

Advent Prayers



Church of the Redeemer
Advent Two to the Saturday Following

Introduction

We 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 Two to the Saturday Following

December 4 to December 10

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

Our Lord says, "Surely, I come quickly."
Even so; come, Lord Jesus

Revelation 22.20

We continue with the Psalm

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be his glorious name for ever;
may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

Psalm 72.1-7, 18-19

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 of Thanksgiving

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defence, *

and he will be my Saviour.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;

make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 12.2-6

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

God of justice, clear our lives of hatred and despair and sow in us seeds of joy and peace; so that shoots of hope may spring forth in us as we await the coming of the Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. 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

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Isaiah 11.9-10

Reflection

What do you look for as a sign or a signal? Where do you seek out a place to touch holy ground?

#AdventWord: Touch

Monday

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Matthew 3.4-6

Reflection

He looks different than you'd expect, doesn't he? Camel's hair and a leather belt—not exactly the wardrobe of the mainstream preacher. And his diet? Have you heard what he eats? The wild honey might be okay but locusts? What is up with that?

And yet. Here they come. Out to the wilderness to find him. He offers them something they seek. He points the way to something more. They are ready to commit—are you?

#AdventWord: Commit

Tuesday

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?'

Luke 24.35-38

Reflection

Peace be with you...

When your world seems upside down, how can peace be possible?

Be with you...

When you feel all alone, can you see or feel the presence of anyone else?

Be with...

When the path seems abandoned, is it a place without?

Be...

Jesus, be with me

Bring me peace.

Be...

#AdventWord: Be

Wednesday

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15.7

Reflection

Why is such a simple thing so hard to do? All I need to do is turn to the person beside me and greet them. But what if they don't want to be bothered? What if I say the wrong thing?

But you have welcomed me, haven't you, Jesus? Now it is my turn to act.

#AdventWord: Act

Thursday

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15.13

Reflection

Hanging on the wall is a word of hope. Literally a word. Made of colourful paper, scrolled together, set inside the framework of the letters there is hope. It is an important reminder. Each day it there, a beacon, that prompts me to recall that the God whom I love is a God of hope. And I am filled.

#AdventWord: Hope

Friday

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Isaiah 11.1-5

Reflection

A shoot shall come
A promise for what is yet to be
A branch shall grown
A promise from the depths
A spirit shall rest
A promise of justice and equity
A belt shall be worn
A promise of righteousness and faithfulness

A promise for all.

#AdventWord: Promise

Saturday

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Matthew 25:35-36

Reflection

What is the price of befriending someone? Strange question isn't it? Is there a price? Or maybe the question is a different one. Rather, who do you befriend?

Is there hunger or thirst that keeps you from reaching out?

Do you build walls to keep out the stranger, not to seek the nakedness of another, to be unaware of the limitations of illness or the places that imprison?

What will it take for you to reach out today? Someone waits for you.

#AdventWord: Befriend

Credits:

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