

Prayers to begin and end the day in Advent

Morning

Opening Responses

You may wish to light a candle

Among the poor and the proud, the persecuted and the privileged,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

In the private house and the market place, in the wedding feast
and the judgement hall,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

With a gentle touch, with an angry word; with a conscience clear,
with a burning love,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

That the kingdom might come and the world might believe;
that the powerful might stumble and the humble be raised,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

Within us, without us, among us, before us,
in this place, in every place, for this time and for all time,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

Holy God of Advent, you became weak
so we would find strength in moments of heartbreak;
you left the safety of heaven to wander the wilderness of the world,
holding our hands when we feel hopeless;
you set aside your glory to hold our pain so we might be healed,
even when there seems to be no hope;
you became one of us so we would never be alone in any moment,
in any circumstance.

So come now, Child of Bethlehem, to strengthen us in these days.
May we feel your presence in a way we have never known,
not just as one born in a stable, long ago and far away,
but as the One born in our hearts. **Amen**

Take a moment to listen in the silence

Intercessions

All that I am Lord *I place into your hands*
Everything I work for *I place into your hands*
Everything I hope for *I place into your hands*
The troubles that weary me *I place into your hands*
The thoughts that disturb me *I place into your hands*
Each that I pray for *I place into your hands*
Each that I care for *I place into your hands*
The choices I make *I place into your hands*

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Lord by your presence, light up the past
that we may learn from it with thankfulness.
Light up the present that we might live in it with love.
Light up the future that we might prepare for it in hope.
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Evening

Opening Responses

You may wish to light a candle

In our watching and waiting; **come Lord Jesus.**

In our hopes and fears; **come Lord Jesus.**

In our homes and in our world; **come Lord Jesus.**

Into this place and on this night; **come Lord Jesus.**

Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Take a moment to listen in the silence

Intercessions

Into the darkness of oppression and poverty;
into a world where many have no voice and no future;
into boardrooms and factories, shanty towns and palaces;
may your light expose corruption and bring new-found hope.
Into every darkness, **Christ be our light.**

Into the darkness of war and conflict;
into trauma and brutality; fear and senselessness;
into war zones and cabinet rooms, barracks and bomb factories;
may your light make a path to peace and a road to reconciliation.
Into every darkness, **Christ be our light.**

Into the darkness of grief and sorrow;
into troubled hearts and troubled minds;
into hospital wards and waiting rooms,
broken hearts and broken homes;
may your light be a source of comfort, of healing and peace.
Into every darkness, **Christ be our light.**

Closing Prayer

Circle me Lord; keep protection near and danger afar.
Circle me Lord; keep light near and darkness afar.
Circle me Lord; keep peace within, keep evil out.
The peace of all peace be mine this night.
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.