluia!" during Lent.

We are waiting. We are preparing. We are getting ready for the feast. It is not yet time to shout and celebrate. That time will come, and we'll be ready for it.

During Advent, we dwell with the prophets of old who yearned for God's coming. Though, of course, Emmanuel is already with us, we take the time to reflect on what it means to wait for the fullness of God's coming. The kingdom of God is among us – but not yet fully realized. That's up to us. So now we consider the whats, hows and whos of our participation in the coming of God's reign on earth.

We wait for Jesus coming in history. We wait for Jesus coming to us as we assemble and pray. We wait for Jesus coming to us in the proclamation of the scriptures. We wait for Jesus coming to us in Holy Communion and all the sacraments. We wait for Jesus coming for each of us at the end of our lives. We wait for Jesus coming in glory at the end of time.

After more than three weeks of quiet, reflective waiting, we are ready to shout:



"Joy to the world!  
O come, all ye  
faithful! Hark, the  
herald angels sing!"  
But until then, we  
anticipate with de-  
light what we  
know will come on  
December 24, in the  
middle of that Si-  
lent Night, Holy  
Night.