

Advent Worship



Advent is a time for getting ready: for receiving the Christ child, God with us, at Christmas, and also for preparing ourselves for the return of Christ in glory.

Opening Prayers

We meet in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence,
O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
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.
Anoint us to bear the life of Christ. **Amen**

Lighting of the Advent candles

Act of confession

Come Holy Spirit of God,
and search our hearts in the light of Christ.

All-knowing God, poets and bearers of your image picture and pattern your ways;
forgive us for following idols and illusions.

All-seeing God, prophets shine like candles in the night;
forgive us for staying in the dark.

All-holy God, forerunners like John clear obstacles from your path;
forgive us for blocking your way.

All-giving God, the Virgin Mary offered her all as the bearer of your life;
forgive us for holding ourselves back

OR

**Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us in our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Absolution

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect and Bible Readings (on the pewsheets)

Talk

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Prayers. We conclude by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Blessing and dismissal

The King of life appear to us;
the Son of life shed light on us;
the Spirit of life flow into us;
the Holy Three come near to us.

OR

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom. **Amen**

May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory. **Amen**

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love. **Amen**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.



Lighting of the Advent candles



We light the first candle of Advent.

The candle of longing, the candle of solidarity
with the yearnings of the people
and with the hopes of our forebears in faith.



We light the second candle of Advent.

This is the candle of prophets calling for justice,
struggling for right to replace wrong,
for dignity to replace oppression,
the candle of prophets calling for desolate places
to be renewed, pointing to light emerging from the darkness.



We light the third candle of Advent.

The candle of the preparer, clearing away human resistance to God,
humbling the monuments to human pride,
giving voice to those who have no voice,
a sign of those who point the way to Christ, who overturn false ways,
who live by the values of God.



We light the fourth candle of Advent.

This is the candle of Mary who bears the Divine Glory,
the candle of purity,
the candle of all midwives of faith who bring the Divine to birth.

Where people long for an end to injustice,
shine into their hearts.

Where people long for conflict to cease,
shine into their hearts.

Where people long to right inhuman working conditions,
shine into their hearts.

Where people long to restore the scarred places of earth,
shine into their hearts.

Where people long for dignity in human relationships,
shine into their hearts.

