

PRAYER: YOUR KINGDOM COME

READER: Lord, we wait with eager expectation for the coming of your Kingdom when the humble will be exalted and the hungry fed.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

READER: Lord, we prepare for your advent with searching minds and contrite hearts, trusting in your healing spirit and redemptive love.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

READER: Lord, we watch with those who wait and weep, longing to see the rule of justice and the reign of peace.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

READER: Lord, we seek you amongst the despised and rejected, knowing that there we will find your light shining in the dark.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

READER: Lord, we proclaim sight to the blind and liberty to the oppressed, trusting in your tender mercy and passion for justice.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

READER: Lord, we work to proclaim your truth, challenging the mighty and raising the meek.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

READER: Lord, we wrestle with our hopes and fears, our struggles and our joys labouring with creation to come to new birth.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Annabel Shilson-Thomas from Just One Year, an anthology

PRAYER

Dear God, As you draw me ever deeper into your heart,
I discover that my companions on the journey
are women and men loved by you as fully and as intimately as I am.
In your compassionate heart, there is a place for all of them.
No one is excluded.
Give me a share in your compassion, dear God,
so that your unlimited love may become visible in the way
I love my brothers and sisters. Amen.

Henri Nouwen from With Open Hands

AN ADVENT PEOPLE

God of light, shine forth, show us how to bring hope to others.
God of mercy, help us to comfort your people and share in their joy.
God of hope, make us an Advent people,
preparing the way for life in all its fullness. Amen.

Catherine Gorman CAFOD

Service compiled by Anne O'Connor 2025

PRAY AND REFLECT ADVENT SERVICE

*Celebrating the gifts of
Hope, Peace, Joy
and Love*



BE OPEN TO HOW CHRIST COMES TO US

Advent asks us to be open to how Christ comes to us, not only in our ardent seeking but also in our resting, our sleeping, our dreaming, our creating, our playing—in whatever practices and habits enable a sacred gap in our attention: a space that leaves room for Christ to enter in.

*©Jan Richardson from Illuminating the Threshold,
A Women's Christmas Retreat 2015, janrichardson.com*

A SEASON FOR STILLNESS, QUIET AND DISCERNMENT

Advent is a season for stillness, for quiet, for discernment. It is a season of active waiting, straining forward, listening, attentive and finely tuned. It's good to keep a quiet space, a sacred time, an untrammelled sanctuary away from the pressures, to be still and hear again one's deepest yearnings for a saviour.

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pause for silent prayer and reflection

A LITANY FOR ADVENT

READER: Holy God, this is earth's quiet season, the season of waiting.

ALL: We rest in the shelter of your love.

READER: This is the season of darkness, when we seek stars to guide us.

ALL: We trust in the light of your promise.

READER: This is the season of solitude,
when we listen for our own heart's rhythm.

ALL: We find warmth in the signs of your presence.

READER: This is our season to make room, a time to make ready.

ALL: For we shall join in the angels' chorus.

READER: Peace on earth, goodwill to all.

ALL: Peace on earth, goodwill to all.

Keri Wehlander from Shine on, Star of Bethlehem, an anthology

MUSIC

THE HOPE OF ADVENT

The hope of Advent asks us to stay with what is most present to us at this time: to enter this world in its heartrending brokenness and its astonishing beauty, that we might welcome the love that keeps finding its way into the world, and into us, again and again.

Hope has work for us to do. It asks us to resist going numb when the world within us or beyond us is falling apart. In the height of despair, in the deepest darkness, hope calls us to open our hearts, our eyes, our hands, that we might engage the world when it breaks our hearts.

If we believe that God has brought justice to the world, we live that justice and we share in making the world more just. If we believe that God has brought healing to the world, we live that healing and we share in making the world more whole. And hope goes with us, step by step, offering to us the manna it holds.

© Jan Richardson from *Walking the Way of Hope*
A Women's Christmas Retreat 2017, janrichardson.com

pause for silent prayer and reflection

FIRST READING ISAIAH 2: 1–5 (Advent Week 1)

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it,
Peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into plough
their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.



MUSIC

PSALM 71 (72) (Advent Week 2)

R./In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. R/.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. R/.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. R/.

May his name be blessed forever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. R/.

pause for silent prayer and reflection

AN ADVENT LITANY

At this season of watching and waiting, this season of repentance, this season of joyful expectation, as we prepare for the coming of Christ our Lord, let us pray for:

all who are	all who are denied
searching	food
vulnerable	shelter
suffering	education
poor	freedom
in need	work
in despair	respect

all who feel	all who are
unloved	fearful
rejected	oppressed
mocked	silenced
despised	tortured
cast down	ignored
cast out	alone

that they may experience the light, love, joy and hope of Christ this Advent.

Source unknown

MUSIC