

# Emmaus 2020 Advent Quiet Day - Prayer Liturgies

## Saturday Morning Prayer

Need -

1 responder

1 Psalm reader/chanter

1 Taize singer/leader

3 Gospel readers

*Bell x 3*

O Lord, open our lips

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Reveal among us the light of your presence

**That we may behold your power and glory.**

The dawn from on high is breaking upon us

**to dispel the lingering shadows of night.**

As we look for your coming among us this day,

**open our eyes to behold your presence.**

Strengthen our hands to do your will,

**And open our hearts to say "yes!" to your invitation.**

that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

**Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Blessed be God forever.**

We will offer you praises, even as we wait.

We will lift up prayers of gratitude,

**for you, O God, are good.**

*Prayers of gratitude and praise are offered.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,

So may the light of your presence, O God,

**Set out hearts on fire with love for you;**

**Now and forever.**

**Amen**

*Psalm 30 - chanted or said,*

ending with **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.**

SONG x2

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

*Lectio Divina.*

**First Reading**

A reading from Luke 2: 25 - 35

*Listen for a word which resonates with you*

Silent reflection

*You will be invited to share the word aloud if desired*

Bell

**Second Reading**

*Listen for an image or phrase that resonates with you*

Silent reflection

*You will be invited to share your phrase aloud if desired*

Bell

**Third Reading**

*Meditate on what God may be calling you to as a result of your reflection on this reading*

Longer silence

*You will be invited to share your reflection if desired.*

Bell

Reflection on waiting - Henri Nouwen

SONG x2

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

You are invited to offer prayers for the day, and specifically anything on your heart or mind that you need to leave with God for the day

Awaiting his coming in glory,

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father who art in Heaven...**

May the Lord, when he comes,

Find us watching and waiting.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Bell x3

## Saturday Noon Prayer

Need -

1 Hymn singer

1 Psalm reader

1 Gospel acclaimer and reader

Bell x 3

“The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.” (Luke 2:10)

SILENCE

God of Mary, Son of Mary:  
Neither birth nor death diminished you.  
Neither power nor pain destroyed you.  
Neither plenty nor little distracted you.  
So we lift up our arms in strength  
so that we may lay down  
our arms and our armies,  
our fears and our prejudices.  
Because, with Mary, we know that  
the silenced have words to speak

**Amen.**

(Padraig O Tuama, Daily Prayers with the Corrymeela community, p11)

“He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.” (Luke 1: 51-52)

HYMN

1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free,  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee:  
*Israel's* strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

2. Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring:  
By Thy own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone,  
By Thy all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Reading of Psalm 80: 1 - 3, 14-18

ending with **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.**

Gospel

Acclamation - **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path x 2**

Reading of Matthew 17: 9 - 13

Acclamation - **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path x 1**

Silence

Sharing of reflections

The Lord's Prayer

*Grace (by Edward Hays)*

Lord God and giver of all good gifts,  
we are grateful as we pause before this meal,  
for all the blessings of life that you give to us.  
Daily, we are fed with good things,  
nourished by friendship and care,  
feasted with forgiveness and understanding.  
And so, mindful of your continuous care,  
we pause to be grateful  
for the blessings of this table. May your presence  
be the extra taste to this meal,  
which we eat in the name of your son, Jesus.

And for those who fast this day, we pray that you would sharpen their minds, souls and hearts  
through this time of trusting you for greater nourishment this day.

Go with us Lord also into the remainder of our time set apart. Be with us in our contemplation  
and silence and waiting. Meet us here.

## Saturday Afternoon Prayer - Elaine Julian

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

Several years ago, our little Cumberland United Church congregation was gathered for our first messy church event. I was talking about how Jesus is the light of the world and I asked, somewhat rhetorically, if folks thought one person could light up a whole world. One little five year old with a mop of curly dark hair leapt to her feet, threw her arms in the air, and cried, “I can!” And in that luminous moment she believed she could, we believed she could, and it was so.

It’s a bittersweet memory now because that congregation formally disbanded at the end of 2017. But its light was not lost, and is rekindled now in the form of the unique United Church plant “Weird Church Cumberland”. It’s a good reminder for us now, as the days grow ever shorter and the dark evenings ever longer. The light may be dispersed, or temporarily hidden, but it is never lost.

The introduction to John’s gospel reminds us of the source of the Light that we carry: the incarnation of the love of God in the world, the eternal unknowable Word shaped like us so we can finally recognize its truth. Christ arrives as a child, full of life and grace, throwing her arms in the air and inviting us all to accept the great gift of God’s love and to carry that divine light wherever we may go.

### Prayer

(based on Voices United #366 by Daniel Charles Damon):

Light of the World, you arrive among us like a child, like a friend, to reveal and to mend.  
Christ Jesus, you arrive like a child on the street, with ragged clothes and dirty feet.  
Like a child we once knew coming back into view, like a child born anew,  
you invite us to celebrate new life with you.

Emmanuel, God With Us, show us the way. Kindle your flame once again in our hearts; call us again to carry your light into the world. Challenge us to leap to our feet and throw up our arms and exclaim “I can!” because we know that you are with us, Child Jesus, here to stay.

Amen.