

Advent Prayers



Church of the Redeemer
Advent One 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 following weekdays) before Christmas Day. The season's name comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "arrival". We use this time to get ready for "the birth in time of the timeless Son of God" – and to get ready for the same Son of God to come again at the end of time. It is a time that we look back to his birth and yet also look ahead to the time that is yet to come.

We have looked to readings that call us to enter into a time where we wait, watch, prepare. We prepare to welcome the little one born in a manger. We wait for the Jesus—the One—who came to cast light on the path before us. In our waiting, watching and preparing we seek Jesus the Christ who is our companion. We seek to make time for quiet, for stillness where we might listen for the voice of the One who calls us beloved.

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 addition, we will include some part of each day's reading or reflection on our Facebook page.

In Peace we pray...

Advent One to the Saturday Following

November 30 to December 6

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

To the leader: on Lilies, a Covenant. Of Asaph. A Psalm.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might,

and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O LORD God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears,

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbours;

our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Ps 80.1-7; 17-19

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 the Church

We praise you, O God,
we acclaim you as the Lord;
all creation worships you,
the Father everlasting.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
You, Christ, are the King of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you took our flesh to set us free
you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

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

The Intercessions

Prayer for the Day

First Sunday of Advent

O God of all the ages, rouse us from sleep, deliver us from our heedless ways and form us into a watchful people, so that, at the advent of your Son, we may be found doing what is right, mindful of all you command. We ask this through him whose coming is certain and whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Monday

O Lord our God, us eager in awaiting the second coming of your Son, that when he knocks upon the door of this present age, he may find us watching with prayer and exulting in his praises; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Tuesday

In your mercy, Lord God, give ear to our supplications, and in your love come to the aid of those who suffer tribulation, so that gaining strength from the approaching presence of your Son we may not be weakened by any taint of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wednesday

Prepare our hearts, O Lord our God, with your divine power, so that when Christ your Son approaches, we may be found worthy of the banquet of eternal life and receive the heavenly food which he himself will serve to all who have loved your name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Thursday

Raise up, O Lord, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; and because our sins hinder and sorely obstruct us in running the race that is before us, may your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Friday

Raise up your power, Lord Jesus, and come to us, that just as you rescued us when we were in danger of being crushed by our sins, so may your love set us free to serve you with continual gladness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Saturday

O God, who sent your only Son to free all creation from its bondage to futility, grant that we who faithfully await the advent of your surpassing love, may receive the reward of true liberty; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[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.

Concluding Prayers

In the morning

Holy and enabling Spirit,
Give wings to our morning prayers.
May those we support and cherish with our love
Receive your grace to help them in their need. Amen.

In the evening

Preserve us, O God, while waking,
And guard us while sleeping,
That awake we may watch with Christ,
And asleep may rest in your peace. Amen.

The Readings and Reflections

Sunday

'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Mark 13.24-37

Reflection

And so we begin. No gurgling baby in the manger. No cattle lowing. That will come, in due course. Today we have the words 'Keep awake'. During these days of Advent, the gift for us that of time. Time to keep awake and notice God's work in our world. What will you notice?

Monday

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Isaiah 64.1-9

Reflection

Shape me.

Form me.

Create in me.

All that I can be.

In Peace We Pray

Tuesday

And now the LORD says,
 who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
 and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD,
 and my God has become my strength—
he says,
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob
 and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
 that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Isaiah 49.5-6

Reflection

Where is the light shining in your life today?

As you go about your day, pause.

Where is the light shining in your life today?

As you go about your day, give thanks.

Where is the light shining in your life today?

As you go about your day, share.

Share the good news of the Light shining in your life today.

Wednesday

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25.1-13

Reflection

What are you waiting for?

Waiting is hard. Sometimes we don't know when things will happen or how they will turn out. Sometimes we think we are prepared for anything and others we discover that we didn't anticipate delays along the way.

What are you waiting for?

Justice?

Peace?

An ending?

A beginning?

Will you ask Jesus to be with you—in your waiting?

Thursday

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

Isaiah 55.7

Reflection

Peace

Announces the messenger

Good news

Is the message

Salvation

Awaits

God

Reigns

Be still and listen...

Friday

'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.'

Mark 4.3-8

Reflection

I stand and look toward the horizon. What I see stretches before me, farther than I can imagine. The land is flat—or seems so. The land is rich. Seed is planted here and with the right temperatures and just enough rain, soon, dancing in the gentle breeze, the grain grows. Abundantly.

I stand and look toward the horizon. All around, I see farther than I can imagine. I have been planted in rich soil—in a community that nurtures me with care and love. These help me to grow and in time I dance with the gentle wind of the Spirit that is my inspiration.

Look around you. You have been planted in rich soil. You are growing, abundantly. Dance with the Spirit!

Saturday

And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6.27-33

Reflection

What do you worry about?

Today, for this moment, this hour, this day—let it go.

Listen for God.

Could it be that you have found you don't need to worry. Could it be that your life is richer today.

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