

# Advent Prayers



Church of the Redeemer  
Advent One to the Saturday Following

## Introduction

**W**e invite you to enter into a time of intentional prayer this Advent through the use of this resource.

The season of Advent is the four Sundays and the weekdays leading up to Christmas. It is a season of waiting watching, preparing and praying. We wait for the One who was born so long ago and we wait for the One who will come again. It is a time of looking back and looking forward.

This year we are using readings that in some way reflect the selection for the word of the day for #AdventWord2016—a global Anglican Advent calendar of images, word and reflection. We will also be posting an image and reflection on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram that is part of this time of prayer and reflection.

The order for daily prayer contains elements that are traditional forms familiar to many and contemporary aspects that are also familiar. Use as much or as little of the order as you need to give shape to your time of prayer. It matters not the time of day that you set aside for prayer – morning, noon, or night as your schedule allows. As each of us pauses to pray, we know that others within the parish have joined with us, each in our own time and space, for a continuum of prayer throughout the day.

The booklets for each week will be available in church as well as online. You are welcome to keep the booklets for use again.

In Peace we pray...

## Advent One to the Saturday Following

November 27 to December 3

*We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer to God our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God.*

*We begin by saying*

Now is the time to wake out of sleep,  
for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

Romans 13.11

*We continue with the Psalm*

I was glad when they said to me,  
    'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'  
Our feet are standing  
    within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
Jerusalem—built as a city  
    that is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up,  
    the tribes of the LORD,  
as was decreed for Israel,  
    to give thanks to the name of the LORD.  
For there the thrones for judgement were set up,  
    the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
    'May they prosper who love you.  
Peace be within your walls,  
    and security within your towers.'  
For the sake of my relatives and friends  
    I will say, 'Peace be within you.'  
For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,  
    I will seek your good.

Psalm 122

We continue with the reading and the reflection beginning on page eight. In silence we ask what the reading has to say to us today. Is there something in the reflection that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God?

When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle below.

### **The Canticle ~ A Song in the Wilderness**

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice,  
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weary hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not,  
your God is coming with judgement,  
coming with judgement to save you.'  
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
Then shall the lame leap like a hart,  
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing,  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.  
Joy and gladness shall be theirs,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Isaiah 35.1,2b-4a,4c-6,10*

We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God (The Intercessions) and continue concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.

### **The Intercessions**

We offer prayers:

For God's creation...

For peace in the world...

For the Church and all who serve in Christ's name...

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer...

For forgiveness from those whom we have injured or offended...

For those who have gone before us in faith...

*We conclude our prayers*

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,  
so that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

*[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen

OR

God, who cares for us,  
The wonder of whose presence fills us with awe,  
Let justice, kindness and love shine in our world.  
Let your secrets be known here as they are in heaven.  
Give us the food and the hope we need for today.  
Forgive us our wrongdoing  
as we forgive the wrongs done to us.  
Protect us from pride and from despair

and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up.  
In you is truth, meaning, glory and power,  
while worlds come and go. Amen.

*We conclude*

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.  
May the Lord, when he comes,  
Find us watching and waiting.



## The Readings and Reflections

### **Sunday**

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Romans 13.11-14*

### **Reflection**

In this time  
Darkness feels close.  
In this time  
It is hard to see light.  
In this time  
We look.

The Light  
That shines in the darkness  
Will guide our steps.

#AdventWord: Shine



## **Monday**

'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

*Matthew 22.36-40*

## **Reflection**

Oh how hard this is some days. Sometimes it seems that God is so far away. How do you love with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind then?

Perhaps the answer isn't so hard to find. What if I'm the one who is far away? What if God is there. Waiting for me. Loving me. If I, with all I have and all I am, love could it be that I will become love.

Jesus, help me to love...

#AdventWord: Love

## **Tuesday**

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

*Matthew 24.42-44*

## **Reflection**

Are you ready?  
Something new is coming.  
Wake up!  
Prepare.  
The time comes.  
When?  
We don't know  
But we need to be ready.  
Watch  
For the new is coming.

#AdventWord: Renew

## **Wednesday**

Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

*Isaiah 2.3*

## **Reflection**

Come.  
The time is now.  
Do you hear?  
Listen.  
Learn the way,  
Walk the path

The way is before us. Are we ready to follow the path? At times it won't be easy. Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...

#AdventWord: Listen

## **Thursday**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.” '

*Matthew 3.1-3*

## **Reflection**

What might it have been like to hear John the Baptist speak? Would I have been captivated by him from the first words he spoke? Would I have seen all that he point toward with his words? His words are not easy. Repent. What is there in my life that might require me to repent? Could my voice be one crying out in the wilderness?

These are hard questions. First I listen. Then I seek to change my ways and find my voice.

#AdventWord: Proclaim

## **Friday**

He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.  
O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

*Isaiah 2.4-5*

## **Reflection**

Can you imagine a world where this is possible? Can you imagine a world where we stop showing our might with weapons and instead bend down low to help the hungry, the lonely, the forgotten? Can you imagine a world where we lift up each other? Can you imagine a world where we follow the way of the one who is the Light of the world?

How can we make this reality and not something we simply imagine?

#AdventWord: Light

## **Saturday**

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

*Isaiah 11.6-8*

## **Reflection**

There are so many images here. Beautiful images of one who should not be safe with the other: wolf and lamb, leopard and kid; cow and bear, lion and ox.

And there is one more image—a little child leading and playing.

These are words of hope. These are images of what could be. Today look at the world through the eyes of a child. A world of beauty where we can play together in peace.

#AdventWord: Play







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