

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for the second Sunday of Advent. Let us be still and recognise we are in the presence of God: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord be with you

Through Advent we prepare for the coming of Jesus, as members of the great company of those who have hoped for the fulfilment of God's promises. On this second Sunday we focus on the messages of the prophets who sought to call their generations back to a closer walk with God, and inspired them with their visions of God's steadfast love. As we prepare to listen for God's words at work in our lives, let us set aside all that obstructs that love as we confess our sins:

Heavenly Father,
you call us to repent of our sins:
soften our proud and stubborn hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you declared the forgiveness of God:
teach us to forgive one another.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you search our hearts and show us the truth:
direct us in your way of righteousness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive *us our* sins,
open *our* eyes to God's truth,

strengthen *us* to do God's will
and give *us* the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray:

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets,
but in our days you speak through your Son,
whom you have appointed the heir of all things.
Grant us, your people, to walk in his light,
that we may be found ready and watching
when he comes again in glory and judgement;
for you are our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God for ever. Amen

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew 3:1-12

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you O Christ

Sermon : see additional attachment

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid, we pray to Jesus

Come to your Church as Lord and Judge. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your Kingdom.

Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus

Come to your world as King of the Nations, Before you rulers will stand in silence

Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus

Come to the suffering as Saviour and Comforter. Break into our lives where we struggle with sickness and distress and set us free.

Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. Give us with all the faith departed a share in your victory over evil and death

Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus

Come from heaven Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet with you that with all your angels and saints we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha Come Lord Jesus

Come Lord and do not delay; give new courage to your people who trust in your love. By your coming raise us to share in the joy of your Kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Son, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

We gather all these intercessions in the prayer Jesus gave us:

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass

against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

And we pray for God's blessing on each other and all who we love and pray for:

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory and the blessing of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.