Morning Prayer in Advent



Advent, from the Latin 'adventus' meaning 'coming', is the period of time in the Christian calendar when we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Gathering

An informal welcome is given.

Grace, mercy and peace be with you.
And also with you.

Reveal among us the light of your presence.
That we may behold your power and glory.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. In your tender compassion the dawn from on high is breaking upon us to dispel the lingering shadows of night. As we look for your coming among us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Psalm 25

To you, O God, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust.

Do not let me be put to shame;
Do not let my enemies rejoice over me.

Make me to know your ways, O God;
Teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
For in you I put my trust.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Saviour, Holy Ghost!

Reading from Scripture

This may be followed by a brief reflection.

Response

Lift up your voice with strength, O herald of good tidings.

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, the desert shall blossom and burst into song. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weary hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not, your God is coming with judgement, coming with judgement to save you.'

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
The ransomed shall return with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads.

Joy and gladness shall be theirs,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Glory to God the Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever.
Amen.

A Time of Prayer

Please take a moment to hold before God the people and things on your heart today.

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which the Christ child came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal. **Amen**.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

The Dismissal

May our Saviour find us watching and waiting.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.