

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH ADVENT

*17-24 December – O Antiphons*

17th December

## CALL TO PRAYER

**Leader:** The Creator, the Wisdom of God draws near, the mist of the prophets' promise is dispersed.

**All:** **Come and show us the way of God**

**Leader:** Joy clears the skies, truth is resplendent, the dark shadows are dispelled.

**All:** **Come and show us the way of God**

**Leader:** the gates of Eden are opened, Adam and Eve dance in exultation:  
Our Creator and God wishes to fashion us anew.

**All:** **Come and show us the way of God**

**READING:** Sirach 24: 3,9,18

## RESPONSORY

**Leader: R.** Sophia–Wisdom, you pour out teaching like prophecy

**All:** *repeat R*

**Leader:** You bequeath it to all generations

**All:** R

**Leader:** Glory...

**All:** R

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

**Antiphon:** O Wisdom coming from the Lord most high  
and teaching us from beginning until now,  
Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come,  
do not delay.

## INTERCESSIONS

### Morning

As we prepare for the coming of your Word  
we turn to you in our need...

For peace and tolerance among religious traditions

For safety on our roads

For those who live on our streets

For the Church which proclaims Christ's coming

For...

*Our Father*

**Evening**

For the ministers of your church

For aboriginal people

For married couples

For...

For our departed sisters and brothers...

*Our Father*

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**CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Faithful God,

your Son was born to your chosen and beloved people,  
the fulfillment of your promise.'

Fill us in this time of expectation  
with the faith of your people Israel.

May all who wait for the coming day of redemption  
trust in your faithfulness.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,

Son of God and Son of Israel

who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

**BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

May Wisdom, the holy word of God give us deep knowledge and perception all our  
days.

**Amen.**

18th December

### CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Come sacred Lord our God  
All: Come to save us  
Leader: Stretch out your hand to set us free  
All: Come to save us  
Leader: Come bring us your hope  
All: Come be our guide

READING: Jeremiah 23:5–8

### RESPONSORY

Leader: God listens to our groans  
All: redeems us with an outstretched arm,  
frees us from our burdens,  
delivers us from bondage

### GOSPEL CANTICLE

Antiphon: O Lord of might who pointed Sion's way  
may that same strength'ning life guide us today  
Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come,  
do not delay.

### INTERCESSIONS

#### Morning

We look forward with joy to your coming O Christ  
as we pray...

For freedom from fear and repression  
For a spirit of hospitality to strangers  
For those persecuted for their faith  
For the grace to watch for Christ's coming  
For...

*Our Father*

#### Evening

For those without friends and home  
For victims of abuse  
For our benefactors

For...

For all the dead...

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### CONCLUDING PRAYER

In the psalms of David, in the words of the prophets,  
in the dream of Joseph, your promise is spoken, eternal God  
and takes flesh at last in the womb of the Virgin.

May Emmanuel find welcome in our hearts,  
take flesh in our lives, and be for all peoples  
the welcome advent of redemption and grace.

We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near:

your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

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### BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May God grant us to be constant in hope and steadfast in love.

**Amen.**

## 19th December

### CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Come flower of Jesse's stem

All: **Come to save us**

Leader: From every foe, deliver us

All: **Come, let nothing deep you from coming to our aid**

READING: 1 Samuel 1:12-18

### RESPONSORY

Leader: R. A shoot shall come from the stump of Jesse

All: *repeat* R

Leader: The earth shall be full of the knowledge of God

All: R

Leader: Glory...

All: R

### GOSPEL CANTICLE

Antiphon: O Branch of Jesse, sign to all the world  
before your might great kings in worship fall  
Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come,  
do not delay.

### INTERCESSIONS

#### Morning

O Christ, you come to us in love,  
be with us as we pray...

For ecologists and all who steward the earth

For lost and abandoned children

For the aged

For hearts ready to welcome the Saviour

For...

*Our Father*

#### Evening

For those who work without acknowledgement

For a spirit of hospitality to refugees

For those burdened by worry

For...

For those who have died in the peace of Christ...

*Our Father*

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## CONCLUDING PRAYER

Faithful God,  
your servant Hannah was persistent in her prayer  
despite misunderstanding and opposition.  
Embolden us to give voice to our hope in Christ.  
Make us persistent in prayer  
that the festival of Christmas may find us ready  
to rejoice in the birth of the long-awaited one.  
Jesus Christ who is Lord,  
for ever and ever. **Amen**

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May we be aware today that the earth is filled with the glory of the Lord.  
**Amen.**

## 20th December

### CALL TO PRAYER

**Leader:** Come holy and true One

**All:** Come to save us

**Leader:** Come break down the prison walls of death

**All:** Come, lead your captive people into freedom

**READING:** 1 Samuel 1: 19–23

### RESPONSORY

**Leader:** We wait for the coming of the Holy and True One  
who holds the key of David

**All:** Christ opens and no one shuts,  
he shuts and no one opens.

### GOSPEL CANTICLE

**Antiphon:** O key of David, Staff of Israel  
You open doors that light may enter in  
Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come,  
do not delay.

### INTERCESSIONS

#### Morning

As we prepare for the coming of your Word we turn to you in our need...

For refugees in need of welcome

For those seeking employment

For those who lament

For the Lord to come and make no delay

For...

*Our Father*

#### Evening

For Christians who suffer for their beliefs

For the hungry and homeless

For women and men religious

For...

For those who have died...

*Our Father*

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

God of wonder,  
through the love of Hannah and Elkanah  
you blessed Israel with a mighty prophet.  
Grant that our love for you and for one another  
may create in us hearts ready to accept the child of Bethlehem,  
the king of glory, Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

May God bless us with patience as we await the birth of the Son. **Amen.**

## 21st December

### CALL TO PRAYER

**Leader:** Come radiant dawn, splendour of eternal light

**All:** Come to save us

**Leader:** Come Sun of Justice

**All:** Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death

**READING:** Zephaniah 3: 14–18a

### RESPONSORY

**Leader:** Out of God's deepest mercy a dawn will come from on high

**All:** light for those shadowed by death,  
a guide for our feet on the way to peace.

### GOSPEL CANTICLE

**Antiphon:** O Rising Dawn that brings both warmth and light

O Sun of Justice giving birth and life:

Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come,  
do not delay.

### INTERCESSIONS

#### Morning

We look forward with joy to your coming O Christ...

For those trapped by forces that stifle the human spirit

For the poor and the needy

For those who nurture life

For a deepened faith in Christ the Daystar

For...

*Our Father*

#### Evening

For victims of poverty and national unrest

For prisoners

For shopkeepers and tradespeople

For...

For the faithful departed...

*Our Father*

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

God of wonder,  
we anxiously await the coming of your Son.  
Fill our hearts with praise of your name  
and make us ready to live the Good News  
that we may accept with gratitude the gift we will celebrate  
on the festival of Christ's birth.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

May we walk this day in the radiant light of your love.  
**Amen.**

## 22nd December

### CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Come Desire of nations  
All: Come to bind our hearts into one  
Leader: Bid our divisions cease  
All: Be for us our Prince of Peace

READING: 1 Samuel 2: 1-5

### RESPONSORY

Leader: Our God is in our midst  
All: reigning over us with gladness, renewing us in love,  
exulting over us, as on a day of festival.

### GOSPEL CANTICLE

Antiphon: O Prince of Peace, our hearts in love do bind,  
the sad divisions turn to loving kind  
Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come,  
do not delay.

### INTERCESSIONS

#### Morning

Christ, joy of every heart, hear us as we pray...  
For leaders of churches and nations  
For the homeless and forgotten  
For those awaiting birth  
For open hearts to receive the Word of God  
For...  
*Our Father*

#### Evening

For all the nations of the world  
For safety on our beaches and in our holiday places  
For those absent from home and community  
For...  
For the dead that they may rest in peace...  
*Our Father*

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Holy One of Israel

Hannah and Mary proclaim your mighty deeds,  
giving hope and strength to those who have none.

May we, who await the festival of the birth of your Anointed One  
have cause to rejoice in you  
and come to share in the glory of Christ  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

May the god of peace make us perfect and holy  
and keep us safe and blameless. **Amen.**

## 23rd December

### CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Come and visit us in peace O Lord  
All: and we will rejoice with hearts renewed  
Leader: Our God is at hand  
All: Come let us adore

READING: Matthew 1: 18-21

### RESPONSORY

Leader: O Emmanuel, God-with-us, come and save us  
All: To you shall be the obedience of the nations  
Leader: Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!  
All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

### GOSPEL CANTICLE

Antiphon: O come, Emmanuel, Redeemer dear  
Our darkness fades as God's Son appears  
Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come, Lord Jesus come,  
do not delay.

### INTERCESSIONS

#### Morning

O Christ, the eternal light of God  
enlighten the darkness of our minds as we pray...  
For enduring love for husbands and wives  
For the children of our world  
For those travelling  
For light on our pilgrim way  
For...  
*Our Father*

#### Evening

For peace and rest this night  
For belief in the young  
For those who do not have a voice  
For...  
For eternal life for all the dead...  
*Our Father*

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

God of dreams,  
your servants Mary and Joseph dared to trust in your power  
and welcomed your Word who dwelt among us as an infant.  
May their example and intercession  
encourage us to expand our hearts  
to embrace Christ in the poor, the lonely and the sick.  
May our celebration of Christmas be true to your Son Jesus  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

May God bless us and embrace us and send us forth with a spirit of love.  
**Amen.**

## 24th December

### CALL TO PRAYER

**Leader:** Come, beloved Bridegroom, heaven's eternal spring!

**All:** **Come speak to us your eternal Word!**

**Leader:** Our God is at hand

**All:** **Come let us adore**

**READING:** Song of Songs 2: 8-13

### RESPONSORY

**Leader:** For the woman who was with child  
the appointed hour had come.

**All:** **For the Church that is with child  
the appointed hour has come.**

### GOSPEL CANTICLE

**Antiphon:** The time is now at hand for Mary to give birth

### INTERCESSIONS

**Leader:** We wait for you Emmanuel. Come and save us as we pray...

For victims of war and oppression

For those awaiting birth

For open hearts to receive the Word of God

For the grace to wait in joy

For...

*Our Father*

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### CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lover of your people,  
the coming of your Word as a human being  
brings to fulfillment the marriage of heaven and earth  
and renews creation, torn by sin.  
Increase our longing for union with you  
and make us aware of your presence among us.  
May our celebration of Christ's birth

draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
Child of Bethlehem and eternal Word,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

May the blessing of God flow over us as we await the One is to come.  
**Amen.**