



DAILY
PRAYER
PROJECT

ADVENT

November 28 - December 24, 2021 | Volume 4 | Issue 1

PRAYERS

for Morning & Evening

PRACTICES

for Mind, Body & Spirit

GALLERY

for Contemplation

SONGBOOK

for Adoration





DAILY PRAYER PROJECT

ANIMATING A LIFE OF PRAYER THROUGH THE MANIFOLD BEAUTY OF THE CHURCH

C R E D I T S

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The Daily Prayer Project is produced as a ministry of Grace Mosaic in Northeast Washington, DC.

Grace Mosaic is a congregation of the Grace DC Network.



Big Bend
Murray Rodger



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

JOEL LITTLEPAGE

Co-director of the Daily Prayer Project
Washington, DC

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ during this wondrous season of Advent. We welcome you into this movement of prayer and give thanks for your place within it!

"Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen."

(Rev. 22:20b–21)

This is how the story of scripture ends: *unfinished and expectant*. There is unfinished business in this world on a cosmic scale. This should be obvious to us from only a glance into the news, the neighborhood, or our own lives, with all of life's loose threads, fears, mistakes, wounds, loss, and heartache. In opposition to the common practice—especially common in the American societal Christmas season—of tying a nice, sentimentalized, shiny bow around everything, the church's celebration of Advent is to be a sorrowful exposition of and protest against all evil in the world, telling the truth about on-the-ground realities. At the same time, Advent is a season brimming with the joyful expectation for the one who said, "Behold, I am making all things new. . . . Behold, I am coming soon" (Rev. 21:5; 22:20a). In her book *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ*, Fleming Rutledge writes, "The disappointment, brokenness, suffering, and pain that characterize life in this present world is held in dynamic tension with the promise of future glory that is yet to come. In that Advent tension, the church lives its life."

We find ourselves living in that uncomfortable in-between, the "already and the not yet." The Christian faith has historically faced this reality not as a sign of failure, but rather as a realization of the ongoing drama that Christ has called us into. We participate in the "now" as those who are already caught up in the "what will be." That is not comfortable, but it is very much at the center of a life of following Jesus.

This telling of the season's character may come as a surprise to some. In our culture's rituals of this season, we rush headlong into partying, feasting, shopping, and celebrating without waiting, taking stock, and watching for the light. But in the historical practice of Advent in the Christian year, the church begins in the dark; we wait to

celebrate, which deepens our eventual Christmas feast.

This practice of waiting for things of ultimate concern helps us prioritize life in an age obsessed with the temporality of the now and the new. The Christian conception of Advent, in contrast to the cultural messages of this season, begins with the realization that what, or who, we truly want and need cannot be bought and is not just a click away, but must be waited for with patience, submitting to God's timing, embracing our limits and finitude, and living in the hope that springs from knowing Emmanuel of the past, present, and future. We, as God's people, know where the Story is going, and so we acutely know how unfinished it is. So we look and love into a world with a holy impatience, wanting our hearts to mirror the King's and longing for the earth to mirror his kingdom.

"Come, Lord Jesus." This is Advent.

We are guided into Advent prayer, adoration, contemplation, and practice through the many saints who shape this edition. In the Practices, Nina Barnes reflects on Emmanuel, God with us amidst the turbulence and pressure of life in this world, and invites us into a transforming, honest encounter with the Lord. We are gifted with prayers like those of Charles Tindley, the African American pastor and poet who prays, "Beams of heaven, as I go, through this wilderness below, guide my feet in peaceful ways, turn my midnights into days." In the Gallery, the Korean artist Kim Woong portrays the posture of keeping vigil in his tender painting *The Coming of the Light*. And to aid us in expressing adoration to God, Kimberly Williams, a modern gospel artist, gifts us with her wonderful adaptation of Zechariah's Song (The Benedictus). These offerings and many more help to form our lives of devotion during this distinct and beautiful season of Advent.

May we all be filled with Advent expectancy and hope as we learn, together, to pray without ceasing.

—Joel



INTRODUCTION

Nepalgunj, Nepal
Murray Rodger

The Daily Prayer Project (DPP) is a movement that exists to animate the life of prayer through the manifold beauty of the church. We connect and unify Christians by resourcing them with daily prayers, practices, and music from the global-historical church, and visual art of spiritual and artistic value. All of these rich resources are crafted into a simple, functional, and beautiful product: our Living Prayer Periodicals (LPPs). This is what you are holding in your hands right now.

We produce seven LPP editions per year that move with the Christian seasons of Advent, Christmas & Epiphany, Lent, Easter,

Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. These editions combine dynamic and diverse content with a stable method for morning and evening prayer.

This method not only provides consistency for the life of prayer and practice, but it also forms us all into a life of communion with God and unity with our global and historical family of faith. It is this communal prayer that fuels and forms our own expressions of prayer in the present season of our lives. The DPP is an entrance into the holy, unifying, and empowering experience of praying together in a common way without ceasing throughout the Christian year.



The Daily Prayer Project logo is a monogram crafted into a prayer labyrinth. The mark itself becomes a practice of prayer. Rooted in the ancient Christian tradition of pilgrimage, prayer labyrinths have a history as far back as the fourth century in an Algerian church.

A labyrinth is not a maze. There is one entry point, and a single pathway leading to the center. The journey is a transformative walk toward God, the center of the labyrinth. Arriving at the center

symbolizes union with God. Once a pilgrim has this encounter, they are led back out into the world along the same path.

Walking a labyrinth is a slow, meditative practice. This is a way to embody your prayer. The mark is placed above for you to travel the path of the labyrinth with your finger as a small gesture of this larger practice. We hope that one day you might be able to encounter God as you walk through a physical prayer labyrinth.

The Daily Prayer Project Lectionary

A lectionary is a schedule of Bible readings that is meant to help Christians read the whole Bible over a period of time, emphasizing particular themes and narratives during particular seasons of the Christian year. The Daily Prayer Project follows the Sunday (and certain holy day) readings of the Revised Common Lectionary, the largest shared Bible-reading plan in North America. For most Monday–Saturdays, we follow our own Daily Prayer Project Lectionary, which moves through scripture in a slow, three-year cycle.

The DPP Lectionary is broken down into three categories of readings from scripture: the Psalms, the Old Testament,

and the New Testament. The Old Testament is broken down into its traditional three parts: **(1) Law & History, (2) Wisdom & Poetic Literature, and (3) the Prophets.** The New Testament is also broken down into its traditional three sections: **(1) the Four Gospels & Acts, (2) the Pauline Epistles, and (3) the General Epistles.**

Lectionaries are a time-tested tool from the history of the church for maintaining a steady “diet” from the Bible’s different parts. They are specifically designed to lighten the daily load of reading and to help the reader focus in on smaller passages and particular books at a time. This facilitates slower, more meditative reading. Currently, the DPP is in Year C of the lectionary.

	Year A	Year B	Year C
The Psalms	ALL 150 PSALMS 2x/YEAR	ALL 150 PSALMS 2x/YEAR	ALL 150 PSALMS 2x/YEAR
Old Testament	LAW & HISTORY GENESIS–LEVITICUS	LAW & HISTORY NUMBERS–2 SAMUEL	LAW & HISTORY 1 KINGS–ESTHER
	WISDOM & POETRY PROVERBS & JOB	WISDOM & POETRY PROVERBS & ECCLESIASTES	WISDOM & POETRY PROVERBS & SONG OF SONGS
	PROPHETS ISAIAH & MINOR PROPHETS (PART I)	PROPHETS JEREMIAH, LAMENTATIONS & MINOR PROPHETS (PART II)	PROPHETS EZEKIEL & MINOR PROPHETS (PART III)
New Testament	GOSPEL & ACTS MATTHEW, MARK & ACTS	GOSPEL & ACTS LUKE & ACTS	GOSPEL & ACTS JOHN & ACTS
	PAULINE EPISTLES ROMANS–TITUS	PAULINE EPISTLES ROMANS–TITUS	PAULINE EPISTLES ROMANS–TITUS
	GENERAL EPISTLES HEBREWS–REVELATION	GENERAL EPISTLES HEBREWS–REVELATION	GENERAL EPISTLES HEBREWS–REVELATION

*Sundays and Holy Days are from the Revised Common Lectionary

**During the season of Advent, the Lectionary employs complementary OT and NT readings that journey through this grand narrative of the scriptures.

Methods & Elements

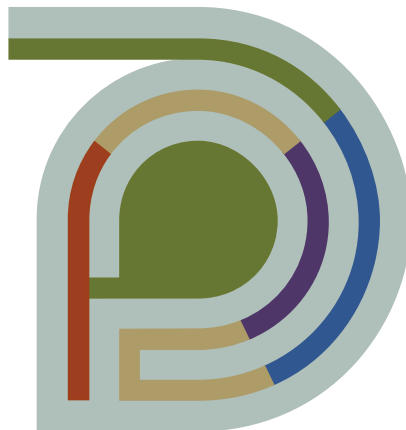
Each day of the LPP features morning and evening prayer liturgies framed by seven core elements. Everyone's style of praying is different because every person is different. Beyond that, Christian prayer varies widely across cultures and denominations. No single method can capture this. However, we hope you find within the LPP a rhythm that gives enough structure and freedom to facilitate a diverse community of prayer. Every element is offered as a guiding movement, not as a binding rule. You are encouraged to modify the liturgy based on the context of prayer.

Consider establishing rhythms of prayer in your congregation, household, workplace, small groups, or other gatherings so that you might experience the formative reality of common prayer. If doing this liturgy individually, you are encouraged to take your time to soak it in. If doing it as a group, it may be best to alternate leading each element. Also, consider using different postures in prayer (standing, kneeling, lifted or open hands, lying prostrate, etc.) that fit your context.

CALL: There is an invitation always open to us. The Spirit of God calls us to come into the holy presence, and we respond to this welcome by entering in.

PSALM: The Psalms form the core language of prayer for the people of God and have done so for thousands of years. The Psalms give us language and postures of heart and body to express in the presence of God.

ADORATION: We were created to adore God, and in the place of worship we find the joy of this purpose. This adoration happens in both silence and song. We provide four songs per edition in the Songbook found on pages 42–47. Full recordings and resources for these songs and others can be found at dailyprayerproject.com. You are also encouraged to sing songs from your own community.



LESSON: The scriptures give us the story of the Father's redemption of all things in the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER: We are led across praise, confession, and guided intercessory prayer by our family of faith all over the globe and throughout time. We receive every prayer as a gift as we put them on our own lips and in our own hearts. These prayers range from traditional prayers of the universal church to more modern and meditative prayers.

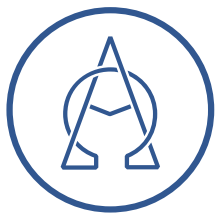
ABIDING: In response to what we have encountered in the first five elements, Abiding is an opportunity for deeper communion and self-reflection through meditating on the scriptures (*lectio divina*), considering the art in the gallery (*visio divina*), or using our bodies to engage historical Christian practices (*praxis divina*). Out of that place, we are also prompted to pray for the needs of others in different stations of life.

BENEDICTION: We close our time with a word of love and blessing over our lives from God himself, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Our journey of prayer is framed by the Call and the Benediction; God has the first and the last word over all things in our lives.

Seasons of the Christian Year

At the Daily Prayer Project we practice the global and historical tradition of the Christian year (sometimes called the liturgical year or church year) as a communal rhythm that forms us—year after year, season after season—to be the people of God and the bearers of God’s story. Human beings are creatures fundamentally and profoundly shaped by stories. Each of our lives will always be following someone’s calendar and bearing someone’s story, but the question is: whose story is it, and what kind of narrative it is telling? The Christian year is an ancient Christian tradition of ordering the 365-day calendar year around the life of Christ. Some dates and celebrations vary by Eastern and Western Christian traditions, but they are generally as follows: Advent, Christmastide, Epiphany (also

called Ordinary Time in some traditions), Lent, Eastertide, and Ordinary Time. The Daily Prayer Project crafts each edition of the LPP in accordance with the Christian year, making two shifts in order to publish the periodicals at regular intervals seven times per year, averaging eight weeks per edition. The first shift is to enfold Christmas and Epiphany (the first season of Ordinary Time) into one edition. We made this decision because Christmastide is short (twelve days). We call this edition “Christmas & Epiphany.” The second shift is we broke up the second Ordinary Time into three editions, calling the first Pentecost, because Ordinary Time begins on this feast day. The other two Ordinary Time editions are simply called “Ordinary Time, part 1” and “Ordinary Time, part 2”; the latter continues until the season of Advent. Each season has been assigned a liturgical color and seasonal icon.



ADVENT | NOVEMBER 28–DECEMBER 24

Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, means “coming” or “visitation.” As followers of Jesus Christ, we live in between two visitations: the first coming of the Son of God in Bethlehem and his long-awaited second coming. We are waiting for the “day of the Lord,” when creation will be healed, the dead will be raised, and all of us together will be ushered into the life of the world to come. This waiting frames our experience in this preparatory, watchful,

somber, and joyful season before the luminous celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany.

2021–2022 Christian Year



ADVENT

NOV 28–DEC 24



CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

DEC 25–MAR 1



LENT

MAR 2–APR 13



EASTER

APR 17–JUN 4



PENTECOST

JUN 5



ORDINARY TIME

JUN 6–NOV 26





THE PRAYERS

MONDAY MORNING to WEDNESDAY EVENING

Japan
Claire Rodger



SUNDAY

Call

Lift up your heads, O gates! And
be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Psalm 24:7

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE O ANTIPHONS

O Emmanuel,
our King and our Lawgiver,
the hope of the nations and their Savior;
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Stanza from the O Antiphons (ca. 700 CE),
taken from *The New Ancient Collects*

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42–47.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Lord in heaven,
Spirit who dwells within: this morning
we worship you as the Alpha and the
Omega, the Beginning and the End, the
First and the Last. As our God who hears
our prayers, as our Master who attends
to our cries, as the Holy Spirit who
groans within us, we call upon you now.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Grant us more of your Spirit as we
wait upon your second coming.
Give us anticipation and hope for the
day when you will right all wrongs.
Teach us how to walk by

faith and not by sight,
and help us to love our neighbors
as we love ourselves.
Lord, fill us afresh with your Holy
Indwelling as we pray to you,
the Alpha and the Omega:
hear our prayers.

A prayer of Kari Kristina Reeves, adapted from
Canyon Road: A Book of Prayer

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause on this Lord's Day to give thanks and praise to God
Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth. Prepare to join in all of
creation's praise with your sisters and brothers in the sanctuary.
Listen to the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray.
Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a heart that waits and prepares for the coming of the Lord
- For those who worship in prisons
- For those who do not yet know Jesus

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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; and forgive
us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Benediction

He who testifies to these things says,
“Surely I am coming soon.” Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the
Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Revelation 22:20–21

SUNDAY

Call

By day the LORD commands
his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

Psalms 42:8

Psalms

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE O ANTIPHONS

O Emmanuel,
our King and our Lawgiver,
the hope of the nations and their Savior;
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Taken from The New Ancient Collects

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42–47.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ,
at your first coming you humbled
yourself because of our sins.
At your second coming our sins will
be done away with by your mercy,
and we will be numbered with
your saints in glory everlasting;
through your merits, O blessed Savior,
with the Father and the Holy Spirit
you live and reign,
one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

A prayer from the ancient Mozarabic church (ca. 400–600 CE), taken from *The New Mozarabic Collects*. The Mozarabs were Christians who lived in Hispania (modern-day southern Spain).

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR
PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this Sabbath Day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen to the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

May the God of hope fill you with
all joy and peace in believing, so
that by the power of the Holy
Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13



DEC 12

ISA. 12:2–6
ZEPH. 3:14–20
PHIL. 4:4–7
& LUKE 3:7–18

DEC 19

PS. 80
MIC. 5:2–5a
HEB. 10:5–10
& LUKE 1:39–55



MONDAY

Call

A voice cries: "In the wilderness
prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God."

Isaiah 40:3

NOV 29

PS. 1

GEN. 1:1–26

REV. 21:1–5

DEC 6

PS. 7

GEN. 49:1, 8–12

REV. 5:1–10

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE O ANTIPHONS

O Morning Star,
splendor of light eternal
and Sun of righteousness;

**Come and enlighten
those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.**

Taken from The New Ancient Collects

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42–47.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

O God, we hope in you:
that you will help us in all our troubles,
that you will strengthen us
in all our temptations,
that you will forgive us all our sins,
that you will be with us when we die
and be merciful to us when we are judged.
O God, in you have we trust;
let us never be confounded.

A prayer from Nigeria, adapted from Morning, Noon and Night

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR
PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the
living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice
of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate.
Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For spiritual renewal during this season of Advent
- For those who are in a painful season of waiting
- For those who suffer from war

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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; and forgive
us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Benediction

For salvation is nearer to us now than
when we first believed. The night is
far gone; the day is at hand. So then
let us cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light.

Adapted from Romans 13:11–12

MONDAY

Call

I remember your name in
the night, O LORD,
and keep your law.

Psalm 119:55

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE O ANTIPHONS

O Morning Star,
splendor of light eternal
and Sun of righteousness;

**Come and enlighten
those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.**

Taken from The New Ancient Collects

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42–47.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

CONFESSION: O Lord my God! You desire constantly to be present within me; and for that my soul is filled with gladness. Yet despite your wonderful love, I still so often do things which offend and upset you. Is it possible, Lord, for a soul which has received such blessings as you have bestowed on my soul, still to remain so hard and stubborn? Yes, I know it is possible, because I so frequently rebuff your advances and reject your blessings. Perhaps I am the only person alive who

treats you so badly. I hope so, because I cannot bear the thought of others offending you in the same measure.

Teach me, Lord, to sing of your mercies. Turn my soul into a garden, where the flowers dance in the garden breeze, praising you with their beauty. Let my soul be filled with beautiful virtues; let me be inspired by your Holy Spirit; let me praise you always.

*A prayer of Teresa of Avila, Spain (1515–1582),
taken from The HarperCollins Book of Prayers*

ASSURANCE: Remember that you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Adapted from 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR
PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God
in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek
God's face.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

*Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city,
and world.*

Benediction

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35:10



DEC 13

PS. 13
JUDG. 2:8–12
ISA. 11:1–10

DEC 20

PS. 21
ISA. 40:1–5
MATT. 3:1–6

EVENING PRAYER



TUESDAY

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR
PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For humility in the presence of Almighty God
- For the courage to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God
- For victims of domestic violence and those who care for them

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Benediction

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

Isaiah 35:3–4

Call

I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

Psalm 40:1

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE O ANTIPHONS

O Wisdom,
coming forth from the mouth
of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other,
mightily and sweetly ordering all things;

**Come and teach us the way
of understanding.**

Taken from The New Ancient Collects

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42–47.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Oh Lord, you know just how I feel
Know just how I feel
Oh Lord, you said you'd answer prayer
Said you'd answer prayer
Oh Lord, I'm coming to you again
Coming to you again
Oh Lord, we sure do need you now
Sure do need you now

Adapted from a prayer sung by Fannie Lou
Hamer (1917–1977) of Ruleville, Mississippi,
taken from *Songs My Mother Taught Me*

NOV 30

PS. 2

GEN. 1:27–2:3

COL. 3:1–17

DEC 7

PS. 8

EXOD. 1:1–14;

2:23–25

LUKE 4:16–21

TUESDAY

Call

Come, bless the LORD, all you
servants of the LORD,
who stand by night in the
house of the LORD!

Psalm 134:1

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE O ANTIPHONS

O Wisdom,
coming forth from the mouth
of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other,
mightily and sweetly ordering all things;
**Come and teach us the way
of understanding.**

Taken from *The New Ancient Collects*

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42–47.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Come, true light.
Come, life eternal.
Come, hidden mystery.
Come, light that knows no evening.
Come, for your name fills our hearts with
longing and is ever on our lips;
yet who you are and what your
nature is, we cannot say or know.
Come, Alone to the alone.
Come, for you are yourself the
desire that is within me.

Come, my breath and life.
Come, the consolation of
my humble soul.
Come, my joy, my glory,
my endless delight.

A prayer of Symeon of Chrysopolis (present-day Üsküdar,
Turkey), adapted from *The Oxford Book of Prayer*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR
PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God
in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek
God's face.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

*Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city,
and world.*

Benediction

Wait for the LORD; be strong,
and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

Psalm 27:14



DEC 14

PS. 14

2 SAM. 7:1–13

REV. 22:12–20

DEC 21

PS. 20

ISA. 42:1–16

ROM 13:11–14

EVENING PRAYER



WEDNESDAY

DEC 1

PS. 3

GEN. 3:1-8

REV. 12:1-11

DEC 8

PS. 9

EXOD. 14:10-14

2 COR. 1:7-10

Call

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices
in God my Savior!

Luke 1:46-47

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE O ANTIPHONS

O Key of David
and Scepter of the house of Israel,
what you open no one can shut.
What you shut no one can open.
**Come and lead the prisoners
from the prison house,
who dwell in darkness and
the shadow of death.**

Taken from The New Ancient Collects

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42-47.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

CONFESSION: Lord Jesus Christ, Son
of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

(The Jesus Prayer)

[Give time to this. Let the Spirit
search you, know you, and show you
where you have gone astray. Confess
in the presence of everlasting love.]

ASSURANCE: So Christ, having been
offered once to bear the sins of

many, will appear a second time, not
to deal with sin but to save those
who are eagerly waiting for him.

Hebrews 9:28

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR
PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the
living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice
of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate.
Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a heart rooted in the compassion
of Jesus
- For those who serve as peacemakers
and mediators
- For those who are suffering from
mental illness

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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; and forgive
us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Benediction

Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the
remnant of the house of Israel, who
have been borne by me from before
your birth, carried from the womb;
even to your old age I am he, and to gray
hairs I will carry you. I have made, and
I will bear; I will carry and will save.

Isaiah 46:3-4



Psalm 92:1-2

Adapted from *Canyon Road: A Book of Prayer*

Read the Psalm of the day.

O Key of David
and Scepter of the house of Israel,
what you open no one can shut.
What you shut no one can open.
**Come and lead the prisoners
from the prison house,
who dwell in darkness and
the shadow of death.**

Taken from *The New Ancient Collects*

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42–47.

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

[Call to mind someone to pray for this evening, and then pray the following over their life.]

I commit my loved one into
your care tonight, Jesus:
In sleep, give him/her true rest.
In dreaming, give him/her peace and love.

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR
PRAXIS DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PRAYER OF MINDFULNESS

Throughout the history of the church, Christians have incorporated practices of prayer that call to mind God's presence in the moment, humbly and gratefully review the time that has passed, and look forward to the gift of another day. Pray through these prompts slowly, giving time to each step of the practice.

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon
you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance
upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

PS. 15

1 KINGS 11:6-13

1 COR. 10:1-14

DEC 22

PS. 22

MAL. 4:1-6

LUKE 1:1-25

EVENING PRAYER



Cuba
Claire Rodger



THE PRACTICES



PRAYER; CONTEMPLATION; SELF-
EXAMINATION

EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US

Nina Barnes

MEDITATION

“So the Word became human and made his home among us.”

—John 1:14 (NLT)

Emanuel, God is *with* us—in every sense, in all the stuff of life. No circumstance is too much for God, and nothing is too small for God to dismiss as inconsequential.

Applied pressure creates movement. Sometimes it’s an almost imperceptible internal shift. Other times, the pressure creates an external reaction with a force that can be surprising, even shocking. A global pandemic, ethnic and racial injustice, volatile weather, economic instability, nationalism, populism, famine, droughts, wars, and rumors of wars . . .

None of these issues are controllable by individuals, which is a particular challenge for typically competent people. It is not possible to navigate daily life undisturbed by

the world beyond our individual choices—and we do not like the loss of choices and control.

Emmanuel, God with us: reveal what we need to see during these turbulent times.

The external societal pressures we are experiencing have exposed the state of our hearts and souls. Our chaotic thoughts, disordered attitudes, and dysfunctional actions are manifestations of what we have been attempting to control.

What we have learned to conceal and manage can no longer be suppressed and kept at bay. When a crack in a dam isn’t fixed, the force of the water will become too powerful to be contained. Likewise, when we do not pay attention to and address soul fissures, disorder floods out of us and into our environments, significantly affecting us and every person in our relational radius.

In this season, selfishness, arrogance, anger, frustration, denial, anxiety, rebellion, division, sadness, grief, and lovelessness are familiar—close, even constant companions. We manifest them and we witness them spill out of others.

None of these issues are new. These soul fissures were being experienced before Jesus’s birth, when men and women were waiting for the Messiah to come. They, like us, were hanging on to hope for the world to be made new.

Emmanuel, God is with us—in our hoping and in our active waiting for change and relief during this Advent season.

Advent literally means “arrival.” Now, just as back then, we are invited to wait with genuine expectancy for Christ’s arrival and participation in the messiness of our lives and world.

EXPLORATION

- May we look for and embrace the uncomfortable helplessness that leads us in utter dependence straight into the trustworthy and faithful presence of Christ.
- Rather than being filled with shame and ignoring or covering up what comes out when pressure is applied, we can choose to acknowledge our humanness and the inevitability of making mistakes and sometimes sinning.
- Rather than ignoring or excusing our attitudes and actions, we have the opportunity to bring our humanness to the Lord—for forgiveness, healing, and transformation.
- We have the opportunity to authentically model for others that we are all being invited by the Lord to bring every aspect of our lives into the presence of Emmanuel, knowing there is redemption.
- When have you experienced God waiting with you?
- Can you imagine Jesus being fully present to you, interceding for you, genuinely caring about your life?
- Can you believe God not only loves you but *likes* you too—not despite what you do—knowing fully who you are?
- Do you invite trusted people into your waiting?
- Do you show up for and wait with others?
- How do you remind yourself that you are empowered by the Holy Spirit?

Emmanuel, God with us: during Advent, restore our hope in the waiting for restoration and transformation.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS AND PRACTICES:

- How have you practiced waiting over the past eighteen-plus months?
- How do you respond when you have not waited well?
- What of your life do you withhold from God? Why?

My prayer is that during difficult seasons we spend time in God's presence, humbly seeking mercy, grace, and transformation—for ourselves and for the world.

Emmanuel, God with us: Refresh, enliven, and strengthen us. Renew our desire to reflect your character more accurately, by expressing your love in this troubled and weary world during this Advent season and beyond.

"Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's holy people."

—Revelation 22:20b–21 (NLT)

Japan
Claire Rodger

Nina Barnes is a certified spiritual director with a passion for creating space for others to discern and respond to invitations from God. Nina considers it an honor and a sacred trust to help people navigate life while discovering purpose and meaning, work through challenges, develop as leaders, and experience transformation on the journey.
www.transformingjourney.org



*Cuba
Claire Rodger*



COMMUNITY

BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED

Ashley Williams

MEDITATION

It is a peculiar scene: Two women with two extraordinary pregnancies. One is a teenager whose womb is like the world at creation: teeming with life formed by fiat. The other is a woman “advanced in years,” withered by the reproach of barrenness, and now her frown is turned upright with every backflip of the infant growing inside her belly. Pregnancy is one of

the most remarkable windows into the discipline of waiting. Juxtaposed with the deafening silence of a waiting Israel longing for her Messiah, a pregnant Elizabeth greets her cousin Mary with this exclamatory benediction: “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! . . . And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord” (Luke 1:42b, 45).

With their extended midsections awaiting the arrival of sons, these women are companions to those of us who wait. Some of us are waiting for pregnancies. Others are waiting for marriages, jobs, good news, etc. Perhaps you are waiting for something so precious and so dear that you can hardly speak its name.

EXPLORATION

How can we foster habits of encouragement in our communal lives?

Encourage scripturally. Many of us may find the practice of encouragement awkward, and we often are not rehearsed in uplifting others. Being generally more fluent in criticism and complaint, many of us lack proficiency in the language of encouragement. What should we do? Paul tells us that “through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Rom. 15:4). Memorize passages of scripture that have encouraged you in the silence and darkness of waiting and speak those words to others. Just as God’s word brings life in the void of worlds and wombs, so too does his word bring life to the weary.

Encourage specifically. Spend intentional time thinking about those around you and where you see the Lord’s handiwork in their lives. When you see goodness and godliness in others, tell them! It is proper and necessary in our communities to lovingly point out areas of sin and opportunities for change, but it is equally vital to admonish and

What do we need in the vulnerable labor of waiting? We see it clearly in this text: encouragement in community. We need friends who know intimately what we are waiting for and who speak the same benediction over us: “Blessed are you who believed . . .” Paul asks the Galatian Christians to “carry each other’s burdens” (Gal. 6:2). James says that healing is in the praying for one another (James 5:16). The writer of Hebrews also confirms that encouragement in a community helps “spur one another on” (Heb. 10:24–25).

In the season of Advent, we are looking toward the fulfillment of God’s promises. We are hoping and waiting for the redemption of mind, body, and soul. Waiting, by nature, is complex. To continue in hope, we need the community of faith and her benedictions to help us along the way.

affirm where we see growth in spiritual maturity and greater alignment with the image of Christ.

Encourage selflessly. Unfortunately, we live in a society that often functions with a scarcity mindset—if there is encouragement for one, there is not enough encouragement for another. But that is not so in the economy of God’s kingdom. Encouragement begets encouragement, and there is plenty to go around. The discipline of blessing others forms us to believe that just as God loves a cheerful giver and honors the generosity of his people, he loves a cheerful encourager and blesses those who bless others.

When we encourage one another, we are participating in the work of the Spirit, comforting others toward hope amid silence and waiting (Phil. 2:1). May our words be sprinkled with benedictions for those awaiting, with wearied hope, the sure appearance of our promised Messiah.

Encourage scripturally. Encourage specifically. Encourage selflessly.



*Jordan
Claire Rodger*



THE GALLERY

ALPHA AND OMEGA

*Behold, I am coming soon. . . . I am the Alpha
and the Omega, the first and the last, the
beginning and the end.*

— REVELATION 22:12–13

This apocalyptic painting by British artist Larain Briggs was on display at London's gallery@oxo as part of the 2021 Chaiya Art Awards exhibition "*God Is . . .*" Briggs says it's meant to evoke the book of Revelation, and that it emanated from her concern with climate change and the precarious state the natural world is in at present.

"Although I perceived the painting to be a vision of the end, it is full of light and hope. The end can equally be viewed as a beginning," she says. In the center of the composition a faint circular form rests on a heavily textured platform of cloud and smoke ("Behold, he is coming with the clouds . . ." [Rev. 1:7]); at this focal point, turbulence resolves into tranquility, and darkness gives way to light. The body of water at the bottom may be a reference

to the "sea of glass mingled with fire" in Revelation 15:2.

FOR REFLECTION:

- What element of the painting most draws you in?
- How does the artist convey the idea of "apocalypse" (unveiling)?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is "the first and the last"?
- In what ways does the image evoke the Creation narrative?



ALPHA AND OMEGA

Larain Briggs, 2019

Oil over acrylic underpainting on stretched canvas, 39 $\frac{3}{8}$ × 39 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. (100 × 100 cm)

www.larainbriggs.co.uk



THE PROPHET
(St. John the Baptist)

Pablo Gargallo, 1933

Bronze, 91¾ × 29½ × 19 in. (233 × 74.9 × 48.3 cm)

Edition 4 of 7

Janet and Alan Wurtzburger Sculpture Garden, Baltimore Museum of Art

THE PROPHET

(St. John the Baptist)

The sequential themes of hope, peace, joy, and love are one common way by which to structure the four weeks of Advent. But another key theme of the season is judgment (and, by extension, the need for repentance), which is what the wild-eyed prophet John the Baptizer preached in preparation for the arrival of Christ on the public scene.

Spanish avant-garde sculptor Pablo Gargallo (1881–1934), who was inspired by cubism, represents John using metal planes constructed around a central axis formed by the head, spine, and legs. At seven and a half feet tall, Gargallo’s John is an imposing figure, captured here in midspeech. The open form seems to suggest a gauntness—John was a desert ascetic after all, subsisting on a diet of locusts and honey—and yet he exudes great strength, one arm raised in declamation and the other firmly gripping a staff. He speaks with authority and conviction.

FOR REFLECTION:

- Take note of some of the formal elements of the sculpture. To what do you attribute its expressive force?
- Imagine what it would have been like to have been present for one of John’s sermons and mass baptisms at this shifting of the ages (see Matt. 3:1–12).
- Does the announcement “the kingdom of heaven is at hand” scare or excite you? Does it have implications in your everyday life?



THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

This painting by South Korean artist Kim Woong shows a woman in a white blouse and green skirt sitting barefoot on the ground. She holds a lit candle in her left hand, which casts a heart-shaped glow on her face, and with her right arm she hugs her body for warmth.

Advent is a time of keeping vigil, of waiting eagerly in the darkness for the coming of the Light. In what particular dark areas of your own life do you long for God's light to shine? What about in your city? And globally? Christ has come and is always coming into places of need; wherever you're feeling the shadows of sin and/or suffering most keenly, pray for his presence there.

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

Kim Woong, before 1975

Private collection, New York

Published in *Christian Art in Asia* by Masao Takenaka



Isle of Jura, Scotland
Murray Rodger



THE PRAYERS

THURSDAY MORNING to SATURDAY EVENING



THURSDAY

DEC 2

PS. 4

GEN. 3:9–21

JOHN 10:7–18

DEC 9

PS. 9

EXOD. 40:33–38

REV 21:22–22:5

Call

Give ear to my words, O LORD;
consider my groaning.
**Give attention to the sound of
my cry, my King and my God,
for to you do I pray.**

Psalm 5:1–2

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE O ANTIPHONS

O Adonai,
and leader of the house of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the
fire of the burning bush
and gave him the law on Sinai;
**Come and redeem us with
an outstretched arm.**

*Taken from *The New Ancient Collects**

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42–47.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Ever-present God, you taught us that
the night is far spent and the day is
at hand. Grant that we may ever be
found watching for the coming of
your Son. Save us from undue love
of the world, that we may wait with
patient hope for the day of the Lord,
and so abide in him, that when he
shall appear, we may not be ashamed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A prayer from the Church of Scotland

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR
PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the
living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice
of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate.
Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a still and silent heart that finds
rest in God alone
- For those without proper medical
insurance and care
- For elected officials in local and
national government

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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; and forgive
us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Benediction

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion,
for behold, I come and I will dwell in
your midst, declares the LORD. And
many nations shall join themselves to
the LORD in that day, and shall be my
people. And I will dwell in your midst.

Zephariah 2:10–11a



DEC 16

PS. 16
2 KINGS 17:18–23;
25:8–11
MATT. 1:1–23

DEC 23

PS. 19
ISA. 7:14
LUKE 1:26–28

THURSDAY

Call

O LORD, God of my salvation,
I cry out day and night before you.

Psalm 88:1

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE O ANTIPHONS

O Adonai,
and leader of the house of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the
fire of the burning bush
and gave him the law on Sinai;
**Come and redeem us with
an outstretched arm.**

Taken from *The New Ancient Collects*

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42–47.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Beams of heaven, as I go,
Through this wilderness below,
Guide my feet in peaceful ways,
Turn my midnights into days;
When in the darkness I would grope,
Faith always sees a star of hope,
And soon from all life's grief and danger,
I shall be free someday.

I do not know how long 'twill be,
Nor what the future holds for me,
But this I know, if Jesus leads me,
I shall get home someday.

Adapted from a hymn of the Rev. Dr. Charles Albert Tindley
(1851–1933) of Philadelphia. Tindley is known as the “Prince of
Preachers” and a father of modern gospel music.

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR
PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God
in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek
God's face.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

*Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city,
and world.*

Benediction

“... He will wipe away every tear
from their eyes, and death shall be no
more, neither shall there be mourning,
nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the
former things have passed away.” And
he who was seated on the throne said,
“Behold, I am making all things new.”
Also he said, “Write this down, for
these words are trustworthy and true.”

Revelation 21:4–5



FRIDAY

Call

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day:
**“Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name . . .”**

Isaiah 12:3–4

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE O ANTIPHONS

O King of the nations,
and their desire,
the cornerstone making both one;
**Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.**

Taken from The New Ancient Collects

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42–47.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble
estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all
generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great
things for me, and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear
him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in
the thoughts of their hearts;

he has brought down the mighty
from their thrones and exalted
those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham
and to his offspring forever.

The Magnificat, from Luke 1:46–55

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the
living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice
of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate.
Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For endurance, patience, courage, and power as you follow Jesus
- For your enemies and those who would do you harm
- For those who are homeless and hungry

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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; and forgive
us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Benediction

Grace be with you.

1 Timothy 6:21

FRIDAY

Call

Yet God my King is from of old, working
salvation in the midst of the earth.

Yours is the day, yours also the night.

Psalm 74:12, 16a

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE O ANTIPHONS

O King of the nations,
and their desire,
the cornerstone making both one;
**Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.**

Taken from The New Ancient Collects

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42–47.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Father, long before the
creation of the world
You chose us in infinite love!
This sweet, beautiful love,
so deep and moving,
Draws us close to Jesus.
Still it protects us, still it protects us.
From now we are eternally steadfast.
Still it protects us, still it protects us.
From now we are eternally steadfast.

A prayer written by university students in Beijing in the
early 1950s during the Mao era, taken from *Prayers and
Thoughts of Chinese Christians*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR
PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God
in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek
God's face.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

*Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city,
and world.*

Benediction

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ
himself, and God our Father, who
loved us and gave us eternal comfort
and good hope through grace,
comfort your hearts and establish
them in every good work and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16–17



DEC 17

PS. 17

HAB. 1:1–14

ROM. 8:18–25

DEC 24

PS. 96

ISA. 9:2–7

TITUS 2:11–14

& LUKE 2:1–20

EVENING PRAYER



SATURDAY

DEC 4

PS. 6

GEN. 11:27–12:9

GAL. 3:8–14

DEC 11

PS. 12

DEUT. 18:9–15

HEB 1:1–6

MORNING PRAYER

Call

Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.

Psalm 33:20

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE O ANTIPHONS

O Root of Jesse,
standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer;
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

Taken from The New Ancient Collects

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42–47.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

CREED

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Who made the heaven and the earth and the
seas and all the things that are in them;
We believe in Christ Jesus, the Son of God,
Who was made flesh for our salvation;
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
Who made known through the prophets the
plan of salvation, and Christ's coming, and
the birth from a virgin, and the passion, and
the resurrection from the dead, and the bodily
ascension into heaven of the beloved Christ Jesus.
Jesus is our Lord, and in the future he will
appear from heaven in the glory of the
Father to sum up all things and to raise
anew all flesh of the whole human race.

"Rule of Faith" by Irenaeus (125–202 CE) of Smyrna (present-day Izmir, Turkey), adapted from his work *Adversus Haereses*

Prayer

Lord of truth and mercy, we pray for you to take
away our selfishness and give us your holiness;
our indifference and give us your zeal; our
smallness and make us generous; our thirst for
recognition and make us thirst for righteousness.

A prayer of the United Church of North India, taken from
Morning, Noon and Night

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR
PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the
scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a heart that adores the beauty of God
- For freedom from the love of money and for
generosity in all of life
- For the flourishing of all people in your place,
from the womb to the tomb

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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; and forgive us
our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Benediction

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick
darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise
upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light, and
kings to the brightness of your rising.

Isaiah 60:2–3

SATURDAY



Call

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands
as the evening sacrifice!

Psalm 141:2

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE O ANTIPHONS

O Root of Jesse,
standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer;
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

Taken from *The New Ancient Collects*

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 42–47.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

CONFESSION: Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, grant us peace.

The Agnus Dei

ASSURANCE: Christ, our Passover lamb, has
been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate
the festival, not with the old leaven, the
leaven of malice and evil, but with the
unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:7–8

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR
PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the
scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PRAYER OF MINDFULNESS

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review this past week with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the week and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow and the beginning of
a new week.

A PRAYER FOR SABBATH

Creator God,
On the seventh day you rested
and were refreshed.
Please help me now to enter into
the rest of your Sabbath,
That I may cease from my work
And delight in your care over my life
Both now and forever. *Amen.*

Benediction

Lord, you now have set your servants free to go
in peace as you have promised, for these eyes
of ours have seen the savior, whom you have
prepared for all the world to see: A Light to
enlighten the nations, and the glory of your
people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the
Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be forever. *Amen.*

Nunc Dimittis, based on Luke 2:29–32

DEC 18

PS. 18

ISA. 35:3–10

PHIL. 4:4–9



THE SONGBOOK

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Murray Rodger

01. Tenemos Esperanza



1. Por-que él en - tró en el mun-do y en la hist - or - ia; por-que que-bró el sil - en - cio y la a - go - ní - a;
 2. Por-que a - ta - có a am-bi - cio - sos mer - ca - de - res y de - nun - ció mal - dad e hi - po - cre - sí - a;
 3. Por-que u - na au - ro - ra vio su gran vic - to - ria so - bre la muer - te, el mie - do, las men - ti - ras;



por - que lle - nó la tie - rra de su glo - ria; por-que fue luz en nue - stra no - che frí - a.
 por-que ex - al - tó a los ni - ños, las mu - je - res y re - cha - zó a los que de or - gu - llo ar - dí - an.
 ya na - da pue - de de - te - ner su his - to - ria, ni de su rei - no e - ter - no la ve - ni - da



Por-que él nac - ió en un pe - se - bre os - cu - ro; por-que vi - vió sem-bran-do a amor y vi - da;
 Por-que él car - gó la cruz de nues - tras pe - nas y sa - bo - reó la hiel de nues - tros ma - les;
 Por-que i - lu - mi - na ca - da sen - da en glo - ria Y las tin - ie - blas de - rro - tó con lum - bre



por-que par - tió los co - ra - zo - nes du - ros y le - van - tó las al - mas a - ba - ti - das.
 por-que a - cep - tó su - frir nues - tra con - de - na, y a - sí mo - rir por to - dos los mor - ta - les.
 por-que su luz es siem - pre nue - stra his - to - ria Y ha de lle - var a to - dos a la cum - bre

Chorus



Por e - so es que hoy te - ne - mos es - pe - ran - za; por e - so es que hoy lu - cha - mos con por - fi - a;



por e - so es que hoy mi - ra - mos con con - fian - za, el por - ve - nir en es - ta tie - rra mí - a.



Por e - so es que hoy te - ne - mos es - pe - ran - za; por e - so es que hoy lu - cha - mos con por - fi - a;



por e - so es que hoy mi - ra - mos con con - fian - za, el por - ve - nir.

Lyrics by Federico J. Pagura (1923-2016) of Argentina. Music by Homero R. Perera of Argentina, ©1983 Homero R. Perera. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

TRANSLATION

VERSE 1: Because he came into the world and history
Because he broke the silence and the agony
Because he filled the earth with his glory
Because he was light in our cold night
Because he was born in a dark manger
Because he lived sowing love and life
Because he opened up the hard hearts
And lifted up the downcast souls

VERSE 2: Because he attacked the ambitious merchants
And denounced evil and hypocrisy
Because he exalted the children, the women
And rejected those who burned with pride
Because he carried the cross of our suffering
And tasted the bitterness of our ills
Because he accepted to suffer our condemnation
And thus died for all mortals

CHORUS: That's why we have hope today
That's why we fight tenaciously today
That's why today we look with confidence
To the future of this land of mine
That's why we have hope today
That's why we fight tenaciously today
That's why today we look with confidence
To the future

VERSE 3: Because a dawn saw his great victory
Over death, the fear, the lies
Now nothing can stop his story
Or the coming of his eternal kingdom
Because he brightens every path with glory
And he defeated darkness with light
Because his light is always our story
And ought to take everyone to the mountaintop

02. O Lord, Hear My Prayer (Señor, ten piedad)



1. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
2. The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise;
3. Se - ñor ten pie - dad, Se - ñor ten pie - dad;

when I call an - swer me. O
All my hope comes from God. The
si te in - vo - co, ó - ye - me. Se -

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.
Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise.
ñor ten pie - dad, Se - ñor ten pie - dad;

Come and lis - ten to me. O
God, the well - spring of life. The
Ven, y es - cu - cha mi voz. Se -

*Lyrics and music by Jacques Berthier (1923-1984) of France, adapted from Psalm 102. © 1982, 2011, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.
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03. Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



1. Come, thou long ex - pec - ted Je - sus,
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver,

born to set thy and peo - ple free;
 born a child and yet a King,

from our fears and sins re - lease us,
 born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee.
 now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
 By thine own e - ter - nal spi - rit

hope of all the earth thou art;
 rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion,
 by thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it,

joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Lyrics by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) of England. Music by Rowland Prichard (1811-1887) of Wales. Public Domain.

04. Zechariah's Song



1. Bles - sed _____ be the _____ Lord God of Is - ra - el, _____
 2. We reap the fruit of our God's ho - ly co - ve - nant, _____
 3. Oh bles - sed child that cries out in the wild - er - ness, _____
 4. Thanks be to God for His tender love and mer - cy, _____



for he has come to re - deem us all,
 proof of the oath sworn to Ab - ra - ham,
 you, pro - phet of the _____ Lord most high,
 for vic - tory our _____ e - ne - mies,



for he has raised up a horn of sal - va - tion, _____
 that we might serve Him with - out fear but a - do - ra - tion,
 give the peo - ple _____ knowledge of sal - va - tion, _____
 Christ, hum - ble king, your _____ reign is e - ter - nal, _____



in the _____ house of _____ Da - vid.
 in ho - li - ness and _____ right - eous - ness.
 by the for - give - ness _____ of their sin.
 guide us in - to the _____ path of peace.

Chorus



Christ has come, Christ has come, as the pro - phe - cy fore - told, both to



build and _____ to de - stroy, Oh _____



shine, bles - sed light, lead us out of the dark - ness, _____



in - to the way of e - ter - nal life.

Lyrics and music by Kimberly Williams of Washington, DC. ©2020 Kimberly Williams Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.



Santorini, Greece

The Daily Prayer Project's Living Prayer Periodicals feature daily morning and evening prayer guides for the week. These guides are used throughout the current season of the Christian year. Their simplicity, brevity, and repetition facilitates transformative patterns of prayer in everyday life.

