

Come Love Caressing
(CHA-E-2)

ADVENT PREF. II

The Preface-prayer of the Eucharist during the week leading up to Christmas Day. It's such a busy week for most of us, the way Christmas is observed nowadays. But it might be a good idea to try and keep in mind those words of the prayer, that Christ's coming may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. Part at least of that 'wonder-praise' can be caught in many of the old Christmas carols and in new ones too — ones that sing of what happened at Bethlehem, and the birth of our Lord. Try to listen to some of them this week, if you can (so mixed in do they often get with purely secular songs) — and make them for yourself a prayer in praise of God whose wonderful love has given us the great gift we celebrate this coming week-end.

May your Christmas be one of wonder at the mystery of God being born as one of us: of praise and thankfulness to God for His love, mirrored in the love and kindness of your family, your friends shown to you especially at this time: of prayer, making you closer to God as you experience and celebrate the closeness of those you love, at this festival time. For today, and especially as I won't have a chance to do so again before Christmas, I'd like to share with you a few songs of the season, which I hope may help you to prepare with prayer, wonder and praise. This one's called 'Naming Softly Awakens' MUSIC 2:45

(Wintersong, Ham)
24

PRAYERS (ECP §99)

(Sole, Freshwater, Nylon)
14

This next song is simply called "He Comes" MUSIC 2:41

PRAYER (ECP §100)

May the coming celebration of Christmas bring us all the joy and peace of the presence of Christ with us, with our families and friends. May we each receive and feel the Christmas gift which is beyond any other gift we can give or receive, the grace of God's love for you and me. May our celebrations this year help us and our world to understand that God is with us, truly: our Saviour has come. Let us welcome Him in wonder and praise. And may I wish you every blessing of Christmas, as we end today with the Plainsong hymn from the liturgy of Christmas, Salve Festa Dies — and a reminder that if you're at home on Christmas night, you may like to join the congregation at St. Joseph's Church for a broadcast of Christmas Midnight Mass

MUSIC 'Salve Festa Dies'