

# ADVENT PRAYER



A devotional guide for the Advent Season



## ABOUT ADVENT

Whether you are brand new to prayer or have been on this journey for years, we are excited to join together as a St. Paul's community in prayer during the season of Advent. Advent means "arrival", and during this church season we look for the arrival of God on earth, God-with-us, in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Advent is a season of waiting, expectation, and preparation. During Advent, try to cultivate a habit of daily prayer and Scripture meditation, using the prayers below.

# ADVENT PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES

*Prayers can be used as you light the candles of your wreath  
or with a simple purple candle.*

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we walk in that love as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son.

## **First Sunday of Advent**

Jesus, you are light even in the darkest places. Help us to trust in you when we are lost or lonely. Shine hope into our hearts we pray. Amen.

## **Second Sunday of Advent**

Jesus, you are peace even when there is hatred. Help us to forgive like you when we are hurt or wounded. Bring peace into our hearts we pray. Amen.

## **Third Sunday of Advent**

Jesus, you are joy even in the saddest times. Help us to praise you when we are upset or grieving. Shine joy into our hearts we pray. Amen.

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Jesus, you are with us even when we are afraid. Help us to pray to you when we are scared or fearful. Bring love into our hearts we pray. Amen.

## **Christmas Day**

Jesus, you came to be light in our darkness. Jesus, you came to be peace in our conflicts. Jesus, you came to be joy in our sadness, and to bring your love in our fears. Today we celebrate your birth. Thank you for your saving grace. Amen.

## **PRAY UPON WAKING**

*Keep this booklet by your bedside.  
Dedicate the day to God with your first thoughts.*

I lay down and slept, and rose up again,  
for the LORD sustained me.  
I will sing of your power,  
and will praise your mercy early in the morning.  
Unto you, O my Strength, will I sing,  
for you, O God, are my refuge,  
and my merciful God.

(Psalms 3.5, 59.16, 17)

*Then pray*

O God, I praise you this day.  
O God, I thank you for this day.  
O God, I ask for your help this day.  
Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

## **PRAY BEFORE SLEEP**

*Consider the day that is past. What was done is done; what was left  
undone is left undone. Let it be, and commit the night to God.*

I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest;  
for you, LORD, only, make me dwell in safety.  
My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.

(Psalms 4.8, 130.6)

*Then pray*

Guide us waking, O Lord,  
and guard us sleeping;  
that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep we may rest in peace.  
Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

## **PRAY BEFORE EATING**

*Before every meal, pray: God, thank you for the food I am about to receive, especially when so many are hungry. Strengthen me to serve those in need as I await your coming kingdom.*

*Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.*

*At dinner, light an Advent wreath or a candle as you say grace. Then, at the start or end of the meal, read a selection from Scripture (see reverse) and pray the weekly Advent Collect.*



# WEEKLY PRAYERS

## **November 27-December 3**

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us 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 in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. Amen.

## **December 4-10**

Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise 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.

## **December 11-17**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming did send your messenger to prepare the way before you: Grant that we may also prepare and make ready your way in our hearts, 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.

## **December 18-23**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Christmas Eve**

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

### **Christmas Day**

Almighty God, who gave us your only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being born again, 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.



# DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

*To be read at dinner or another time.*

**Sunday Nov 27** ..... **Isaiah 2:1-5**  
Monday Nov 28..... Psalm 124  
Tuesday Nov 29..... Hebrews 11:32-40  
Wednesday Nov 30..... Isaiah 54:1-10  
Thursday Dec 1..... Psalm 72  
Friday Dec 2..... Isaiah 4:2-6  
Saturday Dec 3..... Isaiah 40:1-11

**Sunday Dec 11** ..... **Matthew 3:1-12**  
Monday Dec 12..... Psalm 42  
Tuesday Dec 13..... Jude 1:17-25  
Wednesday Dec 14..... Zechariah 8:1-17  
Thursday Dec 15..... Galatians 3:23-29  
Friday Dec 16..... Psalm 80:1-7  
Saturday Dec 17..... 2 Samuel 7:23-29

**Sunday Dec 4**..... **Luke 1:5-17**  
Monday Dec 5..... Psalm 21  
Tuesday Dec 6..... Luke 1:18-24  
Wednesday Dec 7..... Matthew 12:33-37  
Thursday Dec 8..... Psalm 146:5-10  
Friday Dec 9..... Ruth 1:6-18  
Saturday Dec 10..... 2 Peter 3:1-10

**Sunday Dec 18** ..... **Luke 1:26-38**  
Monday Dec 19..... 1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Tuesday Dec 20..... Genesis 17:15-22  
Wednesday Dec 21..... Genesis 37:2-11  
Thursday Dec 22..... Isaiah 33:17-22  
Friday Dec 23..... Luke 1:39-55

**Christmas Eve** ..... **Luke 2:1-14**  
**Christmas Day** ..... **John 1:1-14**