

# 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 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 Three to the Saturday Following

December 14 to December 20

*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*

*A Song of Ascents.*

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations,  
'The LORD has done great things for them.'  
The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.  
May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.  
Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.

Psalm 126

*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.*

In Peace We Pray

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### ***The Canticle ~ The Song of Zechariah***

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
    he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
    born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
    from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
    and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,  
    to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship him without fear,  
    holy and righteous in his sight  
    all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet  
    of the Most High,  
    for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation  
    by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God  
    the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow  
    of death,  
    and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1.68-79*

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**

#### **Third Sunday of Advent**

God of light, who sent the Baptist to offer hope and to face the world's scorn; open our ears to hear the cries from the margins, exposing our fears, sharpening our vision and calling us to faith; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.

#### **Monday**

God of mercy, our stronghold and our sure defense, who sent your Saviour; Renew us in your love, that we may turn and know you to be in our midst, even as we await the day of Jesus Christ our Lord, who was and who is and who is to come.

#### **Tuesday**

God Most High, let the ears of your love be open to our cries, and illumine the night in our hearts with the glory of your Son's appearing; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

#### **Wednesday**

O wisdom, you came forth from the Most High, and reach from one end of the earth to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

#### **Thursday**

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, you appeared in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched hand.

#### **Friday**

O Root of Jesse, you stand as an ensign to the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, and nations bow in worship: Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

## **Saturday**

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and no one can shut, you shut and no one can open: Come and bring the captives out of the prison house, those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

*[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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
"Make straight the way of the Lord" ',

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

John 1.6-8, 19-28



## Reflection

Who are you?

John was asked...

Not the Messiah

Not Elijah

Not the Prophet

Who are you?

John answered

*The voice of one crying out in the wilderness*

Who are you?

How will you answer?

## **Monday**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

*Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11*

*Reflection*

What is the good news that you will hear this day?  
For the broken-hearted  
The captive and the prisoner  
Those who mourn.

What is the good news that you will hear this day?  
Gladness  
Praise  
Justice.

What is the good news that you will hear this day?  
For the world  
For the community  
For yourself

Listen for the good news to spring up before all nations.

## **Tuesday**

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

*Isaiah 55.10-11*

## **Reflection**

What word had you received...

Listen to what God has to say to you today.

What is it that you are called to do?

God waits to receive back the fulfillment of what you hear.

God waits...

For you.

## Wednesday

Wisdom praises herself,  
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.  
In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,  
and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:  
'I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
and covered the earth like a mist.  
I dwelt in the highest heavens,  
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.  
Alone I compassed the vault of heaven  
and traversed the depths of the abyss.  
Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,  
and over every people and nation I have held sway.  
Among all these I sought a resting-place;  
in whose territory should I abide?

'Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,  
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.  
He said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob,  
and in Israel receive your inheritance."  
Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,  
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.

*Ecclesiasticus 24. 1-9*

## Reflection

Wisdom

Moving in and through  
Highest heavens  
Depths of the abyss

Waves

Earth  
All people

Wisdom dwells here.

In Peace We Pray

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## **Thursday**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

*Exodus 3.1-6*

### *Reflection*

In the quiet of the early morning  
In the din of the busy city  
In the solitude of an empty path  
In the midst of the crowds

Look around—do you see?

Be still—listen

There.

Where you are

Holy ground.

Will you answer when called?

Here I am.

## **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.

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.  
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.

*Isaiah 11.1-9*

## *Reflection*

When so many hurt

The refugees fleeing war-torn lands

The survivors burying those who succumb to illness ravaging their communities

When so many hurt

The abused who seek sanctuary and safety

The hungry who seek nourishment for their soul or their body

When so many hurt

The marginalized who pray to be seen and heard

The lonely who pray to know fellowship

For these, for us, a shoot shall come...



## **Saturday**

And will clothe him with your robe and bind your sash on him. I will commit your authority to his hand, and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open. I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his ancestral house.

*Isaiah 22.21-23*

## **Reflection**

Open  
No one shall shut

Shut  
No one shall open

He is the key

Open to him

Open

He is the key





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