

# twelvebaskets

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## **ADVENT SUNDAY C**

**1st December 2024**

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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## Opening Prayers

The carols are playing,  
The bells are starting to jingle,  
The fairy lights are lit,  
And God is coming, again, into this space, this space we call home.  
O come, all you faithful,  
Come, those who are in their own bleak midwinter or in dulci jubilo.

You come to worship the King who was born far away, in a manger, the meek and mild baby who brought peace on Earth and good will to all people.

Thank you, God, that in the waiting, I can know that you fulfil your promises of peace and joy to the world. Let praise flow from me, for the gift of your son, who came, Emmanuel, to be God with us.

Today as I begin this journey through this Advent, open my heart to you, Lord God. Renew, once again, my awe and wonder at the baby born in the little town of Bethlehem, a long time ago.

I come, with adoration, with anticipation, to exalt you, to be enraptured once again by the baby born on the holy night, the first Noel.

Amen.

**You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar**

**Readings:** Luke 21:25-36 – [Click for reading](#)

## Responding to the reflections

And so it begins, Advent is here!

The season of waiting, of preparation, of looking ahead to The Big Day – Christmas. Ticking off to-do lists (have you bought the turkey, where is all that wrapping paper you bought last year, how many mince pies do 14 people eat on Boxing Day?). Of course, there are the seasonal highlights too – watching the neighbourhood slowly start glittering as more houses put up their lights, singing carols with rowdy delight, feeling the air crisp and fresh.

We do a lot of waiting in our lives. Sometimes it's in the supermarket queue or for the bus. Maybe some of us are waiting for hospital appointments or diagnoses. Some are waiting for the Christmas period, which can be a painful reminder of loneliness or loss, to simply be over. Many will be waiting to see where their next meal will come from. More globally, with 2024 having been the biggest year for democracy in human history, many citizens have been waiting with bated breath to see who will have the keys to their equivalent of Number 10 Downing Street. We all waited to see who would be sat behind the desk of the White House. Refugees from Gaza, The Sudan, Venezuela, Afghanistan, Ukraine, are all waiting to know when they can return home. Asylum seekers are waiting to know when they'll be granted safety, or waiting for the next attack on where they live. Pacific Islanders wait to see when their homes will be drowned.

So, why not take a few minutes now to pause, and to reflect: as you think about what it is to wait, to prepare, to anticipate, what does Advent mean for you this year?

This Advent, how does your ministry as a discipleship prioritise seeing humanity, and not charity? When have we failed to see the humanity of others in our church, community, nation, or world?

Part of the Advent is that we are waiting and preparing not just for the celebration of Jesus' coming as a baby 2000 years ago. It is a season of waiting and preparing in the knowledge that Jesus will come again. As Jesus says in today's Bible reading: the signs that the kingdom of God is close are out there. Can you notice them? Can you find space and energy in this season to spot the signs that God's dream for our world is close, sometimes closer than we can imagine...

The light of the world is a hope and a message which withstands the test of time. Can you be a witness to that light over the coming days, and beyond Advent into the year ahead.

How could you bring a little light to those who are waiting for love in your community?

### **Hymn:**

176 STF – Like a candle flame - [YouTube](#)

### **Blessing**

May you go forth, in the name of the one who loves you,  
By the grace of the one who came to live amongst us and makes himself known to us, even today,  
And by the power of the Spirit – alive and in our midst today.  
May you go forth, one of the Advent people.

Amen.

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## **Prayers and Prayer Pointers**

### **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

- Come, Holy God, come close this day.  
Help me to know your closeness in the sunrise and the clouds,  
In the mealtimes and the quiet,  
In the midst of my everyday living.  
Come, O Come, Immanuel. Amen.

## **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

- Whether or not you are someone who gets into the festive spirit at this time of year, why not use the way the world around you is turning into all things Christmassy as an opportunity for prayer.
- Perhaps, every time you see or hear something related to Christmas (a song on the radio, an advert, a set of fairy lights in the street), you could simply pray: Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for your presence here on earth, Amen.
- Or you could think of other words that might help you?

## **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

- God of this day,  
I give you this moment,  
And all the moments to come.  
In the every-day activities of today,  
Help me to see your grace at work. Amen.

## **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

- Today, take some time to pray for your street. For the neighbours and other people who live in this street, for those who work to maintain or clean it, for the refuse collection workers, postal workers, and others who help to keep the street functioning.
- If you feel able, you could walk up and down the street as you pray, using the time to think about others who walk this same route and how God is at work in their lives.

## **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

- Loving God, in a world torn apart by conflict and war,  
Help me to pray for peace.  
Bring peace to the places, countries and individuals where there is conflict and violence at the moment, and may your will be done, your kingdom come,  
Amen.

## **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

- Look for opportunities to be thankful today. Are there any good news stories or glimpses of joy in your weekend that might normally pass without acknowledgement?
- How can you be intentional about gratitude today?