

## A Service of Morning Prayer During Advent



### GATHERING

Leader: +In the name of God, the Creator, the Christ, and of the Holy Spirit,

**All: Amen.**

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

**All: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Leader: 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.

**All: Amen.**

### THE COLLECT

Leader: May this eternal truth be always on our hearts: That the God who breathed this world into being, placed stars into the heavens, and designed a butterfly's wing, is the God who entrusted his life to the care of ordinary people like us. God became vulnerable that we might know how strong is the power of Love, a mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp, a mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore. We pray in Jesus name.

**All: Amen.**

### READING AND DISCUSSION

#### INTERCESSIONS

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed:

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

Blessed are You who join us together in the communion of Christ's Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labours to the work of Providence.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Deliverer, You unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit. Resurrect their hope, grant them peace and refreshment, and restore their joy.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illumining all things with your radiance:  
Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us  
your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Lover of souls, when we wander far away, lead us back to You; when we refuse your embrace, do not give  
up on us; when we forget You, do not forget us.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: You are the strong force that draws us into the mystery  
of love divine. Forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the  
Truth and the Life.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert  
to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of  
healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare You room.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come:  
renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving  
people. We pray in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

Leader: Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

**BLESSING**

**HYMN**