

ADVENT ...

*We wait in joyful hope for
the coming of the Lord.*



Advent is a time of preparation and joyful expectation. Filled with hope, we open our hearts in wonder and praise at the coming of Christ. As we hope and trust that Advent will come, we experience the love of God among us and pray for the peace and joy of Christmas.

“Be alert 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 21: 25-36

Reflection

How can I stay awake to the presence of God this Advent?



Dear Lord

Help me to be awake and aware of the radiance you bring to my life.
Help me to be grateful each day for the blessings of families and friends.

Let me be a peacemaker in my own life and for others
I pray especially for this troubled world
and those so in need of your love and mercy.

Amen



*“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”
Luke 3:1-6*

Reflection

What valleys and hills need to be made low in my life for me to receive God more deeply this Advent?



In lonely places
The wilderness
Where we stand forlorn
Windswept and alone
Your voice calls out.

Prepare the way of the Lord

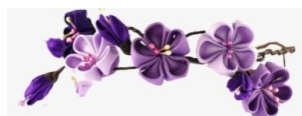
In the dark places
The Shadows
Where we hide our fears
Embrace our tears
Your voice calls out.

Prepare the way of the Lord

In the desert places in which we walk
The streets we roam
The paths we cross
Guide our feet
Take us to places
Where you would go
Give us words that you would use
That in this Advent season
Of promise and preparation
We might point the way with John the Baptist
To the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

John Birch Celtic Liturgies 2008



“John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” Luke 3:7-18

Reflection

What am I able to do to prepare for Jesus’ coming to me?



Compassionate God
Hold me in your love
Make me generous in my dealings with others.
Help me to be aware of your light within.
Gently lift me up when I fall down.
Call me by my name as I await your coming.
Come, Lord Jesus,



*“And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his
servant. Surely, from now on all generations will
call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great
things for me, and holy is his name.” Luke 1:39-45*

Reflection

When have I said ‘Yes’ to God and then “gone out in haste” like Mary?

What makes me hesitate and hold back?



Father, All powerful God your eternal Word took flesh on our earth.
When Mary placed her life at your service.
Lift my mind in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his
glory. Amen.