

# Advent Prayers



Church of the Redeemer  
Advent Three 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 Three to the Saturday Following

December 11 to December 17

*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 being by saying*

Watch at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.

*Luke 31.36*

*We continue with the Psalm*

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith for ever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.  
The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
The LORD will reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, **for all generations.**

**Praise the LORD!**

*Psalm 146.5-10*

*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 ~ The Song of Mary**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
    he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed;  
    the Almighty has done great things for me  
    and holy is his name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him,  
    from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm  
    and has scattered the proud in their conceit,  
Casting down the mighty from their thrones  
    and lifting up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
    and sent the rich away empty.  
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
    to remember his promise of mercy,  
The promise made to our ancestors,  
    to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

*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 for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. 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***

May he live while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

*Psalm 72.5*

### ***Reflection***

Do you ever stand on the shore and watch the sun— or moonlight dancing on the water? Do you bask in the glow of the light shining down—light that shines from one generation to the next. We wait for the one who is the Light of the world. Light that comes to scatter the darkness. Light to guide our way in the dance of life.

#AdventWord: Glow



## **Monday**

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

*Psalm 18.2*

## **Reflection**

My rock. My fortress.

In the storms of life—a refuge.

In times of sorrow and grief—shelter

In times when I feel alone—stronghold.

God—The one on whom I rely.

#AdventWord: Rely

## **Tuesday**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'

*Matthew 11.2-3*

## **Reflection**

Are you the one?

He had prepared the way

Are you the one?

He had proclaimed the one who was to come

Are you the one?

He asked.

Are you the one who will make low the high places, make straight the crooked, make smooth the rough?

#AdventWord: Mend

## **Wednesday**

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

‘Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

*Isaiah 35.4-7*

## **Reflection**

Imagine the day

When we see

When we hear

When we leap

When we speak

Imagine the day

When justice,

peace,

Equity

Prevail.

Imagine!

#AdventWord: Surprise

## **Thursday**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!

*James 5.7-9*

## **Reflection**

Do you trust that the day will come?

Like the farmer who plants the fields in spring and must wait, gentle rains, warmth of sun, patience...

Do you trust that the day will come?

When our faith, planted in the fields in spring, will grow with nurture and with patience...

Trust.

#AdventWord: Trust

## **Friday**

What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

*Matthew 11:8-11*

## **Reflection**

Wait, watch, pray

These are the words of Advent.

So too are prepare, send, tell.

What is being awakened in you? Where are you hearing God's call to be prepared, to be sent, to tell?

#AdventWord: Awaken

## **Saturday**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

*Luke 1.39-45*

## **Reflection**

The child leapt. Elizabeth knew. As we prepare to welcome the child born in a manger so long ago and anew in us listen for Mary's greeting...

Embrace the joy that leaps within you; hope that dances around you, spirit that lives through you.

#AdventWord: Embrace







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