



ADVENT

Readings and Prayers for Advent at Home

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Readings and Prayers for Advent at Home

There is a common misunderstanding that Advent is all about preparing for Christmas. From advent calendars that are used to sell anything from beer to tea to toys, to warnings that there are only so many shopping days 'til Christmas, our culture has absorbed the season of Advent as one big countdown.

But actually , the Christian season of Advent is a time of *preparation* – not baking cookies and wrapping presents (though those are great things to do!), but preparing ourselves to watch and wait for the arrival of Jesus Christ. Advent is also a time of *anticipation* where we start with the future, looking forward to the second coming of Jesus and the eternal reign of God is coming, and end with the past, celebrating the Messiah born in Bethlehem.

Even though we cannot gather together at this time, there are many ways we can still pray and worship together, despite being physically apart. Bishop William continues to offer an online Sunday Communion service which can be found at the Diocese of Brandon YouTube channel and you can find uploads on the Henry Budd College YouTube channel and Facebook page.

We have prepared this booklet for you to use on Sundays for prayer and worship at home. Bishop William Cliff has provided the Sunday prayers so that we can all pray together though we are apart. We also incorporated an adapted Advent Candle lighting liturgy that some of the northern churches use every Advent. It is based on the traditional teachings of the Four Directions. These readings focus on the four life

stages the directions represent – child, youth, adult, and elder and connect them to Advent related themes.

If you're able, create a little Advent corner in your home – all you need is 5 candles, one for each Sunday in Advent and a centre candle for Christmas, reminding us that Christ is our centre. The candles are placed in the shape of a wreath or a circle, and they are often surrounded by evergreens, so you could pick some pine, spruce, or cedar and create an Advent refection space in your home.

At the back of this booklet, we have also included a section on the “O Antiphons”, Scriptures and prayers for the 7 days before Christmas, focused on seven prophetic titles of the Messiah from the Hebrew Bible. We have also included the Gospel readings for every day in December, if you want to use them for reading, meditation, or Gospel Based Discipleship with your family or household

If you need any assistance or have questions, please contact Henry Budd College – hbcm@mymts.net or 204 623 3311.



Sunday, November 29 - 1st Sunday in Advent (Year B)

Opening Prayer: **Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.**

Lighting the Advent Candle (east) – Look Up

Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. *Luke 21:28*

We light this candle in the direction of the east, the place where the sun rises and signifying awakening to a new day. We light this candle to remind us in our Christian walk to “look up” and look for Jesus. We light this candle to symbolize the time of childhood, looking to understand your gift of love to the world through your Son. We look up to see Jesus in our midst.

Prayer Creator, on this first Sunday of Advent, you call us to watch, to awaken, to prepare for your coming again. May we look up to see your love, your majesty, your truth in our lives. May we share this with our families, and bring healing into our communities. **Amen.**

Psalm 80:1-7; 16-18

- Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered

- despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, our good shepherd; you have led us to the kingdom of your Father's love. Forgive our careless indifference to your loving care for all your creatures, and remake us in the likeness of your new and risen life. We ask this in your name. Amen

Gospel of the Day – Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, "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."

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Prayers of Intercession

As we begin a new year in the life of the Church, let us pray together to the God of our making.

Holy God, just as we are we come to you, and ask for your kingdom to come in us and in this place; increase our faith and our love for you, so that we may become the lights in the darkness that we are called to be.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Holy God, the signs in our world of hate, distrust and greed are shown to us clearly everyday. May we see with your eyes the signs of hope and victory; the opportunities for loving service, for encouragement, reassurance and thanksgiving.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Holy God, bless the parenting and befriending in all our relationships and increase our love for one another. Give us the humility to accept guidance and warnings, lovingly given, and the courage to uphold one another in the faith

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Holy God, we bring to you in love those that are weary with ongoing pain and weakness, those who are frail with age and all who are

vulnerable; Pour your living strength into their lives and protect them from all that is harmful.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Holy God we pray for all who have come to the end of their earthly life, and for those whose lives feel empty without them. Give comfort to the bereaved, and everlasting peace to all who rest in your love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Holy God, your faithful care has brought us safely to this moment; we thank you for your constant love, forgiveness, strength and protection.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer



Sunday, December 6th – 2nd Sunday in Advent

Opening Prayer: Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever, Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle (south) - Prepare

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight... All flesh shall see the salvation of God. *Luke 3:4,6*

We light this candle in the direction of the south signifying the season of summer, giving thanks for growth in our lives. We light this candle to remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ in our lives. We light this candle to symbolize the time of youth, a time of preparation and growth, and a deepening understanding that through the gift of Christ in our lives, we have hope. We prepare the way of the Creator in our lives, living in harmony one with another.

Prayer Creator, John the Baptist called us to repent, to prepare the way of the Lord. May we begin our own preparations for his coming anew with hope in our hearts. May we look to Christ, preparing the way through bearing witness to love and truth in our families and in our communities. Creator, deliver us that the earth be full of the knowledge of your ways. **Amen.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people

- and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

God of grace, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son to be our Saviour. Help us to rejoice in our salvation by showing mercy and truth, and by walking in the way of righteousness and peace. We ask this in his name and for his sake. Amen

Gospel of the Day – Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Prayers of Intercession

John the Baptist prepares the way for the coming of the Messiah by helping the people realign their lives.

As we gather expectantly in God's presence, let us pray.

God of cleansing and liberating power, give us the courage and perception to see ourselves as we really are, and repent of our sin; may the whole church be cleansed and renewed.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

God of wisdom and truth, we pray for the world's leaders and all in authority, that they may lead and govern wisely and honestly, without corruption and for the common good.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

God of love and faithfulness, may every family be surrounded and upheld by your presence, the conflicts healed and the needs provided for, and every act of kindness blessed.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

God of wholeness, bring your reassurance and healing, your hope and patience to all who are suffering in any way; bring freedom to all imprisoned by hate, guilt or despair, and a change of heart to all who need to forgive.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

God of unending life, bring life in its fullness to us here, and to those who have completed their time on earth. May they know the freedom and joy of your heaven.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

God of warmth and brightness, we praise you for all our many blessings, and above all for coming to save us and set us free.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, Inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer



Sunday, December 13th – 3rd Sunday in Advent

Opening Prayer: Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever, Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle (west) - Rejoice

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” *Luke 4:18-19*

We light this candle in the western direction, the direction of the setting sun and symbolizing autumn, the time of the harvest. We light this candle thankful that Christ brought good tidings, the promise of new life—the blind receiving sight, the lame walking and the prisoner set free. We light this candle, thankful for our adult responsibilities, for seeing how we may help to make the world a better place for our children and grandchildren. We rejoice that Christ has set us free!

Prayer Creator, strengthen our weak hands that we may find your holy way, the way of the redeemed where joy and gladness live. May we understand our own gifts and bring teachings for the good of our communities and for the world. May we do the work that Jesus has given us to do with purpose and joy. Amen

Psalm 126

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
 "The Lord has done great things for them."
4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
 and we are glad indeed.
5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
 like the watercourses of the Negev.
6 Those who sowed with tears *
 will reap with songs of joy.
7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
 will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Praise to you, God of our salvation. Your generous gifts surpass all that we can ask or imagine. You have delivered us from the exile of sin and restored us to new life in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Glory and honour and praise to you for ever and ever.

Gospel of the Day - John 1:6-8, 19-28

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.

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Prayers of Intercession

In Jesus, God will be fulfilling the Messianic prophesies about the promised Saviour

Let us pray now to the living God, who always keeps his promises, and who knows us so well.

Loving Father, keep the Church faithful in telling the good news, comforting the desolate, actively loving justice and drawing many to freedom through the joy of your forgiveness.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

As the Church, we pray for the world, that there may be integrity in leadership; mercy and justice for rich and poor, strong and weak; and there may be peace among nations and respect for all.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

As the family of believers, we pray for those around us now and their needs; and for the families we represent, and their needs. May the love of Christ be shown in what we do and how we speak and how we spend.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

In compassion we call to mind all who are locked in physical or emotional pain, all who are weighted down with worry, guilt or despair. Restore and refresh them, comfort and free them.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

As a resurrection people, we commend to our love those who have died to this earthly life. May they, and we in our turn, experience forever the joy of your eternity.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

As followers of the living Christ, we praise you for the living Christ, we praise you for the prophecies fulfilled, the promises honoured and the victory over evil gloriously accomplished in him to fill our lives with hope.

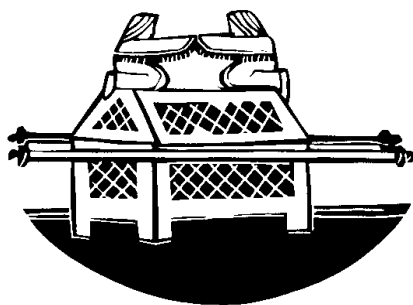
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect of the Day

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



Sunday, December 20th – 4th Sunday in Advent

Opening Prayer: Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the center of this sacred circle through which all creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle (north) Bear Witness

“A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.” *Matthew 1:23*

We light this white candle in the direction of the north, the place of sweeping winter winds, and northern lights, the time of year when stories are told on long evenings. We light this candle remembering that we ourselves bear witness to “God with us” through the example of love in our lives. We light this candle representing the time of our lives when we are elders and our stories are told with wisdom and experience. We bear witness to our Creator’s promise to be *Emmanuel*: God with us.

Prayer Creator, you gave us the gift of Emmanuel, God with us. May we bear witness to the presence of Jesus in our lives and in our communities. May we share the good news of Jesus’ promise to be with us always to the very end of the age. **Amen.**

Canticle 18 - The Song of Mary (Luke 1.46–55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; *
for 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 *

in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

Gospel of the Day – Luke 1:26-28

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the

servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out for you in the Gospel of the Day?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do or be?

Prayers of Intercession

God's promised kingdom, announced both to King David in ancient times and to Mary by the angel Gabriel, will go on forever.

Gathered as the Church of God in this place let us pray together for the coming of the kingdom.

Lord of heaven, may the Church be quiet enough to hear your voice, humble enough to move your way and excited enough to spread the good news.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Lord of heaven, bless all who lead with integrity and respect for others; bless all in positions of authority with humility and a sense of right; may unjust practices be changed for good and conflicts of great tension be peacefully resolved.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Lord of heaven, make our homes places of loving acceptance and developing faith; teach us in our friendships to grow in generosity of spirit.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Lord of heaven, give patience and courage to all who have to wait, when the waiting is long and painful; bring healing to all who are wounded, whether physically or emotionally, and give them the assurance of your presence.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Lord of heaven, welcome into your eternity those who have died to this life and whose hope is in you. Comfort those who mourn them and reach into their pain with your love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Lord of heave, we thank you for your faithful promise to us, fulfilled in the coming of Jesus. We welcome his kingship in our lives.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer



O Antiphons

The *O Antiphons* are seven titles for the Messiah from the prophet Isaiah. They were put together by monks in the early Middle Ages and were used in prayers on the seven days leading up to Christmas. In Latin, the seven titles form an *acrostic* (alphabet poem): **S**apientia (Wisdom)

Adonai (Lord and Ruler)

Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)

Clavis David (Key of David)

Oriens (Dawn/Morning Star)

Rex Genitum (King of the Nations)

Emanuel (God with Us)

When read backwards, the first letter of each title spells **ero cras** which in Latin means *tomorrow I come* – all leading up to the Christmas celebration of Jesus' birth. You can also find these titles, in a different order, in the wonderful hymn "O Come O Come Emmanuel".

All of this is not just an interesting but irrelevant historical curiosity – these titles for the coming Messiah, who we know as Jesus, all point to an aspect of Jesus' life and ministry. They remind us most powerfully that Jesus IS the promised Messiah, who was incarnated (took on human flesh) as a baby and reigns as the King of all creation. A responsive prayer is included here – a call for Jesus to come soon, both in anticipation of celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas, but also a prayer for Jesus to return to earth again as Lord and King of all. The *O Antiphons* are special meditations on who Jesus is as Messiah and uniquely prepare us for recognising him for who he is.



O WISDOM



O ADONAI



O FLOWER
OF JESSE



O KEY OF
DAVID



O RADIANT
DAWN



O KING



O EMMANUEL

December 17 - *Sapientia*: “O Wisdom”

Isaiah 11:2-3

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

Prayer

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

December 18 - *Adonai*: “O Lord ad Ruler”

Isaiah 11:4-5

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.

Prayer

O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

December 19 - *Radix Jesse*: “O Root/Branch of Jesse”

Isaiah 11:1, 10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Prayer

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

December 20 - *Clavis David*: “O Key of David”

Isaiah 22:22

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.

Prayer

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

December 21 - *Oriens*: “Morning Star/ Dawn”

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

Prayer

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

December 22 - *Rex Gentium*: “O King of the Nations”

Isaiah 2:4; 9:6

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Prayer

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires:
Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save
the creature you fashioned from clay.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

December 23 - *Emmanuel*: “O Emmanuel”

Isaiah 7:14.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

Prayer

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

Gospel Readings for Advent

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Nov 29 | Mark 13:24-37 | Dec 12 | Matthew 17:9-13 |
| Nov 30 | Matthew 8:5-13 | Dec 13 | John 1:6-8, 19-28 |
| Dec 1 | Luke 10:21-24 | Dec 14 | Matthew 21:23-27 |
| Dec 2 | Matthew 15:29-39 | Dec 15 | Matthew 21:28-32 |
| Dec 3 | Matthew 7:21-27 | Dec 16 | Luke 7:19-23 |
| Dec 4 | Matthew 9:27-31 | Dec 17 | Matthew 1:1-7, 17 |
| Dec 5 | Matthew 9:10:1, 5-8 | Dec 18 | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| Dec 6 | Mark 1:1-8 | Dec 19 | Luke 1:5-25 |
| Dec 7 | Luke 5:17-26 | Dec 20 | Luke 1:26-38 |
| Dec 8 | Matthew 18:12-14 | Dec 21 | Luke 1:39-45 |
| Dec 9 | Matthew 11:28-30 | Dec 22 | Luke 1:46-56 |
| Dec 10 | Matthew 11:7-15 | Dec 23 | Luke 1:57-66 |
| Dec 11 | Matthew 11:16-19 | Dec 24 | Luke 1:67-79 |

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