



*LITURGICAL RESOURCES  
from around the world for  
Advent and Christmas*



*And we beheld the glory of the Father,  
full of grace and truth*

# *Introduction*

Advent and Christmas together form the season of the gift anticipated, celebrated, and passed on. The gift is the life that comes to us in and through Christ still living among us as God's love made human flesh. Advent invites us to look forward to this newness of life and at Christmas we celebrate the memory of the Saviour's birth as God in his abundant gives Himself to us as self-gift.

In this season of gift giving, here at USPG, for the first time we have launched a Christmas appeal - Promise of Hope. We are asking churches and individuals to give a Promise of Hope and write a Promise of Hope on a star and either return it to us or display it in your church to show that you stand in solidarity with our partners across the world this Christmas. More information can be found at [www.uspg.org.uk/promiseofhope](http://www.uspg.org.uk/promiseofhope).

This resource was compiled from liturgist around the world to aid in your preparations during the season of Advent and Christmas. During these seasons of hope and peace let us pray with the world church as we remember Christ's promise: "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev 21:5). We remember that the new life we receive in Christ is given to be lived, as his was and is, to building up the reign of God by handing on the gift of love to other people.



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# Prayers for Advent

## **In Hope**

Daystar of hope, God of the dawning,  
May the pledge of your new day  
Carry your people through the darkest  
night.

We ask it in the grace of him who is the  
resurrection and the life.

## **On the day's dawning:**

God, Creator of all  
As each day's dawning warms and restores  
the earth,  
so may your love enliven our hearts and  
daily renew us.

We ask it knowing that only by the grace of  
Jesus

Does life's beauty dawn in us.

## **Looking Forward**

God of Promise,

Keep us looking forward,

so that even when disappointment comes

our way

and confidence leaves us,

we may still trust in your tomorrow

## **May we be part of God's story**

Lord, our history is the story of wounded

Memories and maimed lives;

your history is the story of liberation, peace and

the renewal of all things;

turn our history into your history;

our story into your story.

for the future's sake.

## **In Christ's way**

Make me,  
a still place of light  
a still place of love  
of You  
your light radiating  
your love vibrating  
your touch and your healing  
far flung and near  
to the myriads caught  
in darkness, in sickness  
in lostness, in fear  
make a heart-centre here  
Light of the world.

*(Benedictine Community, West Malling)*

## **A Prayer by W.E.B. Dubois**

In the solemn silence of this Thy Holy night,  
O Heavenly Father, let the Christ spirit be born anew  
in this our home and in this land of ours.

Out of the depths of selfishness and languor and envy,  
let spring the spirit of humility and poverty, of gentleness  
and sacrifice—the eternal dawn of Peace,  
good-will toward men.

Let the birth-bells of God call our vain imaginings  
back from pomp and glory and wealth—  
back from the wasteful warships searching the seas—  
back to the lowly barnyard and the homely cradle  
of a yellow and despised Jew, whom the world has not  
yet learned to call Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God,  
the Everlasting Father,  
and the Prince of Peace.

Amen.



## **Advent Poem (*adapted*)**

**Leader:** As we prepare the way of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who will baptize us with Spirit and fire.

*The People:* For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.  
Come, O Lord, and save us.

**Leader:** For all bishops, for the presbyters, for all pastors, for the deacons and all who minister in Christ and are the holy people of God.  
Come, O Lord, and save us.

*The People:* For the Church throughout the world and the faithful in every place.  
Come, O Lord, and save us.

**Leader:** For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.  
Come, O Lord, and save us.

*The People:* For justice, tolerance, and freedom among peoples of the earth.  
Come, O Lord, and save us.

**Leader:** For travellers, for mis-treated children, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, and for those in prison.  
Come, O Lord, and save us.

*The People:* For the dying and the dead.  
Come, O Lord, and save us.  
For our deliverance from affliction, strife, and need.  
Come, O Lord, and save us.

**Leader:** Joining our voices with the Blessed Virgin Mary and with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

*All:* To you, O Lord: O Root of Jesse, who rises as a signal among all peoples, in whose presence rulers stand silent and nations bow in worship, come and deliver us without delay. Glory to you forever. Amen.



## Evening Thanksgiving

**Presider:** As day passes into evening, we praise you, Almighty God, Giver of Life, Light, and darkness, for your invisible majesty in all that surrounds us. Gratefully we say:

*Assembly:* Praise and thanks to you, God of Power.

**Presider:** As flickering candles burn and pierce the darkness, we thank you, for the light that illumines our soul and gives us breath. Gratefully we say:

*Assembly:* Praise and thanks to you, God of true light.

**Presider:** As the evening sun moves toward the golden rays of dawn, we wait in expectant hope, for the incarnation of your Son. Gratefully we say:

*Assembly:* Praise and thanks to you, God, Redeemer.

**Presider:** As we journey toward the advent of long-awaited joy, dispel the darkness of our hearts and shine your light within us so our spirits may proclaim unending praise to you. Gratefully we say:

*Assembly:* Praise and thanks to you, God of freedom.

**Presider:** Illumine our darkness and draw us to your unfailing light for to you all honour and glory is due forever, and ever.

*Assembly:* Amen.

## Blessing of Light

**Presider:** Brothers and sisters:  
Let us pray we may always be ready to welcome him.

You came to free us from anxiety,  
And to fill our minds and hearts with peace:  
Lord, come and save us.

*Assembly:* Lord, come and save us.

**Presider:** You come to baptise us in the Holy Spirit  
and to kindle within us the fire of your love:  
Lord, come and save us.

*Assembly:* Lord, come and save us.

**Presider:** You will come as the God of joy,  
who takes delight in your people:  
Lord, come and save us.

*Assembly:* Lord, come and save us.

**Presider:** Ever-Living God we light this candle as a sign of your  
coming. May your light shine in our world. We ask this  
through the same Christ our Lord.

*Assembly:* Amen.

## Short Prayers for Advent

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, be a lamp to our feet  
as we walk through the lengthening dark  
toward the light that shines  
from the manger on  
Christmas Day.

Christ, our peace, let us see your face,  
let us learn your way,  
let us grow into your love  
that we may serve the birth of true peace  
in our immediate surroundings.

O God, Giver of all good gifts, open our hearts  
to trust your word, your promise, your desire  
to include us at the feast on the mountain,  
and your abiding love that calls,  
heals, and feeds us always.

O Christ, you promised to prepare a place for us  
and return to take us there.  
Make our hearts and our lives read to go with you.

## Prayers of the People During Advent

In cheerful expectation,  
let us pray to our Savior and Redeemer, saying:  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

O Wisdom from the lips of God,  
you reign over all things unto the ends of the earth:  
come and teach us to live!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

O Lord, guide of the House of Israel,  
who appeared to Moses in the burning bush  
and gave him the holy Law on Mount Sinai:  
come and save us with your mighty arm!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

O Root of Jesse, standing upright  
as a banner among the nations;  
the rulers of the earth silence before you  
and the nations implore your mercy:  
come and release us without delay!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

O Key of David and Scepter of the House of Israel,  
what you open no one can close  
and what you close no one can open:  
come and set captives free from prison!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

O Morning star, splendor of eternal light  
and radiant Sun of Justice:  
come and enlighten people  
who live in darkness and shadows of death!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

O King of nations, desired of the people;  
o cornerstone, you unite the opposites:  
come and save these fragile creatures  
whom you created out of dust and clay!  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**

O Emmanuel, God with us,  
hope of the nations and Savior of all peoples:  
come, finally, to save us, our Lord and God!  
**Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

*extracted from the Brazilian 2015 BCP*



## **Proper Preface During Advent**

Because you sent your beloved Son  
to redeem us from sin and death,  
and to make us heirs of everlasting life;  
that when he shall come again in power  
and great triumph to judge the world,  
we may without shame or fear rejoice  
to contemplate the splendor of his glory.

*extracted from the Brazilian 2015 BCP*

## **Blessing During Advent**

May the Sun of Righteousness  
shine upon us and scatter the darkness  
from before our path;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us, and remain with us always.  
Amen.

*extracted from the Brazilian 2015 BCP*



Almighty God, we thank you for this Advent journey that calls us to remember the past, struggle in the present and overcome in the future. Break the yoke of hunger and poverty that haunts our continent and people. Let the light of Jesus expose the policies and system that oppress African nations and her descendants. Show us the way to renew, restore, and rebuild broken nations and people. God of grace and God of glory, we hear your Divine voice asking: Who shall we send? Who will go for us? Set us free to declare and decree: “Here I am Lord, send me (Isaiah 6:8)!”

*Lament and Hope: A Pan-African Devotional Guide*



# Prayers for Christmas

## **Come, Holy Spirit**

Spirit who moved  
on the face of the waters  
drawing out order  
from primeval chaos,  
move in the tempest  
that tear at our world  
creating patterns of justice and peace. *Genesis 1.2*

Spirit of prophecy  
who gave power to Micah  
to speak to the mighty  
of justice and sin,  
raise up among us  
seers who are fearless  
to challenge and shatter  
to inordinate powers. *Micah 3.8f*

Spirit empowering  
the womb of the Virgin  
wonderfully moulding  
the Incarnate Son,  
invade our self-satisfied  
timorous lives,  
bear in our hearts  
the turbulent Christ. *Matthew 1.18*

Come, Holy God,  
Come, loving source of our life  
Come, healing Light.

Come, healing Light,  
Source of our life,  
Come, healing Light

*(United Theological College, Bangalore India)*

In turning and vision,  
we shall meet God.  
Among the poor of the earth, the downtrodden,  
the stripped and the destitute,  
In turning and vision,  
we shall meet God.  
Among the oppressed, the maimed, the tortured  
peoples of the earth,  
In turning and vision,  
we shall meet God.  
Among the strangers, the refugees, the hopeless  
and the exiles,  
In turning and vision  
we shall meet God.

*(Robin Green)*

## Short Prayers for Christmas

Jesus Christ, Word of God made flesh,  
speak your word of God's love in us and through us.  
Teach us to hear it as it is spoken in and through others.  
Make all of us your living vocabulary of love.

O Jesus Christ, Light of the World,  
born for us in Bethlehem and our guide and companion  
ever since, strengthen our faith to recognise and follow  
you wherever you lead us, trusting that you will be with us to  
the end and beyond.

God of all times and seasons, turn all our energies  
to the service of the future you desire as we pray,  
'Thy kingdom come.'

O God of light and darkness, send us a star to guide  
us to safety you alone can give.

O God, you make all things new in Christ. Pour out  
your Spirit upon us so that we may take our assigned places  
and persevere in your work.

## **Prayers which may be used in the Dismissal**

*from a liturgy for Africa*

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

*until the eve of the Epiphany, inclusive*

O Merciful Jesus, who, when thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, didst not abhor the Virgin's womb: vouchsafe evermore to dwell in the hearts of us thy servants; inspire us with thy purity; strengthen us with thy might; make us perfect in thy ways; guide us into thy truth; and unite us to thyself and to thy whole Church by thy holy mysteries; that we may conquer every adverse power, and may be wholly devoted to thy service and conformed to thy will; to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

### **THE EPIPHANY**

*and seven days after*

Almighty and Everlasting God, who didst bring the nations to thy light and kings to the brightness of thy rising: fill, we pray thee, the world with thy glory, and show thyself unto all mankind, through him who is the true Light, the bright and morning star, even thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

## Intercessions for Christmas

Leader: Jesus Christ, born in a stable,  
Be with the poor and homeless this Christmas time.

**All: As we pray, live and give;  
shine your everlasting light.**

*(silent prayer)*

Leader: Jesus Christ, born of Mary,  
Be with young mothers across the world this Christmas time.

**All: As we pray, live and give;  
shine your everlasting light.**

*(silent prayer)*

Leader: Jesus Christ, visited by Shepherds,  
Be with all who have to work this Christmas, and those who  
long to work.

**All: As we pray, live and give;  
shine your everlasting light.**

*(silent prayer)*

Leader: Jesus Christ, who became a refugee, Be with those who fear for  
their lives, and those who have left homes and families this  
Christmas.

**All: As we pray, live and give;  
shine your everlasting light.  
Amen.**

Let the just rejoice,  
for their justifier is born.  
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,  
For their saviour is born.  
Let the captives rejoice,  
For their Redeemer is born.  
Let slaves rejoice,  
for their Master is born.  
Let free men rejoice,  
For their Liberator is born.  
Let All Christians rejoice,  
For Jesus Christ is born.

*(St. Augustine of Hippo - AD 354-440)*





## Prayers of the People During Christmastide

That the peace  
announced by angels to the shepherds in the field,  
may be announced in all fields:  
in the fields of war, hatred and urban violence;  
we pray to you, Lord.  
**Hear us, good Savior.**

That the union brought by Christ  
may be lived in our families,  
and as we welcome the Messiah born into a human family  
may ours be blessed and sanctified;  
we pray to you, Lord.  
**Hear us, good Savior.**

That the child born to us,  
may find a warm welcome in our hearts,  
and lead our attention to the needs  
of the homeless and the hungry;  
we pray to you, Lord.  
**Hear us, good Savior.**

That in this time of our God's supreme self-giving,  
we may renew our commitment  
with the abandoned, the forgotten, the sad and the weary;  
we pray to you, Lord.  
**Hear us, good Savior.**

That the joy of this day  
may be a driving force  
to a true communion  
of life and worship as the Church of God;  
we pray to you, Lord.  
**Hear us, good Savior.**

That our parish community  
may leave this place well determined  
to take concrete actions  
to spread the love which Christ brought to the world;  
we pray to you, Lord.

**Hear us, good Savior.**

That the joy and comfort  
of our marvelous Comforter  
may embrace all sick people;  
we pray to you, Lord.

**Hear us, good Savior.**

That the spirit of brotherhood and love,  
which surrounds us on Christmas,  
may last the entire year;  
we pray to you, Lord.

**Hear us, good Savior.**

May this Christmas  
renew in us the value of life  
and encourage us to preserve it,  
fighting against any way of death;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



ON THE FEASTS OF EPIPHANY, PRESENTATION, ANNUNCIATION  
AND TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

With joy and humility,  
we pray to the Creator of the Universe, saying:  
**Grant us your peace, O Lord.**

For the Good News of Salvation  
brought to Mary by the Angel Gabriel;  
hear us, o Lord.  
**And grant us your peace, O Lord.**

For the mystery of your Word made flesh;  
hear us, O Lord.  
**And grant us your peace, O Lord.**

For the Incarnation of your Eternal Son;  
hear us, O Lord.  
**And grant us your peace, O Lord.**

For the revelation of the King of Glory to the shepherds;  
hear us, O Lord.  
**And grant us your peace, O Lord.**

For the author of Salvation, Jesus Christ,  
who subjected himself as son to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth;  
hear us, O Lord.  
**And grant us your peace, O Lord.**

For the baptism of your Son in the Jordan;  
hear us, O Lord.  
**And grant us your peace, O Lord.**

For the appearance of your star to the magi;  
hear us, O Lord.  
**And grant us your peace, O Lord.**

For the light of Christ, the radiant Sun of Justice,  
who casts out our darkness;  
hear us, O Lord.  
**And grant us your peace, O Lord.**

For the spirit of brotherhood and love,  
which encourages us in this time;  
hear us, O Lord.  
**And grant us your peace, O Lord.**

So that the reigns of this world  
become the Reign  
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;  
hear us, O Lord.  
**And grant us your peace, O Lord.**

*extracted from the Brazilian 2015 BCP*



## **Proper Preface During Christmastide**

Because you gave us Jesus Christ, your only son, who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, was born in this time of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; that we, being freed from sin, might receive the grace to become your sons and daughters.

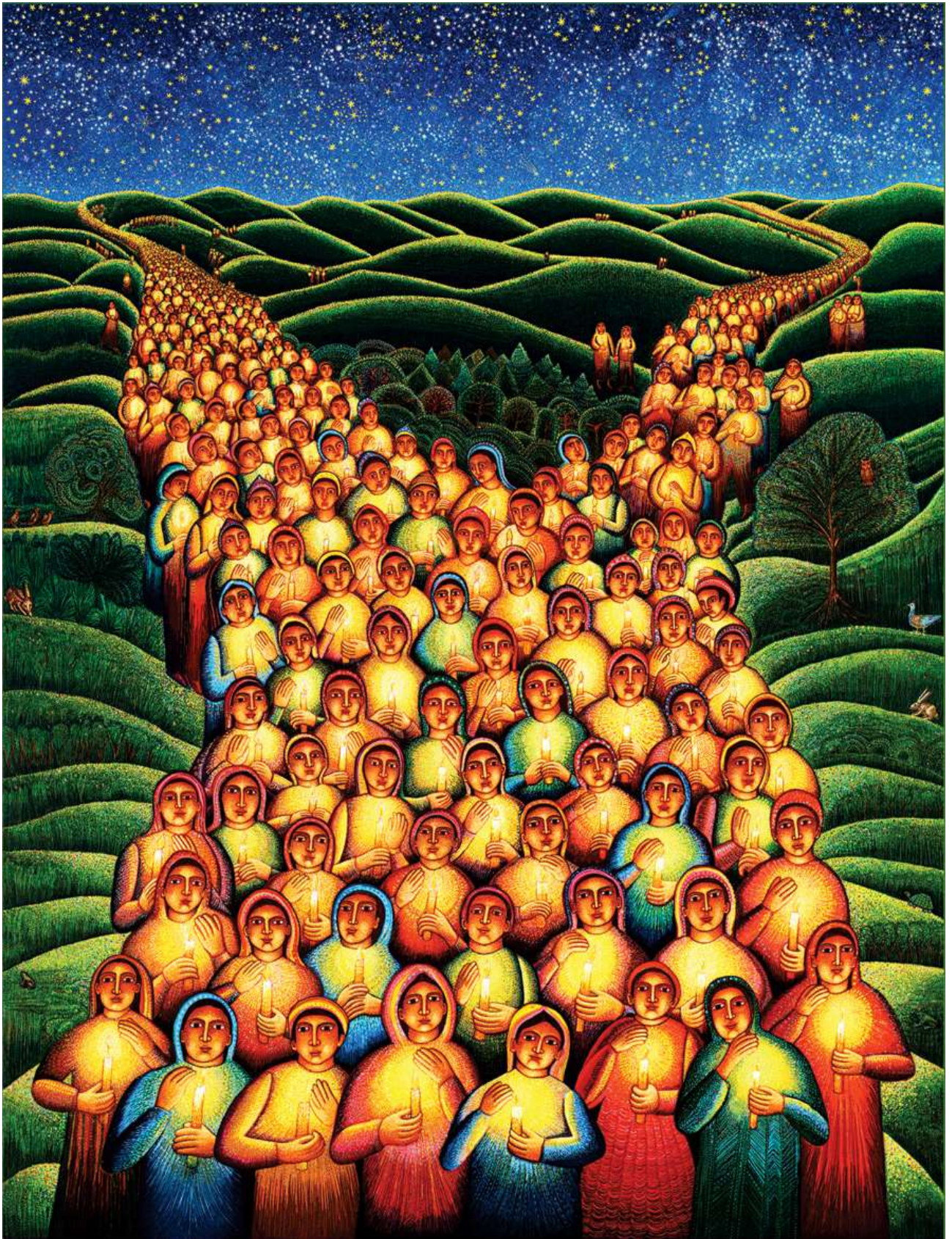
*extracted from the Brazilian 2015 BCP*

## **Blessing During Christmastide**

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill us with joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us, and remain with us always.

**Amen.**

*extracted from the Brazilian 2015 BCP*



God of Past and future, grant us the insight and courage to walk wisely into the future you have entrusted to us through those who have gone before, that we may also leave a legacy of wisdom and hope to the next generation this season and always through Christ our Lord.

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