

Advent 2020 Weekday Prayer Booklet

Prayers For Waiting in Darkness

This booklet is meant to provide you/your family with prayers for the weekdays of Advent. You can pray with these as often as you would like throughout the week.

Weekday Prayers for the First Week of Advent

Gather in God's name, lighting one candle

May God be with you... and also with you.

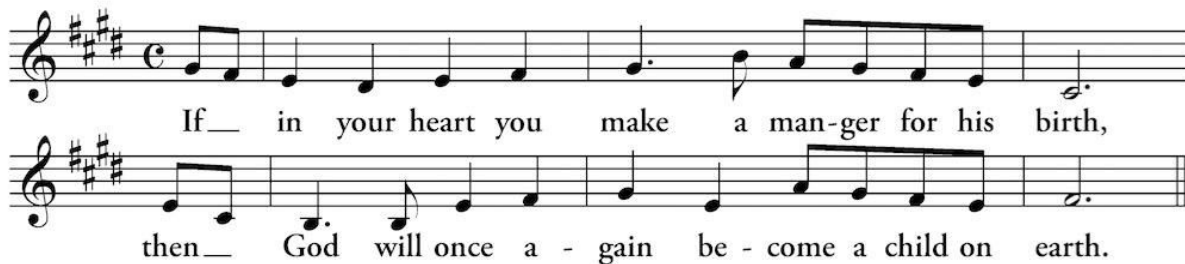
Listen for the Holy

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

– James 5:7-8

Sing: If In Your Heart, by Ana Hernández

[Click here](#) for the audio



If in your heart you make a man-ger for his birth,
then God will once a - gain be - come a child on earth.

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.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
Now and for ever. Amen.

How Dark the Beginning by Maggie Smith

All we ever talk of is light—
let there be light, there was light then,

good light—but what I consider
dawn is darker than all that.

So many hours between the day
receding and what we recognize

as morning, the sun cresting
like a wave that won't break

over us—as if light were protective,
as if no hearts were flayed,

no bodies broken on a day
like today. In any film,

the sunrise tells us everything
will be all right. Danger wouldn't

dare show up now, dragging
its shadow across the screen.

We talk so much of light, please
let me speak on behalf

of the good dark. Let us
talk more of how dark
the beginning of a day is.

Respond

Now, and throughout this week, think on these things: where in your life is patience required? Where do you see the good dark, that is, darkness that could be a new beginning? What hinders — or helps — your practice of holy waiting? What do you do while you wait?

Pray

Pray for patience, pray for vision, pray for the journey of Advent ahead.

Close, sharing God's blessing and giving thanks together.

Weekday Prayers for the Second Week of Advent

Gather in God's name, lighting two candles

May God be with you... and also with you.

Listen for the Holy

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. —Jeremiah 31:31-14

Sing: Open My Heart, by Ana Hernández

[click here](#) (shorter version) or [here](#) (longer version) to listen in



Part 1
O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart. O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart.

Part 2
O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart. O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart.

Part 3
O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart. O - pen my heart, O - pen my heart.

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.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
Now and for ever. Amen.

Sweet Darkness by *David Whyte*

When your eyes are tired
the world is tired also.
When your vision has gone,
no part of the world can find you.
Time to go into the dark
where the night has eyes
to recognize its own.
There you can be sure
you are not beyond love.
The dark will be your home
tonight.
The night will give you a horizon
further than you can see.
You must learn one thing.
The world was made to be free in.
Give up all the other worlds
except the one to which you belong.
Sometimes it takes darkness and the sweet
confinement of your aloneness
to learn
anything or anyone
that does not bring you alive
is too small for you.

Respond

Now, and throughout this week, think on these things: Where and how do you see new directions ahead? How has this “night” or the darkness given you a horizon to see what might be ahead? Or, How might the “night” be preparing you for a new day? What might help you turn towards that newness?

Pray

Pray for discernment, pray for strength, pray for the conviction to begin turning and continue in a new direction.

Close, sharing God’s blessing and giving thanks together.

Weekday Prayers for the Third Week of Advent

Gather in God's name, lighting three candles

May God be with you... and also with you.

Listen for the Holy

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

– John 1:1-5

Sing: When the Night Becomes Dark, by Suzanne Toolan, from Taizé

[Click here](#) to listen

Em Am⁶ E Am E

When the night be - comes dark, your love, O Lord,

Am E C⁶ Dm C F⁶ E Am

is a fire; your love, O Lord, is a fire.

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.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
Now and for ever. Amen.

Peck Small Tracks *by Tess Taylor*

Novitiate to the winter's glaze
by day you weave your songs in white.

Then dusk falls, rich Madonna blue.
Branches shuttle icy rosaries.

Lights flare, swim the evening black.
The page waits. Again you try

to print a common thing: how this one day
slipped by—at dawn shadows bloomed

then shrank by noon to pinnacles.
Outside: the tree's dark alphabet.

After the rain, the field, a pockmarked carpet.
Beneath the ice some seed

holds code, waiting warmth to speak it.
Now the night is ink, the field is wide:

you look to peck small tracks across it.

Respond

Now, and throughout this week, think on these things: about the newness ahead, how will you move towards it? What are small steps you can take? Who encourages you towards the new light?

Pray

Pray with open eyes. Pray studying the light. Pray for the journey ahead. Pray into the light.

Close, sharing God's blessing and giving thanks together.

Weekday Prayers for the Fourth Week of Advent

Gather in God's name, lighting four candles

May God be with you... and also with you.

Listen for the Holy

The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread? When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. If an army encamps against me, My heart will not fear; If war arises against me, In spite of this I am confident. One thing I have asked from the Lord, and I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple...Hear, Lord, when I cry with my voice, And be gracious to me. When you said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "I shall seek Your face, Lord." —Psalm 27:1-4, 7-8

Sing: Take, O Take Me as I Am, by John Bell

[click here](#) to listen

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

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.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
Now and for ever. Amen.**

Sabbaths 1987 — VI *by Wendell Berry*

Remembering that it happened once,
We cannot turn away the thought,
As we go out, cold, to our barns
Toward the long night's end, that we
Ourselves are living in the world
It happened in when it first happened,
That we ourselves, opening a stall
(A latch thrown open countless times
Before), might find them breathing there,
Foreknown: the Child bedded in straw,
The mother kneeling over Him,
The husband standing in belief
He scarcely can believe, in light
That lights them from no source we see,
An April morning's light, the air
Around them joyful as a choir.
We stood with one hand on the door,
Looking into another world
That is this world, the pale daylight
Coming just as before, our chores
To do, the cattle all awake,
Our own white frozen breath hanging
In front of us; and we are here
As we have never been before,
Sighted as not before, our place
Holy, although we knew it not.

Respond

Where can you see God in your midst? Where does this hope lead you?

Pray

Pray with your body, in action. Pray for all bodies in danger. Pray for the Body of Christ, that we may live into hope, together as one.

Close, sharing God's blessing and giving thanks together.