



PRACTICING
Advent

A LITURGY FOR ADVENT 2018
MORNING & EVENING PRAYER

An Advent Devotional

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

*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.*

Charles Wesley, 1744

There is a “time-bending nature” to the season of Advent. As Christians, we live in an in-between time: the now and the not yet between Jesus Christ’s first and last coming. The first advent began in a manger in Bethlehem and led to Jerusalem and the cross; the second will bring judgment and all things made new. Bernard of Clairvaux wrote that to live with Christ between these two advents is to sleep between the arms of God with his left hand under our head and his right hand embracing us.

Our location in this in-between time places us in the midst of much darkness and the constant signals that all is not well in our sin-soaked world. Yet, for those who are in Christ there is the unwavering assurance that all shall be made well when justice and mercy meet. We wait “for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

Of course we’re not idle as we wait! The carols we sing during Advent are like “waiting songs” that turn our hearts and minds away from the tinsel and traffic of commercial Christmas towards the One who satisfies our longings with his blessings as he tunes our hearts to sing his praise. Because these carols are so well known, it’s easy to sing along without paying much attention to the lyrics. By pairing each carol alongside the bible readings which inspired it, we hope you will have the opportunity to meditate on the once and future coming of the King as you fix your gaze on Jesus Christ!

This booklet is designed to be very flexible. You can use it once a week or every day. It’s useful for family discipleship at the dinner table or personal devotions. The prayers are adapted from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer. May these prayers and readings strengthen and equip you to love and serve the Lord in your busy everyday life this Advent season. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!

*O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel.*

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

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Daily Readings

*Christ
in the
Carols*

ADVENT I	
O Come O Come Emmanuel	
DEC 2	<i>Isaiah 40:1-11</i>
3	<i>Romans 13:11-14</i>
4	<i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i>
5	<i>Malachi 4:1-6</i>
6	<i>Revelation 3:7-13</i>
7	<i>Deuteronomy 5:1-22</i>
8	<i>Listen to the Carol</i>
ADVENT II	
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus	
DEC 9	<i>Isaiah 35</i>
10	<i>Mark 1:1-8</i>
11	<i>Isaiah 9:1-7</i>
12	<i>Philippians 1:3-11</i>
13	<i>Isaiah 60:1-7</i>
14	<i>2 Corinthians 6:1-10</i>
15	<i>Listen to the Carol</i>
ADVENT III	
Joy to the World	
DEC 16	<i>Psalms 98</i>
17	<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>
18	<i>Luke 1:45-55</i>
19	<i>Philippians 4:4-9</i>
20	<i>Luke 1:67-80</i>
21	<i>Revelation 21:1-8</i>
22	<i>Listen to the Carol</i>

ADVENT IV	
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	
DEC 23	<i>Philippians 2:5-11</i>
CHRISTMAS EVE	
O Come All Ye Faithful	
DEC 24	<i>Luke 2:1-21</i>
CHRISTMAS DAY	
O Little Town of Bethlehem	
DEC 25	<i>Titus 3:3-7</i>
26	<i>John 1:1-18</i>
27	<i>Hebrews 1:1-4 and 8-9</i>
28	<i>Revelation 22:12-21</i>
29	<i>Listen to the Carol</i>
SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	
Infant Holy	
DEC 30	<i>1 Corinthians 1:17-31</i>
EPIPHANY	
The First Noel	
JAN 6	<i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>

Morning Prayer

INVITATION

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!*
Isaiah 60:1

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.

COLLECT (PAGES 9-10)

*Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works
of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in
the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus
Christ came to visit us in great humility; that on the
last day, when he shall come again in his glorious
majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may
rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for ever. Amen.*

DAILY READING (PAGE 3)

Read the scripture passage for today

**PRAY FOR YOUR FAMILY,
THE CHURCH, AND THE WORLD**

CLOSING BLESSING

O God, Most High and Holy, Three in One,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
We offer to you this day, ourselves, our souls and bodies,
to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice to you;
to whom be all praise and glory.
Amen.

PERSONAL PRAYERS

Evening Prayer

INVITATION

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them a light has dawned.*

Isaiah 9:2

CONFESSION

Almighty Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
We confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord,
have mercy upon us out of your great goodness;
According to the vastness of your mercy
do away our offences and heal us from our brokenness;
Wash us thoroughly from our wickedness,
and cleanse us from our sins;
for Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen.

OR

O God, I cry to you.
Help me to pray and to concentrate my thoughts on you:
I cannot do this alone.
In me there is darkness, but with you there is light;
I am lonely, but you do not leave me;
I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help;
I am restless, but with you there is peace.

In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience;
I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me.
Restore me to liberty, and enable me so to live now
that I may answer before you and before me.
Lord whatever tomorrow brings, your name be praised.
Amen.

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Almighty Father, in your great love
you gave your dearly beloved Son to die for us:
grant that through his cross our sins may be put away,
and remembered no more against us,
and that, cleansed by his blood,
and mindful of his sufferings,
we may take up our cross daily,
and follow him in newness of life,
until we come to his everlasting kingdom;
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COLLECT (PAGE 9-10)

DAILY READING (PAGE 3)

*Read today's scripture passage again. Read it slowly or out loud.
Spend some time talking to God about what comforts you and what
challenges you.*

**PRAY FOR YOUR FAMILY,
THE CHURCH, AND THE WORLD**

CLOSING PRAYERS

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night,
and at the last a perfect end;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with us this night, and forever more.
Amen.

PERSONAL PRAYERS

Advent Collects

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in this way hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

O Lord, Jesus Christ, who at your first coming did send your messenger to prepare your way before you: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may also prepare and make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Raise up, we beseech you, O Lord, your power, and come among us, and with great might help us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are very slow and hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, world without end. Amen.

CHRISTMAS WEEK

Almighty God, who has given us your only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

*Christ
in the
Carols*

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

REFRAIN: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free,
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

REFRAIN

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

REFRAIN

O come, O come, Thou Lord of Might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the Law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.

REFRAIN

O come, Thou Key of David, come;
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

REFRAIN

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

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

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring

By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the World; The Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King:
Let every Heart prepare him Room,
And Heaven and Nature sing.

Joy to the Earth, The Saviour reigns;
Let Men their Songs employ;
While Fields & Floods, Rocks, Hills & Plains
Repeat the sounding Joy.

No more let Sins and Sorrows grow,
Nor Thorns infest the Ground:
He comes to make his Blessings flow
Far as the Curse is found.

He rules the World with Truth and Grace,
And makes the Nations prove
The Glories of his Righteousness,
And Wonders of his Love.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored:
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see;
Hail, th’incarnate Deity:
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!

Hail! the heaven-born
Prince of peace!
Hail! the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the son of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him

Born the King of Angels:

O come, let us adore Him, (3x)

Christ the Lord.

God of God, light of light,

Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;

True God, begotten, not created:

O come, let us adore Him, (3x)

Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!

Glory to God, glory in the highest:

O come, let us adore Him, (3x)

Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory given!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore Him, (3x)

Christ the Lord

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel.

INFANT HOLY

Infant holy,
Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing,
Little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging
Angels singing,
Noels ringing,
Tidings bringing,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping,
Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new,;
Saw the glory,
Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing,
Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing,
Greet the morrow,
Christ the Babe was born for you!

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

REFRAIN: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

REFRAIN

And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

REFRAIN

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.

REFRAIN

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

REFRAIN

O God, who looked on us when we had fallen down into death, and resolved to redeem us by the Advent of your only begotten Son; we beg you, that those who confess his glorious Incarnation may also be admitted to the fellowship of their Redeemer, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Ambrose (339-397)
Bishop of Milan



EMMANUEL

ISAIAH 7:14 MATTHEW 1:22-23