

Advent Prayer Service

Call to Prayer	Bell Ringers
Leader	<p>In this season of Advent, as we gather to wait in the darkness of winter nights for Jesus our Light to come, may our hearts be filled with joy and promise. Let us pause for a moment to let God enter into the silence of our hearts.</p> <p>(Silence)</p> <p>Please join in singing our Opening Song, <i>Soon and Very Soon</i>, # xx in xx.</p>
Opening Song	<i>Soon and Very Soon</i>
Leader	We begin our Advent Prayer, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All	Amen.
Leader	Light and peace in Christ Jesus our Lord.
All	Thanks be to God.
Leader	<p>We gather on this Monday evening of the First Week of Advent to pray for the grace we need to live as people of hope. The Advent Wreath symbolizes our growing hope and anticipation that the Lord Jesus may enter our lives more fully. Let us pray that this wreath may remind us to bring the light of Christ to the darkness of this world.</p> <p>Heavenly Father, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as and upon the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever.</p>
All	Amen.
Leader	Please be seated

PROCESSION OF ADVENT CANDLES

First Week of Advent (first purple candle is processed in)

Reader	God, we wait for the coming of your Son, Jesus, into our hearts and our lives this Advent. Help us to always follow him as the light of the world.
All	Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Week of Advent (second purple candle is processed in)

Reader	God, we look forward to Christmas and the joy it brings. Help us to share our happiness with others during this Advent season.
All	Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Third Week of Advent (the pink candle is processed in)

Reader God, as Christmas draws nearer we decorate our homes in preparation for our celebration of the birthday of Jesus. Help us remember always that Jesus is the reason for our celebration.

All **Lord, come and save us.**

Fourth Week of Advent (the last purple candle is processed in)

Reader God, during this Advent season we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Help us to be the kind of people you created us to be now and throughout the year.

Response **Let the Lord enter, he is king of glory.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A reading from the Gospel of John (1:6-9).

God sent his messenger,
a man named John,
who came to tell people about the light,
so that all should hear the message and believe.
He himself was not the light;
he came to tell about the light.
This was the real light—
the light that comes into the world and shines on all people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ**

Leader We pause in silence now to reflect on how we can open ourselves up to the light of Christ this Advent and on how we can bring that light to others.

(Silent reflection)

Leader As we continue to reflect on the light of Christ coming into our lives, let us sing the great Advent hymn, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, #xx in the XX

Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

MAGNIFICAT

Leader During Advent, we look to Mary who, by following God's will, gave birth to Jesus. We pray now the words of her great song of praise, The Magnificat, which she spoke in the presence of the angel upon learning that she would be the Mother of our Savior.

Right **My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;**

Left **For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed;**

Right **the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.**

Left	He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
Right	He has shown the strength of his arm; He has scattered the proud in their conceit.
Left	He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.
Right	He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.
Left	He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
Right	The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

PETITIONS

Reader	May Advent be a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus, we pray.
All	Lord, hear our prayer.
Reader	May Advent be a time of sharing with those in need, we pray.
All	Lord, hear our prayer.
Reader	May Advent be a time of prayer and reflection, we pray.
All	Lord, hear our prayer.
Reader	May Advent be a time of peace and joy, we pray.
All	Lord, hear our prayer.
Reader	May Advent be a time when we love others as God loves us, we pray.
All	Lord, hear our prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER and BLESSING

Leader	Let us pray that this Advent prayer will inspire us to prepare the way of the Lord. Dear God, you have heard our prayers. Help us to share what we have with others during this holy season. May we keep our minds and hearts on the coming of your kingdom now and always. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All	Amen.
Leader	May the light of Christ shine in our lives.
All	Now and forever
Leader	Let us now pray our closing prayer together.

All **Loving God,
We give you thanks for the blessings of this holy Advent season.
You are the source of life, of hope, and of all good things.
We look forward to the coming of the light of Christ at Christmas.
Help us to turn toward that light in our lives.
We rejoice at the gift of your Son who taught us to love in your name.
May we be people of peace and justice all the days of our lives.
Your kingdom come and your will be done now and forever.
Amen.**

Leader The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.

All **Amen.**

Closing Song *This Little Light of Mine*