

Morning Prayer for Advent: Wednesday

We gather in silence

Bell x3

Opening Sentences (choose one or more to be read aloud)

Look up and raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near. (Luke 21:28)

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:3)

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all the world shall see it together. (Isaiah 40:5)

Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight, and all the world shall see the salvation of God. (Luke 3:4, 6)

Restore us again O God: show us the light of your face and we shall be saved. (Psalm 80:3)

Gathering Words:

This is a season of watchfulness and expectation:

We watch and wait for the One who heard our cries and entered into the suffering of our world. We wait in joyous expectation for new light to shine as the day approaches. We wait in anticipation for God's light to shine in our darkness and radiate within us.

This is a season of preparation:

We watch and wait for the One who broke down the barriers separating us from God, each other, and from God's creation, We wait with repentant hearts to prepare the way of the Lord.

This is a season of promise:

We watch and wait and prepare for the promised coming of Emmanuel, God with us. We wait in hope for our Redeemer to bring God's love into our broken world.

This is a season of reflection:

We watch and wait, expecting to be transformed by the light of God, that we might serve in God's kingdom as bearers of light, pointing to and welcoming others to the light of Christ. We wait expectantly for God to come and dwell in our midst.

This is a season of fulfillment:

We await and celebrate the coming of God's Kingdom with its promise of peace, of wholeness, of reconciliation, and of abundance for all. We wait for God's Kingdom to come in all its fullness.

This is a season of joyful anticipation:

God's Kingdom will be revealed, and all people will see it together. We wait expectant, attentive to all the signs of Christ coming in our midst in this time and place.

Psalm:

Gospel: Sung acclamation before and after the Gospel reading:

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 thee, O Israel.

Silence & Sharing:

Our Prayers:

Into our troubles and weaknesses, Into the barren places of our souls.....

Come, Lord, Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

Into the war torn and the refugee, Into those who live in conflict.....

Come, Lord, Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

Into the homeless and the unemployed, Into those who feel abandoned.....

Come, Lord, Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

Into the sick and the suffering, Into those with chronic or incurable illnesses.....

Come, Lord, Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

Into the poor and the starving, Into those who are oppressed or abused, those cast out and forgotten.....

Come, Lord, Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

Into the lives of loved ones, Into those from whom we are estranged.....

Come, Lord, Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

Into our joys and celebrations, Into our work and our achievements.....

Come, Lord, Come down, come in, come among us, and make us whole.

You are invited to add your own prayers.....

Our Father....

Sending:

Good and gracious Christ, we long for you to come among us.
Hasten the day when your Kingdom will come in all its glory, and
suffering and pain and sickness and oppression and death will be
overcome forever. Hasten the day when we will live as a great and
diverse family in peace, harmony, joy, and love. Come, O Come
Emanuel. **AMEN.**

(Excerpts adapted from Waiting for the Light/ Christine Sine; NZ Prayer book; ACC;
Tom Wuest; MWHumphrey)