

Morning Prayer for Advent: Wednesday

We gather in silence

Bell x3

Opening Sentences *(choose one or more to be read aloud)*

Look up and raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near. (Luke 21:28)

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:3)

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all the world shall see it together. (Isaiah 40:5)

Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight, and all the world shall see the salvation of God. (Luke 3:4, 6)

Restore us again O God: show us the light of your face and we shall be saved. (Psalm 80:3)

Gathering Words

The advent of God is near.

New light dawning where there has been darkness.

The advent of God is near.

New hope reigning where there has been death and despair.

The advent of God is near.

New life for all Creation, groaning under human sickness.

The advent of God is near.

New light, new hope, new life for all creation.

Pause for lighting of the Advent candles + Silence

This is a season of watchfulness and expectation:

We watch and wait for the One who heard our cries and entered into the suffering of our world. We wait in joyous expectation for new light to shine as the day approaches. **We wait in anticipation for God's light to shine in our darkness and radiate within us.**

This is a season of preparation:

We watch and wait for the One who broke down the barriers separating us from God, each other, and from God's creation, **We wait with repentant hearts to prepare the way of the Lord.**

This is a season of promise:

We watch and wait and prepare for the promised coming of Emmanuel, God with us. **We wait in hope for our Redeemer to bring God's love into our broken world.**

This is a season of reflection:

We watch and wait, expecting to be transformed by the light of God, that we might serve in God's kingdom as bearers of light, pointing to and welcoming others to the light of Christ. **We wait expectantly for God to come and dwell in our midst.**

This is a season of fulfillment:

We await and celebrate the coming of God's Kingdom with its promise of peace, of wholeness, of reconciliation, and of abundance for all. **We wait for God's Kingdom to come in all its fullness.**

This is a season of joyful anticipation:

Many nations will come on that day and become God's people. The glory of God's Kingdom will be revealed, and all people will see it together. **We wait expectant, attentive to all the signs of Christ coming in our midst in this time and place...**

We pause to name signs of Christ in our midst, silently or aloud...

Scripture and Reflection

Psalm

Gospel

Sung acclamation before and after the Gospel reading:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Silence

Sharing: what is God's invitation to and for us, in this good news?

Our Prayers

Into our troubles and weaknesses, Into the barren places of our souls..... come, Lord,

Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

Into the war torn and the refugee, Into those who live in conflict..... come, Lord,

Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

Into the homeless and the unemployed, Into those who feel abandoned..... come, Lord,

Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

Into the sick and the suffering, Into those with chronic or incurable illnesses, into a world sick with Covid..... come, Lord,

Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

Into the poor and the starving, Into those who are oppressed or abused, those cast out and forgotten..... come, Lord,

Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

Into the lives of loved ones, Into those from whom we are estranged.....come, Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

Into our joys and celebrations, Into our work and our achievements.....come, Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

You are invited to add your own prayers, inviting God to come in all the places we experience need, with the refrain:
Come, Lord,
Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

Our Father....

Sending

Good and gracious Christ, we long for you to come among us. Hasten that day when those who seek you will come from east and the west, from north and the south and sit at table and feast in Your Kingdom. Hasten the day when your Kingdom will come in all its glory, and suffering and pain and sickness and oppression and death will be overcome forever. Hasten the day when we will be live as a great multicultural family in peace, harmony, joy, and love.
AMEN.

Calm us to wait for the gift of Christ; Cleanse us to prepare the way for Christ; Teach us to contemplate the wonder of Christ; Touch us to know the presence of Christ; Anoint us to bear the life of Christ.
AMEN.

**Come to us Emmanuel
we live in hope of your return
to bring new life
to this old world
to end all wars and heal all hearts and to reign forevermore.
AMEN.**

(Excerpts adapted from Waiting for the Light/ Christine Sine; NZ Prayer book; ACC; Tom Wuest; MWHumphrey)