



## ***Advent Home Prayers – 2024***

*Advent is a time when we prepare for the coming of Christ. We are, of course, preparing to celebrate his coming at Christmas, but more importantly, we are preparing for his second coming, when the kingdom of God is brought on earth as it is in heaven.*

*There are reflections for you to use each day. Each Sunday there is a suggestion for a way to be a part of helping others.*

### *Sunday December 1*

The first Sunday of Advent: Light one of the blue or purple candles on your Advent wreath

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

When you think about people or organizations who bring light to dark places who comes to mind? Make a donation to that organization this week, or write them a note telling them how much you appreciate their work.

*Monday December 2*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

As we prepare for the coming of Christ – we remember that God is already with us – pray to see the presence of God in your life and in the lives of others.

*Tuesday December 3*

*Psalm 72:1- 8*

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son. May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. May the mountains yield prosperity for your people, and the hills, in righteousness. May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon throughout all generations. May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Think about ways in which you can work for justice in your community.

*Wednesday December 4*

*Isaiah 25:6-8*

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wine strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain, the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

What is making you feel discouraged today? What can you do to find hope?

*Thursday December 5*

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

As we prepare for the coming of Christ – we remember that Jesus came in the midst of a family – we pray for those in our family who have showed us the ways of God.

*Friday December 6*

You, O Lord, are my lamp; my God, you make my darkness bright. You have been my helper: My God you make my darkness bright. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. You, O Lord, are my lamp; My God you make my darkness bright.

How can you bring light to a dark place?

*Saturday December 7*

My favorite part of getting ready for Christmas was making Christmas cookies. Mom would mix the various doughs and have them ready. This process of mixing, molding, cutting out etc is like what God does to us. We are molded over time by Him. He cuts out the parts of our lives that do not honor Him. We get frosted, sprinkled with sugar, and all decked out. So, as you make your cookies and other treats this year; remember how God works with us. Let us all make the best dressed cookies to reflect us being the best dressed of his creation.

*Sunday December 8*

The second Sunday of Advent: Light two of the blue or purple candles on your Advent wreath

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The prophets came to tell the people how they had strayed from the ways of God. Think about a way that you struggle to follow the ways of God. Can you think of a group or organization that exemplifies the thing you struggle with? Make a donation to them or share information about them on your social media.

*Monday December 9*

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

As we prepare for the coming of Christ – we remember that God brings us knowledge and wisdom – pray for those who have been your teachers and for those for whom you are a teacher.

*Tuesday December 10*

*Psalm 96: 1-6*

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. For all the god of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

What is your favorite hymn? What does it tell you about God?

*Wednesday December 11*

*Isaiah 40:28 – 31*

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strength to the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

What makes you feel tired in your life? What would it mean to be able to not grow weary?

*Thursday December 12*

O come thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

As we prepare for the coming of Christ – we remember that God calls us to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth. Pray that the way from heaven to earth may be shown to us.

*Friday December 13*

With you, O Lord, is the well of life, and in your light we see light. Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens and your faithfulness to the clouds. And in your light we see light. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. With you, O Lord, is the well of life, and in your light we see light.

*Saturday December 14*

One of my favorite things to do as Christmas approaches is writing and addressing Christmas cards. As I write a note on each card and address each envelope, I think about the person or family I'm sending the card to. I think about how I met them and the time that we have spent together. As I look at the stack of cards ready to mail I am reminded of all of the people who love me and who I love and I remember how blessed I am.

*Sunday December 15*

The third Sunday of Advent: Light two of the blue or purple candles and the pink candle on your Advent wreath

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, 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 honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Is there a place that brings you joy? Maybe it is the mountains or the ocean or a special place you like to go. Tell someone the story of your special place.

*Monday December 16*

O come, O come thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Siani's height in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

As we prepare for the coming of Christ – we remember that the law points us to the people that God wishes us to be – pray for all of those things and people who hold us accountable

*Tuesday December 17*

*Psalm 34:1-5*

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

What are you afraid of toady?

*Wednesday December 18*

*Isaiah 45:5-8*

I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things. Shower, O heavens, from above, and let skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also; I the Lord have created it.

It is easy to forget the power & majesty of God. Where do you see the majesty of God in the world around you?

*Thursday December 19*

O come thou Dayspring from on high and cheer us by thy drawing night; disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

As we prepare for the coming of Christ – we remember that Jesus came to defeat the power of death – pray that we may have the courage to face death with the knowledge that the way of eternal life is open to us.

*Friday December 20*

Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts. Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. O Lord God of hosts. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts. Show us your mercy, O Lord and grant us your salvation.

*Saturday December 21*

As it gets closer and closer to Christmas, I love seeing the Christmas lights go up all over. As the days get shorter and shorter and the nights get darker and darker it seems like there are more and more lights. It seems to me that is what Christmas is all about – the light that comes into the darkness and even the darkness can't overcome it. I try to remember that as I'm out in the cold hanging the lights (and when I'm out in the colder taking them down.)

*Sunday December 22*

The fourth Sunday of Advent: light all four candles on your Advent wreath

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*