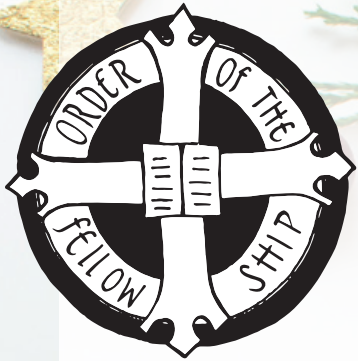


# DECEMBER 2024



Did you know that Advent is the beginning of the church year? Maybe that surprises you because we always link Christmas with the year's end. But it is, in fact, the beginning of a new chapter of the story God has always been telling - I love you; I want us to be together.

In Advent, we await the birth of the Christ Child; it is a season of hope, waiting and anticipation.

What I'm struck with reading the gospel texts for this advent is the active nature of the waiting and anticipation. Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent and be baptised. Be alert at all times because this generation will see God's Chosen One.

What does active and participatory waiting look like for you? How can you prepare the way for Jesus to arrive (again)? How can you prepare yourself? Your family? Your team? Those you serve?.

## **PRAYER FOR DECEMBER:**

We await your coming, Lord, with eagerness and thanksgiving and a fair amount of fearful amazement. Shine your true light in the corners of our hearts and into the corners of the lives we have the honour to influence. Help us to see where paths need tending, where ways need preparing. As we stare into the manger in wonder, teach us in your way of self-imposed vulnerability and incarnation. Keep us by your manger until we learn your ways of love. Amen.

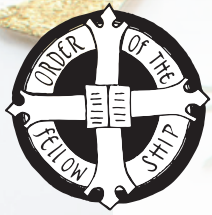
—*Adapted from prayers in Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*

## **PRAYER PRACTICE:**

When you see babies or children in your life, let their childlikeness bring your mind to ponder what the Christ Child was like. We know precious little about Jesus's formative years which makes it a fertile ground for imaginative prayer. How does this baby Jesus inform your image of God? What does the child Jesus tell you about the nature of God's love for you?

## **FASTING PRACTICE:**

This Advent, we can fast from preparing for Christ's arrival in the common, superficial ways. Instead of getting gifts for everyone in your life this year, spend time praying for these people. If you still get them a gift, pray for them as you search for and wrap your gift. Or you can write them a prayer of blessing on a handmade card.



# DECEMBER 2024

## WEEK 1

DEC 1-7



### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### SUNDAY

- 1 Jer 33:14-16
- Psalm 25:1-10
- 1 Thes 3:9-13
- Luke 21:25-36

#### MONDAY

- Num 17:1-11
- 2 Peter 3:1-18

#### TUESDAY

- Psalm 90
- 2 Sam 7:18-29
- Revelation 22:12-16

#### WEDNESDAY

- Psalm 90
- Isaiah 1:24-31
- Luke 11:29-32

#### THURSDAY

- Luke 1:68-79
- Malachi 3:5-12
- Phil 1:12-18a

#### FRIDAY

- Luke 1:68-79
- Malachi 3:13-18
- Phil 1:18b-26

#### SATURDAY

- Luke 1:68-79
- Malachi 4:1-6
- Luke 9:1-6

## WEEK 2

DEC 8-14



### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### SUNDAY

- Malachi 3:1-4
- Luke 1:68-79
- Phil 1:3-11
- Luke 3:1-6

#### MONDAY

- Psalm 126
- Isaiah 40:1-11
- Romans 8:22-25

#### TUESDAY

- Psalm 126
- Isaiah 19:18-25
- 2 Peter 1:2-15

#### WEDNESDAY

- Psalm 126
- Isaiah 35:3-7
- Luke 7:18-30

#### THURSDAY

- Isaiah 12:2-6
- Amos 6:1-8
- 2 Cor 8:1-15

#### FRIDAY

- 13 Isaiah 12:2-6
- Amos 8:4-12
- 2 Cor 9:1-15

#### SATURDAY

- Isaiah 12:2-6
- Amos 9:8-15
- Luke 1:57-66

## WEEK 3

DEC 15-21



### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### SUNDAY

- Zeph 3:14-20
- Isaiah 12:2-6
- Phil 4:4-7
- Luke 3:7-18

#### MONDAY

- Isaiah 11:1-9
- Num 16:1-19
- Heb 13:7-17

#### TUESDAY

- Isaiah 11:1-9
- Num 16:20-35
- Acts 28:23-31

#### WEDNESDAY

- Isaiah 11:1-9
- Micah 4:8-13
- Luke 7:31-35

#### THURSDAY

- Psalm 80:1-7
- Jer 31:31-34
- Heb 10:10-18

#### FRIDAY

- Psalm 80:1-7
- Isaiah 42:10-18
- Heb 10:32-39

#### SATURDAY

- Psalm 80:1-7
- Isaiah 66:7-11
- Luke 13:31-35

## WEEK 4

DEC 22-28



### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### SUNDAY

- Micah 5:2-5a
- Psalm 80:1-7
- Heb 10:5-10
- Luke 1:39-45

#### MONDAY

- Psalm 113
- Genesis 25:19-28
- Col 1:15-20

#### TUESDAY

- Isaiah 9:2-7
- Psalm 96
- Titus 2:11-14
- Luke 2:1-14

#### WEDNESDAY

- Isaiah 62:6-12
- Psalm 97
- Titus 3:4-7
- Luke 2:8-20

#### THURSDAY

- Psalm 148
- 2 Chron 24:17-24
- Acts 6:1-7, 7:51-60

#### FRIDAY

- Psalm 148
- Proverbs 8:32-36
- John 21:19b-24

#### SATURDAY

- Psalm 148
- Isaiah 54:1-13
- Revelation 21:1-7

## WEEK 5

DEC 29-31



### FIFTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### SUNDAY

- 1 Sam 2:18-20, 26
- Psalm 148
- Col 3:12-17
- Luke 2:41-52

#### MONDAY

- Psalm 147:12-20
- 2 Chron 1:7-13
- Mark 13:32-37

#### TUESDAY

- Psalm 147:12-20
- 1 Kings 3:5-14
- John 8:12-19