

During Advent it can be disconcerting to encounter Scripture passages (like [Hebrews 10:5-10](#)) that talk about Jesus' death. After all, we are anticipating Jesus's birth! Why ruin the mood with all this talk of death, sacrifices and sin offerings?

*"I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky."*

So, why did Jesus the Savior come for to die? Well, we know that the birth of Jesus necessarily carries with it both the brightness of his life and shadows of his death. In the same way, though, Jesus's death is never a story we can tell without the hope born in his resurrection. Life, not death, will have the last word—in Jesus's story and in our own. As the apostle Paul reminds us, "If we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:5).

When the shadows of death creep up around Christmas, remember and rejoice: Jesus's birth points toward his death, and his death points us toward his—and our—resurrection.

God, you are a maker of miracles: one who brings life out of death. Help us, "ordinary people like you and like I", always remain confident in your abiding presence and in your promises of abundant life. Amen.

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