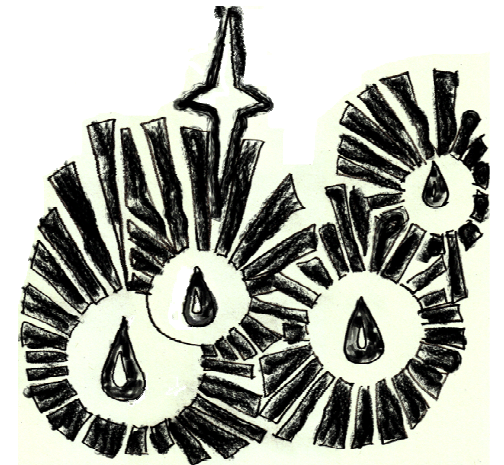


Daily readings for  
Advent and Christmas  
2010

'You know what time it is,' writes the Apostle Paul, 'how it is now the moment to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.' (Romans 13.11-12)

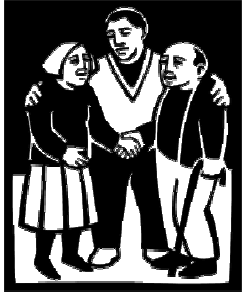
'Wake up! Get ready!' is the insistent message of this season of expectation. The wonder and excitement of Christmas can rather put the season of Advent in the shade, as it were. But Advent is the Church's measured preparation for the arrival of Christ. It is a season we can make good use of, if we give it space.



The word 'Advent' from the Latin *adventus*, means 'coming'. When we look into it a bit, we can notice that there are three comings of Christ, Firstly, there is the birth of the baby Jesus, which is the marvellous and mysterious incarnation or 'enfleshment' of God,

And he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Luke 2.21)

## The Second Sunday of Christmas



### Prayer

Heavenly Father, prepare the hearts and minds of believers and unbelievers alike to receive the transcendent mystery of your Son's Nativity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Sunday 2 January The Second Sunday of Christmas

*Jeremiah 31.7-14 or Ecclesiasticus 24.1-12*  
• *Psalm 147.13-21* or Canticle: *Wisdom 10.15-21* • *Ephesians 1.3-14* • *John 1.[1-9,] 10-18*

To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. (John 1.12)

### Monday 3 January

*1 John 2.29-3.6* • *Psalm 98.2-7* •  
*John 1.29-34*

You must see what great love the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called

God's children – which is what we are!  
(1 John 3.1)

### Tuesday 4 January

*1 John 3.7-10* • *Psalm 98.1, 8-16* •  
*John 1.35-42*

It was to undo all that the devil has done that the Son of God appeared.  
(1 John 3.8)

### Wednesday 5 January

*1 John 3.11-21* • *Psalm 100* • *John 1.43-51*  
“You will see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending over the Son of man.” (John 1.51)

## The Epiphany



### Prayer

O God, the enlightener of all nations, grant that your people may enjoy perpetual peace; and pour into our hearts that radiant light which you shone into the minds of the wise men; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Thursday 6 January The Epiphany

*Isaiah 60.1-6* • *Psalm 72. [1-9,] 10-15* •  
*Ephesians 3.1-12* • *Matthew 2.1-12*

# Daily Prayer in Advent and Christmastide

## THE PREPARATION

V/ O Lord, open our lips  
R/ **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*In Advent:*

V/ Our Sovereign and Saviour draws near.  
R/ **Come, let us worship.**

*In Christmastide:*

V/ Alleluia. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.  
R/ **Come, let us worship. Alleluia.**

*In Epiphanytide:*

V/ God in Christ has revealed his glory  
R/ **Come, let us worship.**

*Followed by the Gloria*

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

## THE OPENING CANTICLE

- 1 O God, will you not give us life again, \*  
that your people may rejoice in you?
- 2 Show us your mercy, O Lord, \*  
and grant us your salvation.
- 3 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 4 Mercy and truth are met together, \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
- 5 Truth shall spring up from the earth \*  
and righteousness look down from heaven.
- 6 Righteousness shall go before him \*  
and direct his steps in the way.

*Psalm 85.6,7,9-11,13*

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O King of the Nations and the desire of all, you are the cornerstone that binds two into one: \* come, and save the human race, which you fashioned out of clay.

**Thursday 23 December**

*Malachi 3.1-4, 4.5-6 • Psalm 25.3-9 • Luke 1.57-66*

“The Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming”, says the Lord of hosts. (Malachi 3.1)

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Expected One of the nations, and their Saviour: \* come, and save us, O Lord our God.

**Friday 24 December**

**Christmas Eve**

*2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-11, 16 • Psalm 89.2, 19-27 • Acts 13.16-26 • Luke 1.67-79*

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked with favour on his people and redeemed them.” (Luke 1.68)

## Christmas



**Prayer**

O God, who has made this most sacred night to shine with the illumination of the true light; grant that, as we have known the mystery of that light upon earth, so may we perfectly enjoy it in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Readings**

**Saturday 25 December**

**Christmas Day**

*Isaiah 52.7-10 • Psalm 98 • Hebrews 1.1-4 [5-12] • John 1.1-14*

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. (John 1.12-13)

- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things \* and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, \* to remember his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise made to our ancestors, \* to Abraham and his children for ever.

*Luke 1.46-55*

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

**THE PRAYERS**

*A time of silent prayer, extemporary prayer, and/or the following may be used.*

ADVENT INTERCESSION

Heavenly Father, your only-begotten Son has come with the promise of light and life: grant that, as we look forward with expectancy, we may stand firm in the faith.

In the world that you have created your glory shines out: come and redeem your creation with your saving power.

In the form of human flesh, your Son blessed all humanity: illuminate the hearts and minds of those who live in the darkness of ignorance and unbelief.

Through the sacrifice of Christ you bring us the gift of salvation: purify all who turn to you, and grant them reverent and obedient hearts.

When Christ comes in glory he will judge the living and the dead: bring to fruition in all those we love the fullness of new life in our Redeemer.

Christ is King over all, and will reign in majesty in his kingdom of mercy and justice: give perseverance and trust to all who long for the coming of this kingdom.

Shine the light of your truth within us, revive our faint hearts, save us from sin, and grant us a vision of the glory that is to come, when the peace of Christ restores all things in him, and reveals the fullness of your love.

## The Third Week of Advent



### Prayer

Lord our God, purify our consciences by your daily visitation, that when your Son our Lord comes, he may find in us a place prepared for him; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Readings

#### Sunday 12 December

##### The Third Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 35.1-10 ; Psalm 146.4-10 or*  
Canticle: *Magnificat ; James 5.7-10 ;*  
*Matthew 11.2-11*

Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 35.10)

#### Monday 13 December

*Numbers 24.2-7,15-17 • Psalm 25.3-8 •*  
*Matthew 21.23-27*

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. (Psalm 25.4)

#### Tuesday 14 December

*Zephaniah 3.1-2,9-13 • Psalm*  
*34.1-6,21-22 • Matthew 21.28-32*

At that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech that all of

them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord. (Zephaniah 3.9)

#### Wednesday 15 December

*Genesis 49.2,8-10 • Psalm 72.1-5,18-19 •*  
*Matthew 1.1-17*

“She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1.21)

#### Thursday 16 December

*Jeremiah 23.5-8 • Psalm 72.1, 2, 12, 13,*  
*18-20 • Matthew 1.18-24*

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do. (Matthew 1.24)

#### Friday 17 December

*Judges 13.2-7, 24-25 • Psalm 71.3-8 •*  
*Luke 1.5-25*

On you have I relied since my birth since my mother’s womb you have been my portion, the constant theme of my praise. (Psalm 71.6)

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and reaching from beginning to end, you ordered all things mightily and sweetly: \* come, and teach us the way of prudence.

#### Saturday 18 December

*Isaiah 7.10-14 • Psalm 24.1-6 •*  
*Luke 1.26-38*

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

*In Christmastide:*

Loving Lord,  
you have poured out your very self in the humiliation of earthly life,  
and have called us to be children of a heavenly family.

Draw us ever closer to each other and to Christ,  
until we come at last to the perfect unity  
of the everlasting kingdom of your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

R/ **Amen.**

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

R/ **Our Father ...**

### THE CONCLUSION

#### THE BLESSING

*In Advent:*

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.

R/ **Amen.**

*In Christmastide:*

May God, who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light,  
bless us and fill us with peace.

R/ **Amen.**

*In Epiphanytide:*

May Christ our Lord, enlighten and empower us  
with the good news of salvation.

R/ **Amen.**

### ENDING

Let us bless the Lord.

R/ **Thanks be to God.**

## The First Week of Advent



### Prayer

O Lord our God, grant that we may rejoice with upright hearts, being gathered together in unity that, at the coming of your Son our Saviour, we may go forth to meet him in purity of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Readings

#### Sunday 28 November The First Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 2.1-5 • Psalm 122 • Romans 13.11-14 • Matthew 24.36-44*

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples. (Isaiah 2.4)

#### Monday 29 November

*Day of Intercession and Thanksgiving for the Missionary Work of the Church*

*Isaiah 2.1-5 • Psalm 122 • Matthew 8.5-11*

For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. (Psalm 122.9)

#### Tuesday 30 November

##### Andrew the Apostle

*Isaiah 52.7-10 • Psalm 19.1-6 • Romans 10-12-18 • Matthew 4.18-22*

Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. (Romans 10.18)

#### Wednesday 1 December

*Isaiah 25.6-10a • Psalm 23 • Matthew 15.29-37*

He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (Psalm 23.3)

#### Thursday 2 December

*Isaiah 26.1-6 • Psalm 118.18-27a • Matthew 7.21,24-27*

It is not anyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord", who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven. (Matthew 7.21)

#### Friday 3 December

*Isaiah 29.17-24 • Psalm 27.1-4,16-17 • Matthew 9.27-31*

The lowly will find ever more joy in the Lord and the poorest of people will delight in the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 29.19)

#### Saturday 4 December

*Isaiah 30.19-21,23-26 • Psalm 146.4-9 • Matthew 9.35—10.1,6-8*

The Lord protects the stranger, he sustains the orphan and widow. (Psalm 146.9)

## The Second Week of Advent



### Prayer

Make us watchful and attentive, O God, as we await the coming of your Son our Lord, that when he comes and knocks he may not find us sleeping in sins, but awake and rejoicing in his praises; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Readings

#### Sunday 5 December The Second Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 11.1-10 • Psalm 72.1-7,18,19 [or Psalm 72.1-7] • Romans 15.4-13 • Matthew 3.1-12*

The spirit of the Lord will rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding. (Isaiah 11.2)

#### Monday 6 December

*Isaiah 35 • Psalm 85.7-13 • Luke 5.17-26*  
Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to the faint-hearted, "Be strong! Do not be afraid. Here is your God, vengeance is coming, divine retribution; he is coming to save you." (Isaiah 35.3-4)

#### Tuesday 7 December

*Isaiah 40.1-11 • Psalm 96.1,10-13 • Matthew 18.12-14*

With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. (Psalm 96.13)

#### Wednesday 8 December

*Isaiah 40.25-31 • Psalm 103.8-13 • Matthew 11.28-30*

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11.28)

#### Thursday 9 December

*Isaiah 41.13-20 • Psalm 145.1,8-13 • Matthew 11.11-15*

The oppressed and the needy search for water and there is none, their tongue is parched with thirst. I, the Lord will answer them. (Isaiah 41.17)

#### Friday 10 December

*Isaiah 48.17-19 • Psalm 1 • Matthew 11.16-19*

It was towards John that all the prophecies of the prophets and of the law were leading. (Matthew 11.13)

#### Saturday 11 December

*Ecclesiasticus 48.1-4,9-11 or 2 Kings 2.9-12 • Psalm 80.1-4,18-19 • Matthew 17.10-13*  
God of hosts, bring us back, let your face shine on us and we shall be safe. (Psalm 80.19)

## CHRISTMASTIDE INTERCESSION

All-gracious Father, through the nativity of your Son the Kingdom is among us : as we rejoice in his birth, may we ever live in the new life of his Kingdom.

Christ has blessed all humanity in his birth; may those who are oppressed and badly treated now be received with love and dignity in the new creation.

In the frailty of human life your glory dwells; may all newly born know the protection and provision of a caring family.

Christ came to bring peace; may his peace settle on troubled souls and nations, bringing reconciliation and healing.

Through Christ we can know the life that lasts for ever; through the power of your love raise up and restore to the fullness of humanity all those we love.

The glory of Christ shines on the earth, O Lord. Guide us by that light, and place on our lips the words of salvation, that we may share that love in all the world, and draw other to the kingdom of love and mercy of the one true light, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## EPIPHANY INTERCESSION

*For Epiphanytide intercession see the section below for 6 January.*

## THE COLLECT

*The Collect of the day is said – see dated weeks below – or the following.*

*In Advent:*

Lord of all,

keep us alert in the expectation of the coming of Christ;

in flame us with love and hope,

and guide us by his living light,

until we come with all the faithful

to the glorious light of our heavenly home;

where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God for ever and ever.

R/ **Amen.**

David. The virgin's name was Mary.

(Luke 1.26-27)

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O Adonai and Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush. and on Mount Sinai gave him your law: \* come, and with an outstretched arm redeem us.

## The Fourth Week of Advent



### Prayer

O Lord our God, make us ready by your divine power; that at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, we may be found worthy of the banquet of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Readings

#### Sunday 19 December

#### The Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 7.10-16 • Psalm 80.1-8,18-20 [or 80.18-20] • Romans 1.1-7 • Matthew 1.18-25*

Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation. (Psalm 80.3)

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O Root of Jesse, you stand for an ensign to humankind; before you kings shall

keep silence, and to you all nations shall have recourse: \* come and save us; do not delay.

#### Monday 20 December

*Isaiah 7.10-14 • Psalm 24.1-6 • Luke 1.26-38*

The angel said to her: “Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour.” (Luke 1.30)

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O Key of David and Sceptre of the house of Israel; you open and no one closes; you close and no one opens: \* come, and deliver from the chains of prison those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

#### Tuesday 21 December

*Zephaniah 3.14-18 • Psalm 33.1-4, 11-12, 20-21 • Luke 1.39-45*

“Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord”. (Luke 1.45)

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O Rising Dawn, Radiance of Eternal Light and Sun of Justice: \* come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

#### Wednesday 22 December

*1 Samuel 1.24-28 • Psalm 113 • Luke 1.46-56*

Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.” (Luke 1.46-48)

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

## THE WORD OF GOD

### PSALMODY AND READING(S)

*See below for psalms and readings for the day, pages 7 to .*

### ANTIPHONS ON THE MAGNIFICAT

*Advent 1:* Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God; \*  
you will conceive and give birth to a Son. Alleluia.

*Advent 2:* Blessed are you, Mary, for your great faith; \*  
all that the Lord promised you will come to pass. Alleluia.

*Advent 3:* A virgin shall conceive; \*  
she shall bring forth a Son, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Alleluia.

*Advent 4:* from 17-24 December see dated sections below.

*Christmastide:* He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation: \*  
for in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. Alleluia.

*Epiphany:* Behold, my servant whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul  
delights: \* the anointed one on whom my Spirit rests.

### CANTICLE : MAGNIFICAT (SONG OF MARY)

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; \*  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him, \*  
from generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm \*  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones \*  
and lifting up the lowly.

## The First Sunday of Christmas



### Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, who has hallowed this day by the incarnation of your Word, and the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary, grant that your people may share in this celebration; that those who have been redeemed by your grace may rejoice as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Readings

#### Sunday 26 December The First Sunday of Christmas

*Isaiah 63.7-9 • Psalm 148 [or 148.7-14] •*

*Hebrews 2.10-18 • Matthew 2.13-23*

The one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father.  
(Hebrews 2.11)

#### Monday 27 December John, Apostle and Evangelist

*Exodus 33.7-11a • Psalm 117 • 1 John 1 •  
John 21.19b-25*

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have

looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life. (1 John 1.1)

#### Tuesday 28 December

*Jeremiah 31.15-17 • Psalm 124 • 1*

*Corinthians 1.26-29 • Matthew 2.13-18*

A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. (Jeremiah 31.15)

#### Wednesday 29 December

**Stephen, Deacon, first Martyr** (transferred)

*2 Chronicles 24.20-22 or Acts 7.51-60 •*

*Psalm 119.161-168 • Acts 7.51-60 or*

*Galatians 2.16b-20 • Matthew 10.17-22*

[Stephen] knelt down and cried out in a loud voice “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” (Acts 7.60)

#### Thursday 30 December

*1 John 2.12-17 • Psalm 96.7-10 •*

*Luke 2.36-40*

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Nazareth. And as the child grew to maturity, he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him.  
(Luke 2.39-40)

#### Friday 31 December

*1 John 2,18-21 • Psalm 96.1,11-13 •*

*John 1.1-18*

You have been anointed by the Holy One, and have all received knowledge.  
(1 John 2.20)

#### Saturday 1 January The Most Holy Name of Jesus

*Numbers 6.22-27 • Psalm 8 •*

*Galatians 4.4-7 • Luke 2.15-21*

but can become rather sanitised and sentimental in our culture. Secondly, there is the Second Coming, which is yet to be; this will be both tremendous and terrible, and yet is to be welcomed by all who trust and hope for a better world. The theme of the Second Coming is the one with which Advent begins. All of the future is unknown to us, and we don't have a convenient or fixed date for this future moment, which makes it both elusive and daunting. There is also a third sense of Christ's coming to be considered – this is his coming to us today, where we are, in whatever state we may be, prepared or unprepared. For each of these meanings, the season of Advent can help us prepare, for every day we should be ready to receive his holy presence into our heart, and every day we should give thanks that he does indeed step into time to come to us in this mortal world. May our own time given to this season truly help us in this.

**Daily Prayer** – A short service for daily prayer, to be used either alone or in groups, is included in this leaflet.

**Readings** – The readings listed in this leaflet are the regular readings used daily in many Christian churches for this season. The Sunday readings this year ('Year A' in the three-year Sunday cycle begins on the First Sunday of Advent) focus particularly on the gospel according to Matthew. May our approach to Christmas through daily prayer, Bible reading, and worship lead us to rejoice ever more profoundly in God's love for us in his incarnate Son, Jesus Christ.

The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. (Matthew 2.10-11)

#### **Epiphany Intercession**

O God, the radiant light of your love in Jesus Christ draws all nations to worship; accept the praise of all who turn to you.

Give the leaders and rulers of the peoples of the world, the humility and wisdom to acknowledge Christ as King of the nations.

As the light of your truth shines in the world, disclosing human frailty and weakness, so bring hope and help to the poor and oppressed.

Enlighten those who are perplexed and confused, and guide all who seek the truth, that they may rejoice to know your saving grace.

Convict, teach, and bless your church by your holy Word, purify and nourish your disciples with sacramental life, and sanctify and build up your chosen people in fellowship and unity by your Spirit; that the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel doubt and strengthen faith, and usher in a kingdom of justice and peace for all; through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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Notes: The weekly prayers used in this leaflet are adapted from the Gelasian Sacramentary, the oldest extant copy of which is dated to the eighth century • The weekday readings are from the Daily Eucharistic Lectionary; the Sunday readings are from Year A of the Common Worship Lectionary • The version of Daily Prayer has been compiled by Colin Lunt • 'A Song of Mercy and Truth' (from Psalm 85) is from *Common Worship : Daily Prayer* © The Archbishops' Council 2005 • Cover illustration: Colin Lunt; other illustrations are from *Clip Art for Sundays and Solemnities* / Julie Lonneman. (Chicago : Liturgy Training Publications, 2003) • CPL • Advent daily 2010.lwn • 2010/11/13