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advent

John Zinkand
Dordt College

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advent

by John Zinkand

four winter sabbaths
cycle us past events
to show the coming
of Christ in flesh.

prophets centuries ago
had written: he comes
root, branch, immanuel
son of david, virgin's child.

bridging old and new
priest zechariah silently
signalled great birth: john
herald of coming Christ.

mary, faith quickened by sight
of elizabeth's girth:
"nothing's too hard for God"
confession burst in song.

advent: Christ came in flesh.
he came in the manger,
he came on the cross.
Christ came from the tomb.

what sabbaths shall
the church now set
apart to mark
the coming yet to be?

advent: Christ comes again.
he comes in majesty,
he comes on the clouds.
christ comes again,
just as surely
as he came before.