

Lighting the Way

An Advent Vigil

Celtic-Inspired Morning Prayer
Advent 2025

St. Laurence Anglican Church
Coquitlam, British Columbia

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."
Isaiah 9:2

Introduction

This companion guide follows the daily Morning Prayer videos for Advent 2025. The series runs from Monday, December 1st, through Tuesday, December 23rd - 17 weekday prayers leading to Christmas Eve.

Pray along with the video, or use this guide for personal prayer when you cannot watch.

The Four Weeks

Week 1: The Watcher (December 1-5)

We wake to God's coming, watching for light in the darkness.

Week 2: The Pilgrim (December 8-12)

We walk toward the One who comes, journeying as pilgrims.

Week 3: The Promise (December 15-19)

The promise breaks through as Christmas draws near.

Week 4: The Dwelling (December 22-23)

God prepares to dwell among us; we stand at the threshold.

Week One: The Watcher

December 1-5, 2025

Scripture Sentence

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope. - Psalm 130:5

* * *

Silence

Be still and aware of God's presence within and all around.

Silence is kept.

* * *

Opening Prayer

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
warm our hearts and awaken hope within us;
now and for ever.

Amen.

* * *

Opening Invocation

I arise today
through the strength of heaven:
light of sun, radiance of moon,
splendour of fire, speed of lightning,
swiftness of wind, depth of sea,
stability of earth, firmness of rock.

I arise today
through God's strength to pilot me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's shield to protect me.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me.

- St. Patrick's Breastplate

* * *

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
O Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If you were to mark iniquities, O Lord,
who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plenteous redemption.
He will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.

*Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

* * *

The Reading

Monday, December 1 - Isaiah 2:1-5

Nations streaming to God's house; "let us walk in the light of the Lord."

Tuesday, December 2 - Romans 13:11-14

Wake from sleep; the night is far spent

Wednesday, December 3 - Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people; prepare the way

Thursday, December 4 - Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light

Friday, December 5 - Luke 1:67-79

Zechariah's song; the dawn from on high

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

* * *

Silence

Silence is kept for reflection.

* * *

Reflection

A short reflection is offered.

* * *

Canticle: The Dawn from on High

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

- Luke 1:78-79

* * *

Intercessions

Prayers are offered for the world, the church, and those in need. You are welcome to share prayer requests in the comments.

After each bidding:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

* * *

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.

* * *

Collect

God of the watching and the waiting,
you come to us in gentleness and in strength,
in quiet stirring and in dawn's new light.
Open our hearts to your nearness,
that we may walk in your hope,
live in your peace,
and greet you with joy
when you come again in love.

Amen.

* * *

Blessing

In the beginning, O God,
your Spirit swept over the chaotic deep like a wild wind
and creation was born.

In the turbulence of my own life
and the unsettled waters of the world today,
let there be new birthings of your Spirit.

In the currents of my own heart
and the upheavals of the world today,
let there be new birthings of your mighty Spirit.

- J. Philip Newell

* * *

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Week Two: The Pilgrim

December 8-12, 2025

Scripture Sentence

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. - Psalm 121:1-2

* * *

Silence

Be still and aware of God's presence within and all around.

Silence is kept.

* * *

Opening Prayer

The night has passed and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
warm our hearts and awaken hope within us;
now and for ever.

Amen.

* * *

Opening Invocation

My walk this day with God,
my walk this day with Christ,
my walk this day with Spirit,
the Threefold all-kindly.

My shielding this day from ill,
my shielding this night from harm,
both my soul and my body,
by Father, by Son, by Holy Spirit.

Be the Father shielding me,
be the Son shielding me,
be the Spirit shielding me,
as Three and as One.

- Carmina Gadelica

* * *

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not suffer your foot to stumble;
he who watches over you will not sleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
so that the sun shall not strike you by day,
neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall keep you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep your soul.
The Lord shall keep watch over your going out
and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

*Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

* * *

The Reading

Monday, December 8 - Genesis 12:1-4a

Abram's call: "Go to the land I will show you"

Tuesday, December 9 - Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness rejoices; the ransomed return with singing

Wednesday, December 10 - Micah 6:6-8

What does the Lord require? Walk humbly with your God

Thursday, December 11 - Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

By faith, Abraham set out, looking for a city

Friday, December 12 - Isaiah 55:1-13

Come to the waters; you shall go out in joy

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

* * *

Silence

Silence is kept for reflection.

* * *

Reflection

A short reflection is offered.

* * *

Canticle: Lord of My Heart

Lord of my heart, give me vision to inspire me,
that, working or resting, I may always think of you.

Lord of my heart, give me light to guide me,
that, at home or abroad, I may always walk in your way.

Lord of my heart, give me wisdom to direct me,
that, thinking or acting, I may always discern right from wrong.

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall me,
rule over my thoughts and feelings, my words and actions.

- Ancient Irish

* * *

Intercessions

Prayers are offered for the world, the church, and those in need. You are welcome to share prayer requests in the comments.

After each bidding:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

* * *

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.

* * *

Collect

God of the journey,
you call us out of comfort into promise,
out of the familiar into the unknown.
Walk beside us in these Advent days,
that trusting your presence on the road,
we may travel lightly, love freely,
and arrive at last where you would have us be;
through Christ who is the Way.

Amen.

* * *

Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
deep peace of the flowing air to you,
deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
deep peace of the shining stars to you,
deep peace of the Son of peace to you.

- Traditional Celtic Blessing

* * *

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Week Three: The Promise

December 15-19, 2025

Scripture Sentence

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. - Psalm 126:1

* * *

Silence

Be still and aware of God's presence within and all around.

Silence is kept.

* * *

Opening Prayer

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
warm our hearts and awaken hope within us;
now and for ever.

Amen.

* * *

Opening Invocation

I watch this morning
for the light that the darkness has not overcome.
I watch for the fire that was in the beginning
and that burns still in the brilliance of the rising sun.

I watch for the glow of life that gleams in the growing earth
and glistens in sea and sky.

I watch for your light, O God,
in the eyes of every living creature
and in the ever-living flame of my own soul.

If the grace of seeing were mine this day,
I would glimpse you in all that lives.
Grant me the grace of seeing this day.
Grant me the grace of seeing.

- J. Philip Newell

* * *

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter
and our tongue with songs of joy.

Then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has indeed done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
as streams renew the desert.
Those who sow in tears
shall reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed,
will come back with shouts of joy,
bearing their sheaves with them.

*Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

* * *

The Reading

Monday, December 15 - Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot from the stump of Jesse; the peaceable kingdom

Tuesday, December 16 - Jeremiah 31:31-34

A new covenant written on the heart

Wednesday, December 17 - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Good news to the oppressed; the oil of gladness

Thursday, December 18 - Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; the Lord is in your midst

Friday, December 19 - Luke 1:46-55

The Magnificat: Mary's song of promise

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

* * *

Silence

Silence is kept for reflection.

* * *

Reflection

A short reflection is offered.

* * *

Canticle: A Song of the Spirit

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
I am anointed to bring good news to the poor,
sent to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

- after Luke 4:18-19

* * *

Intercessions

Prayers are offered for the world, the church, and those in need. You are welcome to share prayer requests in the comments.

After each bidding:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

* * *

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.

* * *

Collect

God of the promise,
in the darkest night you speak of dawn,
in the barren land you plant a seed of hope.
As we draw near to the birth of your Son,
let your ancient words grow bright within us,
that we may trust what you have spoken
and welcome what you are bringing to birth;
through Christ, your living Word.

Amen.

* * *

Blessing

May the light of God illumine the heart of my soul.

May the flame of Christ kindle me to love.

May the fire of the Spirit free me to live
this day, tonight, and for ever.

- J. Philip Newell

* * *

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Week Four: The Dwelling

December 22-23, 2025

Scripture Sentence

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord. - Psalm 84:1-2

* * *

Silence

Be still and aware of God's presence within and all around.

Silence is kept.

* * *

Opening Prayer

The night has passed and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
warm our hearts and awaken hope within us;
now and for ever.

Amen.

* * *

Opening Invocation

The grace of the great God be upon you,
the grace of Christ be upon you,
the grace of the perfect Spirit be upon you,
mildly and generously.

The compassing of the saints be upon you,
the compassing of the angels be upon you;
the compassing of all the saints
and of the heavenly host be upon you.

- Carmina Gadelica (adapted)

* * *

Psalm 84:1-7

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my Sovereign and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they will always be praising you.
Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the pilgrim ways.

As they pass through the valley of weeping,
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain covers it with pools of blessing.
They go from strength to strength,
and appear before God in Zion.

*Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

* * *

The Reading

Monday, December 22 - Luke 1:26-38

The Annunciation: "The Lord is with you"

Tuesday, December 23 - John 1:1-14

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

* * *

Silence

Silence is kept for reflection.

* * *

Reflection

A short reflection is offered.

* * *

Canticle: God with Me

God with me lying down, God with me rising up,
God with me in each ray of light;
nor I a ray of joy without God, nor one ray without.

Christ with me sleeping, Christ with me waking,
Christ with me watching, every day and night.

God with me protecting, the Lord with me directing,
the Spirit with me strengthening, for ever and for evermore. Amen.

- Carmina Gadelica (adapted)

* * *

Intercessions

Prayers are offered for the world, the church, and those in need. You are welcome to share prayer requests in the comments.

After each bidding:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

* * *

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.

* * *

Collect

God of the threshold,

you come to us not in distant majesty

but as a child seeking shelter.

As we stand at the door of Christmas,

prepare a dwelling place within our hearts,

that Christ may be born in us anew

and we may know you near;

for you live and reign, now and for ever.

Amen.

* * *

Blessing

See that you are at peace among yourselves, my children,
and love one another.

Take the example of those who walked this way before us
and God will comfort and aid you,
both in this world and in the world to come.

- St. Columba (adapted)

* * *

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* * *

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

Isaiah 9:2

May the Light of Christ illuminate your Advent journey.