

Prayer Sheet

Advent & Christmas

2024

Call to Worship

We light a candle, to push the darkness back. Back you go, we pray.

But we must push with more than a prayer...

...if we are to embody the love that does not know how to stop hoping;

...if we are to find peace when the world has fractured into pieces.

Christ-child, come.

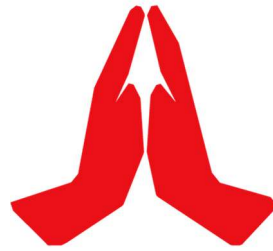
Bring your vulnerability, your fragility, your need, and the unexpected power of your presence deep in our souls.

Holy one, besotted with creation, you refuse to retreat, but shine without ceasing into our lives.

Your love doesn't stand back; your love rolls up its sleeves.

As we wait for you to be born again, may we seek to welcome you, even when we don't recognise your face.

To welcome you as we welcome the stranger.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Word of Life, we thank you for the relative safety and comfort that we enjoy.

We think of communities who have been displaced by conflict and by crisis. We lift up their hopes and dreams, no less precious than our own.

Encourage us to stand in solidarity with our global neighbours and send us out replenished that we may do the work of your Kingdom.

Amen.

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Prayer of Lament

God of peace and reconciliation,
we lift to you the conflicts
in our world.
Nation against nation,
And neighbour against neighbour.

Forgive us for the times our fear
has fuelled our pride,
driving us away from each other.
Guide us to our common ground,
as image-bearers of the same Maker.

In Jesus name,
Amen.

Response (based on the Magnificat)

Our souls glorify the Lord
and our spirits rejoice
in God our Saviour
for he has been mindful of the
humble and the oppressed.

**Our souls glorify the Lord
and our spirits rejoice in
God our Saviour.**

From now on all generations will
have their dignity restored
for the Creator has done great
things
for us and through us.

**Our souls glorify the Lord
and our spirits rejoice in
God our Saviour.**

The proud are scattered, but the
humble are lifted up
The hungry are filled with good,
satisfying things
But the rich are sent away empty.

**Our souls glorify the Lord
and our spirits rejoice in
God our Saviour.**

Sending Blessing

Go in hope, that a fairer,
more just world is not just possible,
but promised.

Go in peace, extending a hand
in solidarity to neighbours
near and far.

Go in love, ready to see
the image of God in
each face you meet.

Go in joy, anticipating
the Birth that
reconciles all creation.



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