

# Thursday Morning Prayer – The Season of Advent

*Bell x 3*

*One of the following sentences of scripture is said:*

- Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. *Luke 21.28*
- Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. *Luke 3.4, 6*
- The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the oppressed. *Isaiah 61.1*
- A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.  
*Matthew 1.23*

## **Gratitude**

*We are invited to begin our prayer by naming aloud or silently what we are thankful for. A closing prayer to collect our prayers of gratitude may be offered.*

## **The Penitential Office**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbour.

*Bell. Silence is kept.*

God of all mercy, over and over again in scripture, we hear your dream for a beautiful world. We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation. We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness. We hear your dream for community and hope. We hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes. We continue to live with the curtains drawn, the covers pulled tight, eyes shut to the realities of the world.

**Forgive us. Kindle a hope in us that will burn through the darkest nights. Give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world. With hope we pray, amen.** <sup>1</sup>

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ. **Amen.** <sup>3</sup>

## **Introductory Responses**

Restore us, O Creator of the stars of night;

**show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Will you not give us life again, **so that your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your mercy, O God, **and grant us your salvation.**

Blessed is the Christ who comes in your name! **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God for ever.**

*A poem or hymn may be read or sung.*

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

### **The Psalm**

*[Ending with] ...Glory to You, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:*

**as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.** <sup>11</sup>

### **The Reading**

*A Gospel and/or Hebrew Scripture may be read.*

*[Hebrew Scripture ends with] ...The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

*[Gospel ends with] ...The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ***

*Bell. Silence. Bell.*

*We are invited to share on how God's spirit is calling us through these sacred scriptures.*

### **The Responory**

Now it is time to awake out of sleep **for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**  
Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed, **for the night is far spent.**  
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light,  
**for the day is at hand.**  
Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh,  
**for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.** <sup>13</sup>

### **The Canticle** *A Song of the Wilderness (Isaiah 35.1, 2b-4a, 4c-6, 10)*

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, \*  
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord, \*  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weary hands, \*  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not, your God is coming with judgement, \*  
coming with judgement to save you.'  
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, \*  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then shall the lame leap like a hart, \*  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, \*  
and streams in the desert;  
the ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, \*  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.  
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, \*  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. <sup>15</sup>  
Glory to You, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.** <sup>17</sup>

*One of the following Creeds may be said. Please stand in body or spirit.*

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**  
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**  
**born of the virgin Mary,**  
**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**  
**was crucified, died, and was buried;**  
**he descended to the dead.**  
**On the third day he rose again;**  
**he ascended into heaven,**  
**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**  
**and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**  
**the holy catholic church,**  
**the communion of saints,**  
**the forgiveness of sins,**  
**the resurrection of the body,**  
**and the life everlasting. Amen.** <sup>19</sup>

## **A New Creed**

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

## **The Litany** *(this may be used)*

In joyful expectation let us pray to God, our Saviour and Redeemer.

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.**

O Head of the house of Israel, you appeared 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.**

O Branch of Jesse standing as a sign among the nations, all rulers 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.**

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.**

O Morning Star, bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations: come and save us, O Anointed One.  
**Lord Jesus, come soon.** <sup>21</sup>

*Intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud.  
Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember*

- *the church, that we may be ready for the coming of Christ;*
- *the leaders of the church and in our communities;*
- *the nations, that they may seek peace and reconciliation;*
- *those who are working for justice in the world and*
- *the broken, that they may find God's healing.* <sup>22</sup>

## **The Collect**

*Week of the Reign of Christ:* Most High God, majestic and almighty, our beginning and our end: rule in our hearts and guide us to be faithful in our daily actions, worshipping the one who comes as Saviour and Sovereign, and who lies and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God. **Amen.** <sup>23</sup>

*Advent 1:* God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, so that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvellous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, so that we may yearn for the coming of your Christ and stand without blame before him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **Amen.** <sup>24</sup>

*Advent 2:* God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the coming your Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.** <sup>25</sup>

*Advent 3:* Merciful God, your word, spoken by the prophets, restores your people's life and hope. Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, so that we may hold fast to your great goodness and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world, through your Christ who comes among us. **Amen.** <sup>26</sup>

*Advent 4:* O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Saviour. Make our hearts leap with joy and fill our mouths with songs of praise, so that we may announce glad tidings of peace and welcome the Christ in our midst. **Amen.** <sup>27</sup>

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Awaiting Jesus' coming in glory and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us (*feel free to use this translation or another paraphrase*)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

May Christ, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**

*Bell x 3*

*This prayer is adapted from the Anglican Church of Canada Daily Prayer and has elements from A Sanctified Art.*