

Advent Prayer

Oh God open our lips

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise

We come to you this Advent in need, with longing, in pain, captive to fear, desiring a more just world, a more livable life for all of us, for the earth, for every living thing caught and held in this inescapable network of mutual interdependence we call this one wild and precious Life.

We long for you. We long for healing. We long for liberation. We long for different systems and patterns of relating.

And so, this Advent, we pause...

We breathe...

We pray...

We dig deep...

We reach out...

We rise up...

We wait, expectant...

We open to You, and to one another, and to the Sacred Mystery that is Emmanuel, God-With-Us, Love Incarnate, Divinity Enfleshed. Amen.

Song

Readings

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
(other readings)

Gospel (Acclamation) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9qxX1NGo9c>

Reflection

Our prayers

...May the Divine Assistance be with our absent companions...and all those we keep in our hearts this day and always. Gathering our prayers spoken and unspoken we lift them you in the words Jesus taught us to pray...

We are sent: Candle lighting *(on the next page)*

Wait for the Lord

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 48. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody consists of two lines of music. The first line has the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' and the second line has the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!'. The music is simple and contemplative, using mostly quarter and half notes.

Bell x 3

Sending

Advent Week 1 - Hope

The Hope of God-With-Us does not come as guaranteed outcome, or predetermined plan, or promise of a happy ending. Hope cannot be imposed from on high. Hope cannot be commanded.

The Hope of God-With-Us is courageous, risky, unfolding, indeterminate. The Hope of God-With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly complacency.

Hope is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly. Hope invites our expectation, and demands our participation. Prepare the way, for hope with courage.

May Hope be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Amen.

Advent Week 2 – Peace

The Peace of God-With-Us does not come as law and order, or enforcement and control. Peace cannot be imposed from on high. Peace cannot be commanded.

The Peace of God-With-Us is chaotic, wild, unruly, unpredictable. The Peace of God-With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly complicity.

Peace is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly. Peace invites our expectation, and demands our participation. Prepare the way, for peace with justice.

May Peace be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Amen.

Advent Week 3 – Joy

The Joy of God-With-Us does not come as naïve optimism, or surface level feel-good-ness. Joy cannot be imposed from on high. Joy cannot be commanded.

The Joy of God-With-Us is mingled with grief, exists side by side with mourning, knows that pain and death are all too real, but do not have the final word.

This joy tends tenderly to beauty, and softness, and the gladness that comes from paying attention to what matters.

Joy is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly. Joy invites our expectation, and demands our participation. Prepare the way, for joy with sorrow.

May Joy be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Amen.

Advent Week 4 – Love

The Love of God-With-Us does not come as mere feeling, or sentimental fluff. Love cannot be imposed from on high.

Love is our greatest commandment— tending tenderly to God, to other, and to self. The Love of God-With-Us is love in action, radical love practices. This love is fierce, and tender. It defies unjust rules and flattens hierarchies of value. The Love of God-With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly alienation.

Love is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly. Love invites our expectation, and demands our participation. Prepare the way, for Love enfleshed.

May Love be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Amen.