



Advent Prayer Service

Leader/Reader Script

For this service, you will need a leader, six readers, and six candles. Provide a copy of this script for each participant. You may want to create a banner that reads "Prepare the Way of the Lord" to be carried in procession.

GREETING

Leader: We begin our prayer time in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ENTRANCE SONG

Leader: Let us sing the first verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

As the song is being sung, the volunteer readers enter in procession with the candles. They stand in front of the congregation, holding the candles.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

Leader: This Advent season we repent, we wait, and we prepare to celebrate Christ's coming in history, in our lives today, and at the end of time. May God be with us as we celebrate the season with joy!

Let us pray together our opening prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

All: God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,
As we wait and prepare for his coming.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.
Amen.

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Prayer Service

Leader/Reader Script (continued)

READING Isaiah 40:3–5

Reader One: A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice is shouting:

Clear a path in the desert for the LORD.

Build a straight road there for our God.

Fill in the valleys and flatten the mountains and hills.

Level the rough and rugged ground.

Then the glory of the LORD will appear for all to see.

The LORD has promised this!

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: John the Baptist told the people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. They heard the Good News and responded. It might be easier for us to respond if John the Baptist were alive preaching today. Of course, he isn't, but there are people like John who tell us about Jesus. Who are those people in your life? Take a moment to think about the answer to this question.

[Pause for about one minute.]

PRAYERS OF PETITION

Leader: Sometimes one of the most challenging things for us to do is to learn to find God in our lives every day. Let us pray that Jesus will come more deeply into our lives and that we will be aware of his presence.

Our response is: Come, Lord Jesus!

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Prayer Service

Leader/Reader Script (continued)

Reader Two: Into our lives, we pray . . .

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Reader Three: Into our troubled world, we pray . . .

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Reader Four: Into our baking, shopping, and gift wrapping, we pray . . .

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Reader Five: Into our hearts as we care for those in need, we pray . . .

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Reader Six: Into our homes, we pray . . .

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Leader: Let us sing the second and third verses of “O Come,
O Come, Emmanuel.”

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times once gave the law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

CLOSING

Leader: Let us pray together the Hail Mary.

DISMISSAL

Leader: God bless you and your families during this Advent season!

All: Thanks be to God!

