

PA A
CONSCIENCE

ADVENT
LITURGIES

Order ones in left hand press

 **Guildhall**

DOCUMENT
WALLET

Ref: GDW1

The need for change in the church

Cardinal Newman and other theologians had important insight into the nature of the Church. It is not just an institution (and a body needs some kind of organisation) but also has critical/prophetic aspects and Spiritual/mystical. If any of these gets out of balance things go wrong.

Pope Francis has called attention to the dangers of clericalism. We need to take seriously the teaching in 1 Peter 2 9-10 "You are a chosen race, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, a consecrated nation...once you were not a people and now you are the people of God". This is not just said of the leaders but the community as a whole.

For all the great changes of Vatican II council, the lack of dealing with certain issues (for instance birth control was not allowed to be discussed in the Council), and the failure to deal with powerful Curia has been harmful. The Curia was meant to be the civil service of the Vatican and the bishops and Pope the policy makers, Now it is in reverse the Curia makes the policy and the Bishops are supposed to execute it. This has been very harmful.

For instance the committee set up by the Curia to revise the language of the mass ignored the 1988 version accepted by our bishops and others, made some thousand traditionalist alterations without any reference to the bishops. I was told by a Southwark priest charged with explaining the new version that it was the Pope's Latin rite and his right to do what he liked with it!!!

Probably the area in which we need change today is that of the family today. In the late 60s there was a papal commission to study the question, among others, of the question of birth control. The majority came to the conclusion that there should be change, and the then Pope was on the point of Agreeing when 4 traditionalist cardinals went to him and said change would have a disastrous effect on the credibility of the Church. In the event, no greater drop in Church credibility could be devised,

*quickly with
mistakes - hence*

A British Gallop poll around that time showed that only 86% of Catholic believed that the ban on contraceptives to be ~~wrong~~ right. Catholics in The first world largely follow their own consciences on the matter but it does mean that often the Church is no longer listened to over thins like justice and peace. One wonders if part of the widespread shift of Catholics in places like Brazil to the pentecostalists is motivated by the Catholic hard line.

Another problem we are facing is the shortage of priests. I asked a Bishop how they could argue that lack candidates for ordination was because of consumerism. How I asked did the Anglicans not suffer from this, having around 4,000 ordains to around 40 for the Catholics. Answer came there none!

People are ready for married priests, as has been shown by the acceptance of the married Anglican priests coming into the Church. / Was told by a Deacon in Herts that when he took along an exanglican priest and his wife to a parish for the priest to say mass, he also introduced the wife "and this is his wife Mary" . It is to be hoped that it will not be too long before the church accepts women pries^t whose gifts at the moment are denied. Given how successful the Anglicans have been in ordaining women it needs to be considered, One Bishop I met said he knew there was no good theological reason against ordaining women, he just felt It wrong here, patting his rather large stomach. It would be an advancei f more bishops saw it was innate prejudice against women in such roles, rather than a valid theological argument. There is good evidence that women were priest in the 3rd and 4th centuries, from graves ad letters. The Vatican just ignores them ✓

Firststep forward might be to ordain women deacons and Pope Francis has set up working group on this.

Another area that needs change is that of denying divorced catholics the right go to communion if they marry again. Many people don't want to go through the tortuous steps of getting an annulment (nor the idea that there was no marriage so the children would be illegitimate, Surely the Eucharist is there to help us with our difficulties, not deny the very sacrament that would help.

We love the Church which is why we seek to find ways of more closely reflecting the love and goodness of God. ~~p~~

I. P,

ADVENT CELEBRATION

The candles are lit and all say

Thus says the Creator
Who made the heavens and spread them out
Who gave shape to the earth and what comes from it
Who gave breath to its people, and life to all that move on it.

I, your Creator have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations
To open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison,
And those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

Reader A And Jesus said to the people

"I am the light of the world. They who follow me will not
be walking in the dark; They will have the light of life.

Reader B We who are the followers of Christ are gathered here today to celebrate the
coming of Jesus Christ our Lord, and bring to mind that not only did he come as Saviour
into the world when the time was ripe, but that the redeemer comes daily into our hearts,
and we look forward to the saviour's promised return in glory.

Carol "Woman in the night" (tune: in the bleak midwinter)

Woman in the night
spent from giving birth
guard our precious light
peace is on the earth

Chorus Come and join the song,
Women, children, men
Jesus makes us free,
free to live again.

Woman at the well
questions the Messiah
find your friends and tell;
drink your heart's desire.
Chorus Come and join.....

Woman at the feast
let the righteous stare
come and go in peace
love him give your hair

Chorus Come and join....

Woman in the house
nurtured to be meek
leave your second place
listen, think and speak

Chorus Come and join...

Woman on the road,
welcomed and restored,
travel far and wide;
witness to the Lord. Chorus Come and join...

Scripture reading Version of the Magnificat (Terry Garley's version - see page of Magnificats)

Litany of prophecy

Reader My servant will be a light to the nations and my salvation shall reach the ends of the earth

All Blessed is Christ who fulfills the promise (This response is made to each prophecy - each in turn acting as reader)

Readers The virgin is with child and will give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel

All Blessed ...

- A shoot shall spring forth from the stock of Jesse, a branch from its root

- For as the rain and snow came down from heaven and return not there but waters the earth, making it yield and give growth, to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so shall my word be that goes out of my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, without carrying out my will, doing that for which it was sent.

- This is the covenant I will make with Israel. Deep within them I will plant my law, writing it on their hearts. When those days arrive then I will be their God, and they shall be my people

- The law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.
They will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles

- Nation will not lift sword against nation, for unto us is born a child, a son given to us, and the government shall be on his shoulders; and his name will be called "wonder counsellor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace"

-I have endowed him with my spirit, that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. He will not fail or be discouraged, until true justice is established on the earth.

- A voice cries "Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert". Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill laid low. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it.

Silence or song

Litany of repentance (There should be a short pause after each response - participants take it in turn to act as reader, all responding)

Leader Our ancestors were asked to do penance in the desert to prepare for your coming on earth, O Lord. Help us, your faithful people, to turn back to God so that we may meet the light of your day

Reader Are our hearts and minds open to you, Lord?

All Help us to be ready for your coming (response throughout this litany)

Reader When can your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

All Help us . .

Reader How much of our lives have we kept from you, O Lord?

All Help us . .

Reader Will we give up what we are doing when something else is needed?

All Help us . .

Reader Have we had the courage to proclaim that in Christ there is
neither jew nor greek, male nor female, bond nor free?

All Help us..

Reader Have we colluded with the distorted view of women's role and failed
to act prophetically?

All Help us . .

Reader Have we used the gifts you have given us to build up the body of
Christ to its fullness?

All Help us . .

Reader Have we been ready to wander as a pilgrim searching for the truth,
a foreign land?

All Help us .

Reader Have we lived as if we really expected you to return?

All Help us

Reading: poem from Images p 30

Short silence

Litany of hope (the response is maranatha, which means come Lord, do not delay)

Reader You Lord are the living bread which has come down from heaven, your
flesh given for the life of the world.

All Maranatha

Reader The grass withers, the flower falls but your word remains for ever

All Maranatha

Reader We are your people and you are our God

All Maranatha

Reader You gave yourself for the sins of many and we wait for the fullness of
salvation

All Maranatha ...

Reader The lion will lie down with the lamb and humanity will not kill humanity any more

All Maranatha

Reader In the new heaven and the new earth righteousness will abound

All Maranatha

Reading (

Bidding prayers (extempore)

Blessing of food and drink (taken from the agape prayers of the Didache)

Leader Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of this food and drink that we share together as a sign of your kingdom, which is to come in glory, and yet is already here now in so far as you live among us in the love we have for one another.
(wine is poured out)

All We give thanks to you, our creator, for this wine, remembering Israel your people, brought like a vine out of Egypt, and planted in the promised land (wine is passed round)
(the bread is broken and passed round and all say)

All As we break the bread we thank you O creator for the life and knowledge of yourself which you gave us through Jesus Christ. To you be glory for ever.

As this broken bread was scattered upon the mountains, but was brought together and became one, so let your children, Lord, be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ for ever. (all eat)

Final Song

JESUS CHRIST IS WAITING
(Tune: Noel Nouvelet)

1. Jesus Christ is waiting,
Waiting in the streets;
No one is his neighbour
All alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger,
Fit to wait on you.
2. Jesus Christ is raging,
Raging in the streets
Where injustice spirals
And real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too.
In the kingdom's causes
Let me rage with you.
3. Jesus Christ is healing,
Healing in the streets;
Curing those who suffer,
Touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too.
Let my care be active,
Healing just like you.

4. Jesus Christ is dancing,
Dancing in the streets
Where each sign of hatred
His strong love defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I feel triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard
Let me dance with you.
5. Jesus Christ is calling,
Calling in the streets,
'Come and walk faith's tightrope,
I will guide your feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus,
Let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me,
I will follow you.

(lona)

ADVENT CELEBRATION

Someone lights the candles and all say:

Thus says the Lord our God
Who created the heavens and spread them out
Who gave shape to the earth and what comes from it
Who gave breath to its people, and life to all that move on it.

I, God, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations
To open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and
those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

Leader And Jesus said to the people
'I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will not be
walking in the dark; He will have the light of life'

Child Why are we having a party tonight?

Parent We are celebrating the advent of Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 child What is Advent? What does it mean?

adult In Advent we remember especially that Jesus Christ came when our
fathers in Israel had been prepared for him, and we look forward to
his promised return again in glory.

A carol is now sung

A litany of prophecy (read in turn by those taking part)

reader My servant will be alight to the nations and my salvation shall reach
the ends of the earth

all Blessed is he who fulfills the promise (this response is made to each
prophecy)

readers 'The virgin is with child and will give birth to a son whom she will
call Emmanuel

I place the key of the House of David on the shoulder of my servant

A shoot shall spring forth from the stock of Jesse, a branch from its
root.

You Bethlehem, the least of all the clans of Judah, out of you will be
born for me the one who is to rule over Israel

See now, your king comes to you; he is upright, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey. On a colt, the foal of a donkey.

The Lord is like a shepherd feeding his flock; He shall look for the lost
one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong.

For as the rain and snow came down from heaven and return not there but
water the earth, making it yield and give growth, to provide seed for
the sower and bread for the eating

So shall my word be that goes out of my mouth; It shall not return to me
empty, without carrying out my will, doing that for which it was sent.

When Israel was a child I loved him, and I called my son out of Egypt.

This is the covenant I will make with Israel; Deep within them I will
plant my law, writing it on their hearts. When those days arrive
then I will be their God, and they shall be my people

The law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem
They will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles

Nation will not lift sword against nation, for there a child is born
for us, a son given to us, and the government will be upon his shoulders;
and his name will be called 'Wonder counsellor, mighty God, everlasting
father, prince of peace'.

See my servant will prosper
He shall be lifted up, exalted, rise to great heights.
As the crowds were appalled on seeing him - so disfigured did he look
and yet ours were the sufferings he bore
ours the sorrows he carried.
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults
on himself. Harshly dealt with he bore it humbly.
He never opened his mouth, like a lamb that is led to the slaughter-house.

I have endowed him with my spirit
That he may bring true justice to the nations
He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame
He will not fail or be discouraged, until true justice is established on the
earth.

I gazed into the visions of the night
and I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man.
His dominion shall not pass away and his kingdom shall not be destroyed.

For the day is coming now, burning like a furnace;
When all the arrogant and all evil-doers will be stubble;
The day that comes shall burn them up.
But for you who fear my name,
the sun of righteousness shall shine out, with healing in his rays.

A voice cries 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert'.
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill laid low.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it.

Song or period of silence

Litany of repentance (readers should pause after each response)

Leader Our fathers were asked to do penance in the desert to prepare for your
coming on earth, O Lord. Help us, your faithful people, to turn back
to God so that we may meet the light of your day

Reader Are our hearts and minds open to you, Lord?

All Help us to be ready for your coming (This is the response throughout the litany)

Reader When can your will be done on earth as it is in heaven?

Response

How much of our lives have we kept from you, O Lord?

Response

Will we give up what we were doing when something else is needed?

Response

Have we understood what the word was made flesh means if we cannot see
Christ in our fellow men?

Response

Have we done enough to bring about your kingdom on earth?

Response

Have we lived as if we really expected you to return?

Response

Reader Are we prepared to remake the world in your image or do we like it better as it is

All Help us to be ready for your coming

Reader Have we used the gifts you have given us to build up the body of Christ to its fulness?

Response

Reader Have we forgotten that your church must be like a pilgrim in a foreign land?

Response

" Do we really want your eternal life more than the things of this world?

Response

" You, Lord, are the living bread which has come down from heaven, your flesh given for the life of the world

All Come Lord, do not delay

Reader The grass withers, the flower falls but your word remained for ever.

All Come Lord, do not delay

Reader We are your people and you are our God

All Come Lord do not delay

Reader You gave yourself for the sins of many and we wait for the fullness of your salvation All Come Lord do not delay

" Put your law in our minds and write it on our hearts. All Come Lord...

" The day of the Lord will be a day of judgement All " "

" The lion will lie down with the lamb and man will not kill man any more All Come

" In the new heaven and the new earth righteousness will abound Come...

" O grave where is your victory, O death where is your sting Come ..

Now follows either a shared meal and eucharist or alternatively

Song

Litany Continued (On the real meaning of christmas)

Reader People celebrate Christmas, which is your coming, by over-eating and drinking too much; but the Baptist did it by calling for penance and living on locusts and wild honey

All Help us to see what Christmas means

Reader Will the voice crying in the wilderness be heard at the office parties and in the crowded department stores?

response Help us ...

Parcels for the pensioners on Christmas Eve but do we really want goodwill to end on Boxing Day?

response Help us...

Is it the season of turkeys, gifts and parties or is it the birthday of love?

response Help us...

If you come to the outcasts and sinners, did you not come also to the homeless, the unmarried mothers and the drug addicts?

response

If Christ is to be found in people are they not more important than outdated rules, laws, social systems and our own economic needs?

response

Reader How near do we want you to be - two thousand years ago in Bethlehem,
or in our suffering neighbour All Help us to see what Christmas means
" The word was made flesh, but was the skin only white? All Help us.....
" Israel only gave you a stable for your birth but today the world cannot
provide even this luxury for many of its children to be born.

All Help us.....

Refreshments The following prayer is said over whatever is provided (preferably simple)

Leader Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of this food and drink that
we share together as a sign of your kingdom, which is to come in glory,
and yet is already here now in so far as you live among us in the love
we have for one another.

A reading

Bidding prayers

final song Shalom

Shalom my friends Gods peace my friends go with you now
And stay with you in all you do, Shalom, Shalom.

ADVENT EUCHARIST

The candles are lit

Song: Emmanuel

All say Thus says the Lord Our God
 Who created the heavens and spread them out
 Who gave shape to the earth and what comes from it.
 Who gave breath to its people
 And life to all that moves on it.
 I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;
 I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
 I have given you as a covenant to the people
 a light to the nations.
 To open the eyes of the blind.
 To free the captives from prison
 and those who live in darkness from the dungeon

Leader: And Jesus said to the people
 I am the light of the world;
 Anyone who follows me will not be walking in the dark
 He will have the light of life.

A litany of prophecy page 5 Christmas and Easter ideas book- to top of p.8
 each prophecy is read in turn round the room, people passing
 the book from hand to hand. The response is

 'Blessed is he who fulfils the promise'

Song: Christ come quickly

Litany from p 13-15 XEIB

 Response 'where can we find you Lord'

Readings - illustrative of the false and true idea of Christmas and other
 related ideas.

Song - Mary's child

DISCUSSION

Litany of repentance (reading round the room)

Reader: Our ancestors were asked to do penance in the desert to
 prepare for your coming on earth, O Lord. Help us, your
 faithful people, to turn back to God so that we may meet
 the light of your day.

Reader: Are our hearts and minds open to you, Lord?

All: Help us to be ready for your coming

Reader: When will your will be done on earth as it is in heaven?

All: Help us to be ready for your coming

Reader: Have we understood what 'the word was made flesh' means if
 we cannot see Christ in our fellow men?

Celebrant: We recall that he, on the night before he suffered
making known his resurrection to men,
took bread and gave you thanks
He broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples and said:
'Take this, all of you , and eat it:
This is my body which will be given up for you'
When supper was ended, he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks and praise,
gave the cup to his disciples and said:
'Take this, all of you, and eat it;
This is my body which will be given up for you'
When supper was ended, he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks and praise
gave the cup to his disciples and said:
'Take this, all of you, and drink from it;
This is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.
It will be shed for you and for all men
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me'

All: In this season we remember, therefore,
the coming of the saviour in the dawn of your day
and that the Baptist called upon us to do penance
and prepare a path for him.
May the bread we break and the cup we share
help us to do this and make him live among us.

Leader: We look for the return of the Son of man
in the daylight of your glory;
for the fullness of our deliverance
and for our bodies to be set free
so that we may be united with Jesus Christ
and all the saints of all the ages,
in the home he has prepared for us

All: Christ has come!
May he make all things new!
May we see your day
Come, Lord, do not delay

Leader, Therefore, looking for the coming of your kingdom we say (sing)

All: Our Father

Leader: We have come together in your name

All: May we be together in your kingdom!
Lamb of God

The kiss of peace is given - Shalom can be sung at this point

Communion in both kinds is given round the room, each person saying
as he passes it on 'the body of Christ' or 'the blood of Christ'

Final song: When he comes back

- Reader: Have we lived as if we really expected you to return?
- All: Help us ...
- Reader: Are we prepared to remake the world in your image or do we like it better as it is?
- All: Help us
- Reader: Have we used the gifts you have given us to build up the body of Christ to its fulness?
- All: Help us ...
- Reader: People celebrate Christmas by over-eating and drinking toomuch, but the Baptist called for penance and lived on locusts and honey.
- All: Help us to see what Christmas means
- Reader: Parcels for the pensioners on Christmas Eve but does goodwill end on Boxing day?
- All: Help us to see what Christmas means
- Reader: Is it the season of turkeys, gifts and parties or is it the Birthday of love?
- All: Help us to see what Christmas means
- Reader: How near do we want you to be - two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, or in our suffering neighbour?
- All: Help us to see what Christmas means
- Leader: Half the world are hungry - heaven cries for justice, Faster than sound we fly and even walk the moon's face. Can we not feed the poor and end the need among us? Bread of life we break, 'Do this for me' said Jesus, You must love each other just as I have loved you'
- When we take the body of Christ, let us think it through
What can it really mean to share it with each other
and fail to divide the food and resources of the earth with
our brother?

Pause for reflection

Bidding prayers

Eucharistic prayer

- Leader: In your day you sent the saviour
to take flesh as your Son,
born of the Spirit and of the virgin.
He came to those who believed in you
to make them your holy people
and to deliver them from suffering
- All: Send now your Spirit into this place so
that we who are gathered together here in his name
may be united with him and with all the saints
by sharing his body and blood
in truth, faith and love.

ADVENT CELEBRATION

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Reader A And Jesus said to the people

"I am the light of the world. They who follow me will not
be walking in the dark; They will have the light of life.

Reader B We who are the followers of Christ are gathered here today to celebrate the
coming of Jesus Christ our Lord, and bring to mind that not only did he come as Saviour
into the world when the time was ripe, but that the redeemer comes daily into our hearts,
and we look forward to the saviour's promised return in glory.

Carol "Woman in the night" (tune: in the bleak midwinter)

Woman in the night
spent from giving birth
guard our precious light
peace is on the earth

Chorus Come and join the song,
Women, children, men
Jesus makes us free,
free to live again.

Woman at the well
questions the Messiah
find your friends and tell;
drink your heart's desire.
Chorus Come and join.....

Woman at the feast
let the righteous stare
come and go in peace
love him give your hair

Chorus Come and join....

Woman in the house
nurtured to be meek
leave your second place
listen, think and speak

Chorus Come and join...

Woman on the road,
welcomed and restored,
travel far and wide;
witness to the Lord. Chorus Come and join...

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- For as the rain and snow came down from heaven and return not there but waters the earth, making it yield and give growth, to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so shall my word be that goes out of my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, without carrying out my will, doing that for which it was sent.

- This is the covenant I will make with Israel. Deep within them I will plant my law, writing it on their hearts. When those days arrive then I will be their God, and they shall be my people

- The law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.
They will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles

- Nation will not lift sword against nation, for unto us is born a child, a son given to us, and the government shall be on his shoulders; and his name will be called "wonder counsellor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace"

-I have endowed him with my spirit, that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. He will not fail or be discouraged, until true justice is established on the earth.

- A voice cries "Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert". Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill laid low. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it.

Silence or song

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Leader Our ancestors were asked to do penance in the desert to prepare for your coming on earth, O Lord. Help us, your faithful people, to turn back to God so that we may meet the light of your day

Reader Are our hearts and minds open to you, Lord?

All Help us to be ready for your coming (response throughout this litany)

Reader When can your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

All Help us . .

Reader How much of our lives have we kept from you, O Lord?

All Help us . .

Reader Will we give up what we are doing when something else is needed?

All Help us . .

Reader Have we had the courage to proclaim that in Christ there is
neither jew nor greek, male nor female, bond nor free?

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All Help us

Reading: poem from Images p 30

Short silence

Litany of hope (the response is maranatha, which means come Lord, do not delay)

Reader You Lord are the living bread which has come down from heaven, your
flesh given for the life of the world,

All Maranatha

Reader The grass withers, the flower falls but your word remains for ever

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Reader We are your people and you are our God

All Maranatha

Reader You gave yourself for the sins of many and we wait for the fullness of
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Reader The lion will lie down with the lamb and humanity will not kill humanity any more

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Bidding prayers (extempore)

Blessing of food and drink (taken from the agape prayers of the Didache)

Leader Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of this food and drink that we share together as a sign of your kingdom, which is to come in glory, and yet is already here now in so far as you live among us in the love we have for one another.
(wine is poured out)

All We give thanks to you, our creator, for this wine, remembering Israel your people, brought like a vine out of Egypt, and planted in the promised land (wine is passed round)
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All As we break the bread we thank you O creator for the life and knowledge of yourself which you gave us through Jesus Christ. To you be glory for ever.

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JESUS CHRIST IS WAITING
(Tune: Noel Nouvelet)

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Waiting in the streets;
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I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger,
Fit to wait on you.
2. Jesus Christ is raging,
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In the kingdom's causes
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I, your Creator have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations
To open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison,
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Reader A And Jesus said to the people

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Carol "Woman in the night" (tune: in the bleak midwinter)

Woman in the night
spent from giving birth
guard our precious light
peace is on the earth

Chorus Come and join the song,
Women, children, men
Jesus makes us free,
free to live again.

Woman at the well
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find your friends and tell;
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- This is the covenant I will make with Israel. Deep within them I will plant my law, writing it on their hearts. When those days arrive then I will be their God, and they shall be my people

- The law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.
They will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles

- Nation will not lift sword against nation, for unto us is born a child, a son given to us, and the government shall be on his shoulders; and his name will be called "wonder counsellor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace"

- I have endowed him with my spirit, that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. He will not fail or be discouraged, until true justice is established on the earth.

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- The law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.
They will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles

- Nation will not lift sword against nation, for unto us is born a child, a son given to us, and the government shall be on his shoulders; and his name will be called "wonder counsellor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace"

-I have endowed him with my spirit, that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. He will not fail or be discouraged, until true justice is established on the earth.

- A voice cries "Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert". Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill laid low. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it.

Silence or song

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Leader Our ancestors were asked to do penance in the desert to prepare for your coming on earth, O Lord. Help us, your faithful people, to turn back to God so that we may meet the light of your day

Reader Are our hearts and minds open to you, Lord?

All Help us to be ready for your coming (response throughout this litany)

Reader When can your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

All Help us . .

Reader How much of our lives have we kept from you, O Lord?

All Help us . .

Reader Will we give up what we are doing when something else is needed?

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All Help us .

Reader Have we lived as if we really expected you to return?

All Help us

Reading: poem from Images p 30

Short silence

Litany of hope (the response is maranatha, which means come Lord, do not delay)

Reader You Lord are the living bread which has come down from heaven, your
flesh given for the life of the world.

All Maranatha

Reader The grass withers, the flower falls but your word remains for ever

All Maranatha

Reader We are your people and you are our God

All Maranatha

Reader You gave yourself for the sins of many and we wait for the fullness of
salvation

All Maranatha ...

Reader The lion will lie down with the lamb and humanity will not kill humanity any more

All Maranatha

Reader In the new heaven and the new earth righteousness will abound

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Bidding prayers (extempore)

Blessing of food and drink (taken from the agape prayers of the Didache)

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(wine is poured out)

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Final Song

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(Tune: Noel Nouvelet)

1. Jesus Christ is waiting,
Waiting in the streets;
No one is his neighbour
All alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger,
Fit to wait on you.
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Where injustice spirals
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(lona)

ADVENT CELEBRATION

The candles are lit and all say

Thus says the Creator
Who made the heavens and spread them out
Who gave shape to the earth and what comes from it
Who gave breath to its people, and life to all that move on it.

I, your Creator have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations
To open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison,
And those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

Reader A And Jesus said to the people

"I am the light of the world. They who follow me will not
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into the world when the time was ripe, but that the redeemer comes daily into our hearts,
and we look forward to the saviour's promised return in glory.

Carol "Woman in the night" (tune: in the bleak midwinter)

Woman in the night
spent from giving birth
guard our precious light
peace is on the earth

Chorus Come and join the song,
Women, children, men
Jesus makes us free,
free to live again.

Woman at the well
questions the Messiah
find your friends and tell;
drink your heart's desire.
Chorus Come and join.....

Woman at the feast
let the righteous stare
come and go in peace
love him give your hair

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Woman in the house
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Woman on the road,
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travel far and wide;
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Listen, Lord Jesus,
Let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me,
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(lona)

A waiting world:

Let us never forget that the the ordinary way to contemplation lies through a desert without trees and without beauty and without water...it may become almost impossible to believe that this road goes anywhere at all, except to a desolation full of dry bones - the ruin of all our hopes and good intentions. (Thomas Merton)

Lord, all that I long for is known to you. My sighing is no secret from you. My heart is throbbing, my strength deserting me. The light of my eyes has itself left me. (Psalm 38)

Sometimes it happens that this interior helplessness is a sign of real progress in the interior life - for it makes us depend more completely on the mercy of God. (Thomas Merton)

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.

I believe in love even when I cannot feel it.

I believe in God, even when he is silent. (written on a wall by a Jewish prisoner in Cologne)

Pray as you can and do not try to pray as you can't. Take yourself as you can find yourself: start from that. (Dom John Chapman)

Speech is the organ of the present world. Silence is the mystery of the world to come. (St. Isaac of Syria)

While all things were in quiet silence, and the night was in the midst of its course

Your Almighty Word, O Lord, leapt down from your royal throne, In Heaven. (Christmas Eve Office)

Very early next morning he got up and went out. He went away to a lonely place and remained there in prayer. (Mark 1.35)

A world of love:

God's chief aim is giving birth.

He is never content until he begets his Son in us.

(Meister Eckhart)

I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will not be walking in the dark; they will have the light of life. (John 8.12)

In this place of which you say "It is a waste land" ... there shall be heard again the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing.

(Isaiah 33.10)

Be filled with the Spirit ... give thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything

(Ephesians 5.20)

Thou that has given so much to me,
Give one thing more, a grateful heart ...
Not thankful when it pleases me,
As though thy blessing had spare days;
But such a heart whose pulse may be

Thy praise.

(George Herbert)

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8.28)

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Blessed be God. Blessed be the Holy and Undivided Trinity.
Blessed be God.

Praise him, praise him, Jesus is Lord.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has come to his people and set them free.

Alleluia!

Prayers for Advent.

UBI CARITAS ET AMOR, DEUS IBI EST

Waiting, so much of faith is waiting
like a pregnant woman waiting in hope
like a ~~people~~ ^{people} under siege, holding out until relief comes
like the soul lost in the darkness,
unable to see even a glimmer of light
yet stumbling through the night because somewhere,
out ahead, day will surely break.
God, be with us in our waiting.

UBI CARITAS ET AMOR, DEUS IBI EST

Hope growing, silently, secretly, like a child in the womb,
fluttering;
putting out soft fingers, hope, stretching, stirring.
Hope growing, silently, secretly, swelling, burgeoning, bursting
until the flower opens, the child is crowned, the prisoner released
and hope is born.

UBI CARITAS ET AMOR, DEUS IBI EST

God of all hopefulness, for seeds of silent growth
and secret expectation,
we thank you.
Bring hope to birth in us; release us that we may worship
in freedom and joy.

UBI CARITAS ET AMOR, DEUS IBI EST

Blessed be God. Blessed be the Holy and Undivided Trinity.
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JUBILATE DEO, JUBILATE DEO, ALLELUIA!

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has come to his
people and set them free!
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JUBILATE DEO, JUBILATE DEO, ALLELUIA!

We have laid our burdens down, in the presence of the living
God.
We have been nourished for our journey,
in the presence of the living God.
We have taken on the armour of Christ,
in the presence of the living God.
Now lead us, guide us, defend us
as we go into your world
in your name and for your sake,
O loving, living God.

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Song Will you come and see the Light? (Brian Wren, tune
Kelvingrove)

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Song O Come O Come Emmanuel

Eucharist.

(All sing the Shalom)

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Jesus Christ is waiting (Iona, tune
Now the Green Blade
riseth)

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Reader You Lord are the living bread which has come down from heaven, your
flesh given for the life of the world,

All Maranatha

Reader The grass withers, the flower falls but your word remains for ever

All Maranatha

Reader We are your people and you are our God

All Maranatha

Reader You gave yourself for the sins of many and we wait for the fullness of
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All Maranatha ...

Reader The lion will lie down with the lamb and humanity will not kill humanity any more

All Maranatha

Reader In the new heaven and the new earth righteousness will abound

All Maranatha

Reading from "on being a christian" on the meaning of Christmas
p 452 (hardback ed)

Bidding prayers (extempore)

Blessing of food and drink (taken from the agape prayers of the Didache)

Leader Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of this food and drink that we share together as a sign of your kingdom, which is to come in glory, and yet is already here now in so far as you live among us in the love we have for one another.
(wine is poured out)

All We give thanks to you, our creator, for this wine, remembering Israel your people, brought like a vine out of Egypt, and planted in the promised land (wine is passed round)
(the bread is broken and passed round and all say)

All As we break the bread we thank you O creator for the life and knowledge of yourself which you gave us through Jesus Christ. To you be glory for ever.

As this broken bread was scattered upon the mountains, but was brought together and became one, so let your children, Lord, be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ for ever. (all eat)

Final Song O Come O Come Emmanuel.

1p Dec 85

ADVENT CELEBRATION 1989

The candles are lit and all say

Thus says the Creator
Who made the heavens and spread them out
Who gave shape to the earth and what comes from it
Who gave breath to its people, and life to all that move on it.

I, your Creator have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations
To open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison,
And those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

Reader A And Jesus said to the people

"I am the light of the world. They who follow me will not
be walking in the dark; They will have the light of life.

Reader B We who are the followers of Christ are gathered here today to celebrate the
coming of Jesus Christ our Lord, and bring to mind that not only did he come as Saviour
into the world when the time was ripe, but that the redeemer comes daily into our hearts,
and we look forward to the saviour's promised return in glory.

Song Will you come and see the Light? (Brian Wren, tune
Kelvingrove)

Litany of prophecy

Reader My servant will be a light to the nations and my salvation shall reach the ends
of the earth

All Blessed is Christ who fulfills the promise (This response is made to each
prophecy - each in turn acting as reader)

Readers The virgin is with child and will give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel

All Blessed ...

- A shoot shall spring forth from the stock of Jesse, a branch from its root

- For as the rain and snow came down from heaven and return not there but :
waters the earth, making it yield and give growth, to provide seed for the sower and bread
for the eating, so shall my word be that goes out of my mouth; it shall not return to me
empty, without carrying out my will, doing that for which it was sent.

- This is the covenant I will make with Israel. Deep within them I will plant
my law, writing it on their hearts. When those days arrive then I will be their God, and
they shall be my people

- The law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.
They will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into
sickles

- Nation will not lift sword against nation, for unto us is born a child, a
son given to us, and the government shall be on his shoulders; and his name will be
called "wonder counsellor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace"

-I have endowed him with my spirit, that he may bring true justice to the
nations. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. He will not
fail or be discouraged, until true justice is established on the earth.

- A voice cries "Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a
straight highway for our God across the desert". Let every valley be filled in, every
mountain and hill laid low. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind
shall see it.

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Reader Are our hearts and minds open to you, Lord?

All Help us to be ready for your coming (response throughout this litany)

Reader When can your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

All Help us . .

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Reading: poem from Images p 30

Short silence

Gospel LK 3.4

Short Discussion

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Song O Come O Come Emmanuel

Eucharist.

(All sing the Shalom)

Final Song

Jesus Christ is waiting (Iona, tune
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Song O Come O Come Emmanuel

Eucharist.

(All sing the Shalom)

Final Song

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Reading: poem from Images p 30

Short silence

Gospel LK 3.4

Short Discussion

Bidding Prayers

Litany of hope (the response is maranatha, which means come Lord, do not delay)

Reader You Lord are the living bread which has come down from heaven, your
flesh given for the life of the world.

All Maranatha

Reader The grass withers, the flower falls but your word remains for ever

All Maranatha

Reader We are your people and you are our God

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Reader You gave yourself for the sins of many and we wait for the fullness of
salvation

All Maranatha ...

Reader The lion will lie down with the lamb and humanity will not kill humanity any
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All Maranatha

Reader In the new heaven and the new earth righteousness will abound

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Song O Come O Come Emmanuel

Eucharist.

(All sing the Shalom)

Final Song

Jesus Christ is waiting (Iona, tune
Now the Green Blade
riseth)

ADVENT CELEBRATION 1989

The candles are lit and all say

Thus says the Creator
Who made the heavens and spread them out
Who gave shape to the earth and what comes from it
Who gave breath to its people, and life to all that move on it.

I, your Creator have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations
To open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison,
And those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

Reader A And Jesus said to the people

"I am the light of the world. They who follow me will not
be walking in the dark; They will have the light of life.

Reader B We who are the followers of Christ are gathered here today to celebrate the
coming of Jesus Christ our Lord, and bring to mind that not only did he come as Saviour
into the world when the time was ripe, but that the redeemer comes daily into our hearts,
and we look forward to the saviour's promised return in glory.

Song Will you come and see the Light? (Brian Wren, tune
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Litany of prophecy

Reader My servant will be a light to the nations and my salvation shall reach the ends
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All Blessed is Christ who fulfills the promise (This response is made to each
prophecy - each in turn acting as reader)

Readers The virgin is with child and will give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel

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- A shoot shall spring forth from the stock of Jesse, a branch from its root

- For as the rain and snow came down from heaven and return not there but
waters the earth, making it yield and give growth, to provide seed for the sower and bread
for the eating, so shall my word be that goes out of my mouth; it shall not return to me
empty, without carrying out my will, doing that for which it was sent.

- This is the covenant I will make with Israel. Deep within them I will plant
my law, writing it on their hearts. When those days arrive then I will be their God, and
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- The law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.
They will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into
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- Nation will not lift sword against nation, for unto us is born a child, a
son given to us, and the government shall be on his shoulders; and his name will be
called "wonder counsellor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace"

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nations. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. He will not
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Reader Are our hearts and minds open to you, Lord?

All Help us to be ready for your coming (response throughout this litany)

Reader When can your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

All Help us . .

Reader How much of our lives have we kept from you, O Lord?

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Reader Will we give up what we are doing when something else is needed?

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Reader Have we had the courage to proclaim that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, bond nor free?

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Short silence

Gospel LK 3.4

Short Discussion

Bidding Prayers

THE FIVE WOUNDS OF CHRIST

O my people what have I done to you ? I made men and women equal in my image and you have spurned women rejecting their gifts, wounding all.



Is it your belief that women cannot image Christ in the Ordained Ministry ?



The Church in former times accepted slavery as moral, cannot the Church also change its present position on barring women from Ordination?



If power is only exercised by a few men, what does this do to the People of God ?



We are all called to repent. If the present unjust system continues are we feeding the future generations "stones " not "bread" ?



Women "BAKE" bread, why are they not allowed to "BREAK" bread on the altar of God ?

Litany of hope (the response is maranatha, which means come Lord, do not delay)

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2 groups -

Friday Liturgy Group advent 07

Centring music

Reading (first line read in turn round the room, all say the second line)

The desert will sing and rejoice
and the wilderness blossom with flowers

All will see the Lord's splendour,
see the Lord's greatness and power

Tell everyone who is anxious:
Be strong and don't be afraid.

The blind will be able to see:
the deaf will be able to hear;

The lame will leap and dance
those who can't speak will shout.

Thy will hammer their swords into ploughs
and their spears into pruning knives;

The nations will live in peace;
they will train for war no more.

This is the promise of God;
God's promise will be fulfilled *Iona Community worship book, based on Is 35 and Micah 4.1-4*

All say: (Is.11:1-4)

On him the spirit of the Lord will rest:
A spirit of wisdom and understanding,
A spirit of counsel and power.
With justice he will judge the poor,
And defend the humble in the land with equity

The lighting of the Advent candles (4 candles are placed on the paper advent wreath
and lit one each at the beginning of each stanza of the prayer poem (from Iona's
"Conifers and Candles")

All: God we come to you in our waiting

Grp A We wait with our fears,
our anxieties and frustrations
our pains and regrets,
our shame and confusion.

God help us to wait in peace Pause

We wait with impatience:
We rush around, preparing for the festivities,
not leaving the space to prepare
our hearts.
God, help us to wait in faith.

Pause

We wait in excitement:
We are ready to celebrate!
We know the story with its humbleness, simplicity,
and wonder.
God, help us to nurture our joy.

Pause

We wait in thanksgiving:
We are free and able to celebrate.
We have others around us to share in the journey.
We are able to wonder in the marvel of your gift.
God, help us to receive your love. AMEN

Katrina Crosby

Song (Brian Wren) Will you come and see the light

Prayer (All)

God of latent life and growing shoots
We wait for you in an expectant world:
We long for your wisdom to be at work in our lives
And, with our sisters and brothers,
We yearn for your justice to be done on earth

Discussion in 2s and 3s How can we use the Advent and Christmas season
positively, and diminish its negative aspects?

"Make us Aware" (Kate McIlhagga) (all say last line of verses and the last verse)

A Merciful God, forgive
that we fall asleep
when you call us to watch and pray.
We fail to see the signs of your coming

B Christ our Saviour, forgive
that we are not watchful
we do not choose to hope
or plant the seeds of hopefulness.
We fail to see the signs of your coming

A Forgive Spirit, forgive
that in the rush of the Christmas season
we forget to stop and listen for the sound of angel voices
we forget and stop and look for a star
to Guide us to Christ
All We fail to see the signs of God's presence.

God over all
Christ within us
Spirit around us
hear our prayer
and send your messenger
of peace to us and to your sleeping world.

Pause for reflection

Intercessions Place glass pebble on the spiral leading to Christ, with a spoken or silent prayer.

CWN Christmas song written at the 05 conference

Blessing of food and drink (using mulled wine and stollen)

(ALL) O loving Creator, bless this special Christmas food, made from the fruits of the earth and a symbol of the abundance with which you have endowed us.

(Pass round the stollen saying something like food for a journey of hope)

(All) O loving Creator bless this warm and sustaining wine, fruit of the earth, which symbolises your comfort and sustaining power.

(pass round with words such as "the cup of rejoicing")

Final Blessing (from the Manna Centre for the homeless) All say:

During this Christmas season
May we be blessed
With the spirit of the season,
Which is peace.
The gladness of the season
Which is hope,
And the heart of the season,
Which is love.

Final Song In Dulci Jubilo (June's version)

Will you can I follow me

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.
Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope alight in a young girl's eyes
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Brian Wren

In Dulci Jubilo adapted by June Boyce-Tillman

In dulci jubilo,
Let love within us glow;
See the Christ child lying
Within praeseptio,
Who shares our joy and crying,
Matris in gremio.
Alpha es O.

O patris caritas
O nati lenitas
We were told we're guilty
Per nostra crimina;
But we were birthed in beauty
Coelorum gaudia
Our own births were blessed.

Ubi sunt gaudia
But here with human friends;
We hear angels singing
Nova cantica;
With these our songs are mingling
In regis curia.
We can share that joy.

in BIK midwinters

CWN/WWS Song

Women Word and Spirit
nearing Christmas Day
Lost in all confusion
Trying to find our way

How do we find meaning
in the rush and hype?
seeking simple giving
love and joy and light

Women Word and Spirit
Turn around and see
Lets embrace this season
With integrity

Sharing love and laughter
in a troubled world
gifts of transformation
bringing peace on earth.

ADVENT PRAYER MEAL

1. Opening prayer (referring to the purpose of the celebration)

2 Scripture reading - prophecies e.g.

When Israel was a child I loved him,
and I called my son out of Egypt....
then I will be their God,
and they shall be my people

It was the stone rejected by the builders
that proved to be the keystone

The law will go out from Zion
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem
They will hammer their swords into plough shares, their spears into
sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation.
for there a child is born for us, a son is given to us
and the government will be upon his shoulders:
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A voice cries, prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill laid low
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
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etc.(From Isaiah)

3. Carol/Folk song

4. Litany of penance

opening prayer eg recalling John the Baptist's call to repentance and
our need to turn back to God.

Reader are our hearts and minds open to you, Lord?

All Help us to be ready for your coming

Reader Have we done enough to bring about your kingdom on earth?

All Help us to be ready.....

Reader Are we prepared to remake the world in your image or do we like it
better as it is?

All Help us to be ready....

Reader Have we used the gifts you have given us to build up the body
of Christ in its fullness

All Help us.....

etc etc

5. Litany of hope (this could be replaced by a prayer of hope)

- eg Reader You, Lord, are the living bread which has come down from heaven,
your flesh ~~xxx~~ given for the life of the world.
- All Come Lord, do not delay
- R. The grass withers, the flower falls but your word remains for ever
- A. Come Lord....
- R. We are ^{your} ~~xxx~~ people and you are our God
- A. Come Lord....
- R. You gave yourself for the sins of many and we wait for the fullness
of your ~~xxx~~ salvation
- A. Come Lord...
- R. In the new heaven and the new earth righteousness will abound
- A. Come Lord....

6 Blessing of the shared meal (this can be anything from orange juice and
biscuits to a full meal with wine)

- eg Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of this food and drink that
we share together as a sign of your kingdom, which is to come in glory
and yet is already here now in so far as you live among us in the love that
we have for one another.

7 prayer after the meal eg

- all Christ has come
May this world pass away
may we see your day
Come Lord, do not delay

Leader Looking for the coming of your kingdom we say (sing)

All Our Father...

8 Kiss of peace

9 final prayer (summing up or the 'grace')

10 final carol/folk song

Advent Friday Liturgy 03

Centring music

Reading (first line read in turn round the room, all say the second line)

The desert will sing and rejoice
and the wilderness blossom with flowers

All will see the Lord's splendour,
see the Lord's greatness and power

Tell everyone who is anxious:
Be strong and don't be afraid.

The blind will be able to see:
the deaf will be able to hear;

The lame will leap and dance
those who can't speak will shout.

Thy will hammer their swords into ploughs
and their spears into pruning knives;

The nations will live in peace;
they will train for war no more.

This is the promise of God;
God's promise will be fulfilled.

Iona Community

worship book, based on Isaiah 35 and Micah

4.1-4

Song from Iona Veni Immanuel – words on separate sheet. Taped, join in as you can.

Watchet Auf (*poem by Ann Lewin, written after hearing the Bach prelude*)

Each verse read read antiphonally, Groups A and B.

Advent

Season when

Dual citizenship

Holds us in

Awkward tension

The world, intent on

Spending Christmas,

Eats and drinks its way to

Oblivion after dinner.

The Kingdom sounds
Insistent warnings:
Repent, be ready,
Keep awake
He comes.

Like some great fugue
The themes entwine:
The Christmas carols
Demanding our attention

In shops and pubs,
Bore their insistent way
Through noise of traffic;
Underneath, almost unheard,
The steady solemn theme of
Advent.

With growing complexity,
Clashing, bending,
Rivals for our attention,
Themes mingle and separate,
Pulling us with increasing
Urgency,
Until in final resolution,
The end attained,
Harmony rests in awful
Stillness, and
The child is born.

He comes,
Both Child and Judge.

And will he find us
Watching?

Discussion in pairs – What are our negative feelings about Advent and Christmas (the positive will come in later).

Building the cairn We put down a pebble to represent these feelings, either voicing them or silently.

Song Will you come and see the light

Prayer "Make us Aware" (Kate McIlhagga)
(all to say last line of verses and the last verse)

Merciful God, forgive
that we fall asleep
when you call us to watch and pray.
We fail to see the signs of your coming.

Christ our Saviour, forgive
that we are not watchful
we do not choose hope
or plant the seeds of hopefulness.
We fail to see the signs of your coming.

Forgiving Spirit, forgive
that in the rush of the Christmas season
we forget to stop and listen for the sound of angel
voices
we forget to stop and look for a star
to guide us to Christ.
We fail to see the signs of God's presence.

God over all
Christ within us
Spirit around us
hear our prayer
and send your messenger
of peace to us and to your sleeping world.

Discussion in pairs What for you are the positive aspects of Advent and Christmas?

Give thanks for these (or intercessions) placing flower heads round the central candle

Agape using mulled wine and stollen

(ALL) O loving Creator, bless this special Christmas food, made from the fruits of the earth and a symbol of the abundance with which you have endowed us.

(Pass round the stollen saying something like food for a journey of hope)

(All) O loving Creator bless this warm and sustaining wine, fruit of the earth, which symbolises your comfort and sustaining power.

(pass round with words such as "the cup of rejoicing")

Final Blessing (adapted from R. Becher)

Let us follow, where the Spirit of Hope leads us
Let us listen, as the Child of Peace cries for us
Rejoicing, as the Love of God embraces us and lets us go
With Hope, Peace and love in our hearts
And the blessing of
Creator, Child and Spirit for ever within us.

Circle Dance

1. From a worn and weary nation –
VENI IMMANUEL!
 Where and when will come salvation?
VENI IMMANUEL!
 In the place you least expect,
 in the face of real neglect,
 one appointed, unanointed,
 God has chosen to perfect.
VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL!

2. To an unsuspecting mother –
AVE MARIA!
 Why choose her and not some other?
AVE MARIA!
 So that earth might be restored,
 flesh no longer be ignored,
 faith infected, love directed,
 God through woman be adored.
AVE MARIA! AVE MARIA! AVE MARIA!

3. In the song of God's elected –
MAGNIFICAT!
 Can the future be detected?
MAGNIFICAT!
 God the proud will overthrow,
 worldly wealth will lose its glow;
 hunger halted, poor exalted,
 heaven appear through what we know.
MAGNIFICAT! MAGNIFICAT! MAGNIFICAT!

4. Through the midnight air is seeping –
GLORIA!
 Why such sound when most are sleeping?
GLORIA!
 Thus shall strangers find their way
 where a simple family stay,
 recognising how surprising
 God appears when laid in hay.
GLORIA! GLORIA! GLORIA!

5. Let the very earth cry glory,
HALLELUJAH!
 Every tongue retell the story,
HALLELUJAH!
 God no longer is confined
 out of sight and out of mind.
 Gone is distance and resistance;
 Christ is here in humankind.
HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
 It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
 It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.
 Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
 It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
 By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.
 Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
 Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
 When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
 will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope alight in a young girl's eyes
 of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
 When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
 will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
 In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
 and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
 will you hide or decide to meet the light?

3. Carol for Advent - Song from Iona (Innkeepers)

join in when you can.

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Where and when will come salvation?
 VENI IMMANUEL!
In the place you least expect,
in the face of real neglect,
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God has chosen to perfect.
 VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL!
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Why choose her and not some other?
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So that earth might be restored,
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(all to say last line of verses and the last verse)

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God over all
Christ within us
Spirit around us
hear our prayer
and send your messenger
of peace to us and to your sleeping world.

Advent Liturgy 2014

Opening sentence

You discern my thoughts from far away O God

You Search out my path and my lying down

And are acquainted with all my ways

(Ps 139, 2-3)

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

SILENCE

A- O Christ of the least and the homeless

B O Christ of the lost and the betrayed

A - Come close to me this night, that I may come close to you

B-As you watched me with care at my souls shaping

A Look on me now with Grace

B-As you blessed me with light at the suns rising

A- Shine on me now with love

The Lord's Prayer - together

Our Father who art in heaven

hallowed be they name

they kingdom come

they will be done

on earth as it is in heaven

give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us

For thine be the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever

Readings for 8th Dec

Isaiah 45 14-end

1 Thessalonians 1 2-10

Intercessions

A-Peace between nations

B- Peace between neighbours

A-Peace between lovers

B-In love of the God of Life

A-Peace between man and woman

B-Peace between parent and child

A-Peace between brother and sister

B-The peace of Christ above all peace

A-Bless O Christ my face

B-Let me face bless everything

A-Bless O Christ my eyes

B-Let my eyes bless all they see

Closing prayer

I end this day

as the Son of Mary would end it

The grace of God be on this place

And on all whom God has given me

Who keeps watch over us this night

Who but the Christ of love. Amen

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Isaiah 45 14-end

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as we forgive those who trespass against us

For thine be the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever

;

In Mary—Darkness

I live my Advent in the womb of Mary
And on one night when a great star swings free
From its high mooring and walks down the sky
To be the dot above the Christus i,
I shall be born of her by blessed grace.
I wait in Mary—darkness, faith's walled place,
With hope's expectance of nativity.
I know for long she carried me and fed me
Guarded and loved me, though I could not see,
But only now, with inward jubilee,
I come upon earth's most amazing knowledge:
Someone is hidden in this dark with me.

Jessica Powers

Advent Liturgy CWN93

Lighting of candle and prayer

Song: Mary's Child

Reading: Miryam of the Stable

Betjeman/Swann christmas song (tape)

Discussion

In pairs: What do you dread about Christmas?
What do you like about Christmas?

in fours: How might we celebrate Christmas more meaningfully?
Advent is a time of waiting. How do we experience this in our lives - how can it be
be a growth experience?

Dressing of the tree

Adapted prayer from "tears of silence"

All sing Jesus Christ is waiting (separate sheet)

Agape see below

At the sharing of the stollen the response is "May the blessing of new life be upon you"

sung Shalom and greetings.

6. Invitation to the Agape Meal *(From Prayers & Poems Songs & Stories)*

We believe that all people are the children of God, and
therefore have worth and dignity.

All are welcome to share in this Agape Meal, without
regard for human divisions of race, sex, sexuality, class or
creed.

As we prepare to follow the example of Jesus in sharing
this bread and wine, let us affirm our faith:

Sisters and brothers, let us dedicate ourselves anew to live
in such a way that justice may roll like waters, that peace
may become real, that the dignity of all persons may be
manifest.

Let us make a covenant with one another and seek to
make a new beginning.

Let us declare solemnly that we are at peace with all peo-
ple of good will.

We seek peace with all people.

We affirm that our security rests not in armaments.
We seek a just economic order in which everyone has
access to the abundance of the earth.

We seek justice in human relationships nourished in the
solidarity of the human family.

We affirm justice for all people.

We choose struggle rather than indifference.

We choose to be friends of the earth and of one another,
not exploiters.

We choose to be citizens rather than subjects.

We choose to be peacemakers rather than peacekeepers.

We choose life for all creation.

We join with sisters and brothers the world over.

We join in communities of resistance to the threat of hun-
ger and injustice, to the threat of nuclear destruction.

We unite to resist the powers of death.

Before us today are set life and death.

We choose life that we and our children may live.

Blessing of the food

All: We share this loaf today, as a sign that we are all one in the body of
Christ. Just as many grains came together into the one loaf, so we are all
one in Christ Jesus. Help us to reflect the life giving love of the Creator,
Redeemer and Spirit in all our relationships and actions.

Advent Liturgy CWN93

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Advent Liturgy - Wimbledon Group 1995

Advent Wreath and 4 candles.

Introduction - the different sorts of coming -
(the first candle is lit)

1. the Looking

Reader 1. You keep us looking.
You the God of all space,
want us to look in the right and wrong places
for signs of hope,
for people who are hopeless,
for visions of a better world which will appear
among the disappointments of the world we know

All: so thank you (short pause) for the looking time

Advent song (see music sheet)

Prayer:

The desert will sing and rejoice
and the wilderness blossom with flowers;
all will see the Lord's splendour,
see the Lord's greatness and power.
Tell everyone who is anxious:
Be strong and don't be afraid.
The blind will be able to see;
the deaf will be able to hear;
the lame will leap and dance;
those who can't speak will shout.
They will hammer their swords into ploughs
and their spears into pruning-knives;
the nations will live in peace;
they will train for war no more.
This is the promise of God;
God's promise will be fulfilled.

Iona Community Worship Book (1988)

ISAIAH 35 MICAH 4.1-4

2nd candle is lit

Agape

compiled from *Women Included* (1991 edition)

All **We need your forgiveness, merciful God,
For not allowing our complacency to be shattered,
for taking refuge too often in the familiar and the certain;
For not believing in the victory of vulnerability,
For not daring to accept your gifts nor claim your promises.
Grant us true repentance.
Set us free to hear your word to us.
Set us free to serve you.**

L **Today we share bread and wine together
as a sign that we are one humanity,
as a pledge that we will work for justice,
as a foretaste of that which can be
despite what is and what has been.
May the Holy Spirit that guides us all
be present in this feast,
taking this bread and wine,
the concerns we have expressed,
the lives that we lead,
and transforming them all
for the unity of humankind
and the service of love.**

**Blessed be the eternal Sustainer.
Working with soil and elements and human toil.
Bringing forth bread from the earth.**

We pass the bread round and, before eating it, say together

All: When the bodies of others are broken, we are broken.

**L: Blessed be the Eternal Sustainer.
Working with soil and elements and human toil.
Making the fruit of the vine.**

Before passing the wine to each other, we say together

**All We are all one kin, one blood.
When the blood of others spills, our blood is spilled.**

We pass the wine

**All O God, you fulfil our desire
beyond what we can bear;
as Mary gave her appalled assent
to your ultimate promise
so may we open ourselves also
to contain your life within us,
through Jesus , Amen.**

Song A Word to a Young Girl by Jim Cotter; No 10 in *Reflecting Praise*

Sharing the Peace Happy Christmas!

Reader: You keep us
through hard questions with no easy answers;
through failing where we hoped to succeed
and making an impact when we felt we were useless;
through the patience and the dreams and the love of others;
and through Jesus Christ and his Spirit,
you keep us.

All: So thank you .. for the keeping time

Discussion: in 2s and 3s What does Advent, as a time of waiting and looking forward, mean to us personally?

Song: Embracing the darkness

3rd candle is lit

3. The Waiting

Reader: You keep us waiting.
You, the God of all time,
want us to wait for the right time in which to discover
who we are, where we must go,
who will be with us, and what we must do. (1a)

*For the darkness
waiting*

All: So thank you .. for the waiting time

Prayer: for the darkness of waiting (2)

For the darkness of waiting
of not knowing what is to come
of staying ready and quiet and attentive,
we praise you O God:

**For the darkness and the light
are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of staying silent
for the terror of having nothing to say
and for the greater terror
of needing to say nothing,
we praise you O God:

**For the darkness and the light
are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of loving
in which it is safe to surrender
to let go of our self-protection
and to stop holding back our desire,
we praise you O God:

but we still have to take the risk,
we praise you O God:

**For the darkness and the light
are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of hoping
in a world which longs for you,
for the wrestling and the labouring of all creation
for wholeness and justice and freedom,
we praise you O God:

**For the darkness and the light
are both alike to you.**

Janet Morley
All Desires Known (SPCK 1992).
PSALM 139 ROMANS 8.18-25

**For the darkness and the light
are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of choosing
when you give us the moment
to speak, and act, and change,
and we cannot know what we have set in motion,

4th candle is lit

All stand in circle linked by chains of Ivy, singing the song below

Weave, weave weave a circle of friendship
people of faith we can be strong
love will bind us all together
and will strengthen it with song

The 3rd line changes as follows

2. hope will join us all together
3. peace " ...
- 4 joy " ...

The ivy is placed round the central table.

Agape

Today we share bread and wine together
as a sign that we are one humanity
as a pledge that we will work for justice
as a foretaste of that which can be
despite what is and what has been.
May the Holy Spirit that guides us all be present in this feast,
taking this bread and wine,
the concerns we have expressed,
the lives that we lead,
and transforming them all
for the unity of humankind
and the service of love

(Anne Peart in Women Included)

Bread and wine is passed round, "food for the journey" and "cup of strength for our seeking", the answer being "Maranatha" (come Lord)

Final Song Will you come and see the light? (Brian Wren, tune Kelvingrove)

* Opening stanzas for each section come from the Iona Community Worship Book

Advent Song is in In Praise of all Encircling Love vol 1, and Embracing the Darkness is in Vol 11

QUIET DAY FOR ADVENTIDE

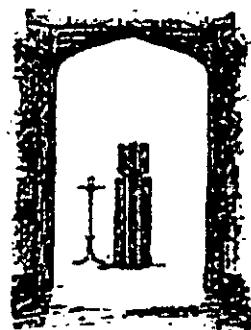
Agapé



On Saturday 2nd December 2000

9.30 am to 4.15 pm

At the Barn, New Hall Boreham



Prayer of Invocation

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest,
Stay with us for day is ending.

With friend, with stranger,
With young and with old,
Be among us tonight.

Come close to us that we may come close to you.
Forgive us that we may forgive one another.
Renew us so that, where we have failed,
We may begin again. Amen.

Hymn R&S 295 Breathe on me, breath of God.

The joy of creation

We give you thanks, most gracious God,
for the beauty of earth and sea;
for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers;
for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers.
We praise you for these good gifts,
and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity.
Grant that we may grow in our grateful enjoyment
of your abundant creation ;
to the honour and glory of your Name, now and for ever. Amen.

For discipleship

O Lord our God, we thank you for
the many people throughout the ages
who have followed your way of life joyfully;
for the many saints and martyrs, men and women,
who have offered up their very lives,
so that your life abundant
may become manifest
and your kingdom may advance.

*For your love and faithfulness
we will at all times praise your name.*

O Lord, we thank you for those
who chose the way of your Son,
our brother Jesus Christ.
In the midst of trial, they held out hope;
in the midst of hatred, they kindled love;
in the midst of persecutions they witnessed to your power;
in the midst of despair they clung to your promise.

*For your love and faithfulness
we will at all times praise your name.*

Restore us, O Lord

Lord God almighty,
forgive your church
its wealth among the poor,
its fear among the unjust,
its cowardice among the oppressed,

forgive us, your children,
our lack of confidence in you,
our lack of hope in your reign,
our lack of faith in your presence,
our lack of trust in your mercy.

Restore us to your covenant
with your people ;
bring us to true repentance ;
teach us to accept the sacrifice of Christ ;
make us strong with the comfort of your Holy Spirit.

Break us where we are proud.
Make us where we are weak.
Shame us where we trust ourselves.
Name us where we have lost ourselves:
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Philippians 3 vv 10-14

Reader. This is the word of the Lord.
All. Thanks be to God.

John 17 vv 1-11

Reader. This is the word of the Lord.
All. Thanks be to God.

Barn Prayer

Creator God,
pour out your Spirit upon your people,
especially all those who help in anyway
with the work of the Barn.
Let the Barn become a still place of prayer,
Light,
love and peace.

Through us,
let your light flow,
your love radiate,
the warmth of your presence be felt,
and your healing power
spread throughout the whole world.

Give us a new vision,
a new experience of your loving presence,
a new and deeper understanding
of our journey
from darkness into
the light of Resurrection.

Hymn R&S 641 We pray for peace

Time for reflection

For the creation of a sacred space: (Based on an ancient Celtic prayer)

Grant O God your protection and in your protection Strength
And in your strength understanding and in your understanding to know justice
And in knowing justice to love wisely
and in loving the whole created world wisely to love God.

We pray for those people and places in need of special prayer at this time.

* Chinese lanterns
in baskets passed
round - see notes

Words of Invitation

At the Last Supper Jesus, sharing bread and wine,
Invited the disciples to share his journey.
Like many grains of wheat becoming one loaf of bread,
The disciples were invited to become one body with him.

Here tonight, through bread and wine,
We renew our journey with Jesus and his disciples.

Here, through bread and wine,
We renew our unity with one another,
And with all those who have gone before us in this place.

Through bread and wine,
We renew our communion with the earth
And our interwovenness with the broken ones of the world.

So come, taste of this bread and wine,
Gifts of the earth, work of human hands,
Food both of earth and of heaven.

The Lord be with you . . .

The Blessing of the Bread and the Wine

Lord Jesus Christ,
Present with us now,
As we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room,
Breathe your Spirit upon us
And upon this bread and this wine,
That they may be heaven's food and drink for us,
Renewing, sustaining and making us whole,
And that we may be your body on earth,
Loving and caring in the world.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O God,
For you have brought forth bread from the earth.
Blessed are you, O God,
For you have created the fruit of the vine.

In the beginning you watered the earth
That man and woman might have food and drink.

You gave to your servant Sarah
Bread to strengthen her family on their journey,
And wine to make them glad.

You called Moses and his people out of bondage
And refreshed them with food in the wilderness.

You gave Mary and Jesus their daily bread to share.

And here at your table
You offer us bread and wine for the journey
To nourish us as sons and daughters.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Bread and wine are shared among those present

Time for reflection

Words at the Sign of peace

As this broken bread was scattered through fields and hills
before being gathered to become one,
So may we and all people be gathered from the ends of the
earth into Christ's kingdom.

May the peace of Christ be with you.
Let us greet one another with a sign of peace.

Hymn R&S 479 Shalom

Hymn: God of Justice
(sung to the tune "Abbots Leigh")

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. God of justice, wind the circle,
Making all the cosmos one,
Show us in millennial visions,
How on earth your will is done;
Help us see the mercy flowing
From the wounding of Christ's side;
Heal us with compassion spreading
As a purifying tide. | 3. God of faith's heroic journey,
May your truth direct our way;
Guide our footsteps, give us
courage
In the challenge of each day.
God of wisdom's spinning spiral,
Soothe us with your gentle charms
Weave our lives into the pattern
Of Christ's all-embracing arms. |
| 2. God of dreams and intuition
Inspiration from the night,
Temper reason's rigid systems
With the leap of faith's insight.
God of passion, fill our knowing
With divine authority
And a sense of mystery leading
To a right humility. | 4. God of order, God of chaos,
I In love's creativity
Move the mountains of tradition
Stifling earth's fertility;
Break the barriers, guide the
learning,
Bind the wounds and heal the pain;
Bring to birth our human yearning,
Integrate the world again. |

Grace



ADVENT MEAL ON A THEME OF JESUS CHRIST THE LIBERATOR

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Reader And Jesus said to the people
"I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will not be walking in the dark: they will have the light of life"

All Come Lord, do not delay - bring us out of the darkness into the light, out of death into life, from mourning into joy. Help us to open our hearts and minds to your transforming power.

Reader B Tonight we celebrate the triple coming of Christ our Saviour, who in the the past came down on earth to share our humanity and bring us back to closeness with our loving creator:

Reader C Who in the present comes to us bringing new life

Reader D Who in the future will come again in glory to bring about the fulfilment of the kingdom when peace and justice will be established.

All Thus says our loving Creator
who made the heavens and spread them out
who gave shape to the earth and what comes from it
who gave breath to its people, and life to all that move on it.

I have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people, and
a light to the nations.

Carol (O Come O come Emmanuel)

Prophetic readings from Scripture The response to each passage is "Come, Lord, do not delay"

Reader A voice cries "prepare in the wilderness
a way for the most High.
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Every mountain and hill be laid low
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and all humanity shall see it. (Is 40 3-5)

Response - Come Lord, do not delay

Reader Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
See now your king comes to you;
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(readers should pause before after each question)

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(short silence)

Reading from A thousand Reasons for Living - Helder Camara p 113

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Final Song When He Comes Back or other suitable carol

6. Invocation of the Holy Spirit

We gather here in the power of the Holy Spirit,
source and well-spring of all that energizes and enriches creation.
United in the empowerment of that One Spirit
we give thanks for all that nourishes and sustains us.

(Embodied Connection)

May that Spirit come upon us afresh,
to awaken within and among us,
the transformative power of holy energy;
may our hearts be renewed and our spirits reawakened.

(Connecting with the Table)

We acknowledge in these gifts of bread and wine
that same creative energy,
which in the transformative power of this Eucharist,
will become for us the food and drink of life eternal.
AMEN.

7. INVITATION – come and share in the banquet of our God

*We proclaim the feast open to all who believe.
Come share in this banquet, come now and receive.
And know in the heart that is hungry for more
That God's love is with you wherever you go.
As the sun shines upon us, etc.*

8. Sharing our Eucharistic Meal

9. The Cup of Libation: *"I raise this cup with the desire for . . ."*

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Res. Help us to

R. Are we prepared to change what we are doing when something else is needed?

All Help us to be ready for your coming

R. Have we understood what the word was made flesh means if we cannot see Christ in the poor and powerless?

All Help us

R. Are we doing enough to bring about your kingdom here on earth?

All Help us ...

R. Do we live as if we really expected you to return?

All Help us ...

R Are we prepared to remake the world in your image or do we fear change too much?

All Have we buried the talents you have given us rather than using them to build up the body of Christ?

R. Have we forgotten that your Church must be like a pilgrim in a foreign land?

All Give us the strength to follow out your will on earth.

(short silence)

Reading from A thousand Reasons for Living - Helder Camara p 113

Blessing over the food

All Blessed are you, Source of all our being, creator of this food and drink that we share together as a sign of your kingdom, which is to come in glory, and yet is already here now in so far as you live among us in the love which we have for one another.

Song Shalom (all hold hands)

Shalom my friends, shalom my friends shalom, shalom
The peace of Christ be with us today, shalom, shalom (x 3)

(the meal/refreshments now follow)

Litany of liberation

Reader Good will to all, but does it stay in words only?

All Liberate us, Jesus our Saviour, so that we may walk with you

Reader Free us from celebrating your birth in a stable by overeating and drinking

All Liberate us, Lord Jesus, so that we may follow your way

R. Free us from the pressures of the consumer society

All Liberate us, Lord Jesus, so that we may follow your truth

R Free us from all prejudice based on sex, class or race

All Liberate us, Lord Jesus, so that we may experience your new life in us

R. Free us from putting rules before the needs of people

All Liberate us Lord Jesus so that the truth may make us free

R. Free us from the feeling that we can do nothing in the face
of the problems of the world

All Liberate us Lord of justice and righteousness

R. Free us from all that stops us from loving both ourselves
and our neighbour

All Liberate us, Lord Jesus, so that we may show forth your love to
the world

Reading Magnificat of waiting for the fullness of time (p79 "Miriam of Nazareth")

Bidding Prayers

Final Prayer

All Come Lord Jesus into our hearts and send your spirit to set us on
fire with new life and hope. Help us to reflect the life-giving love
of the Creator, Redeemer and Spirit in all our relationships and
actions.

Final Song When He Comes Back or other suitable carol

An Ecumenical Service for Advent

Call to Worship (Stand if able)

Leader Sisters and brothers in Christ,
The Spirit of God has gathered us
for celebration, growth and pilgrimage.

All: We come, seeking the mind of Christ,
open to the movement of the Spirit,
wondering at the wonders of God.

Leader: Let us reach out to each other
as God reaches out to us.

All: Thanks be to God!

HYMN GGSB 30 - Great Lover, calling us to share

Scripture and Reflection, Using the hymn, "Daughter Mary,
saying yes" (Bring Many Names, No. 11)

Scripture Readings:

Luke 1: 23-56 (part) REB
Mark 3:13-35 (part) REB
John 19:23-27 REB

HYMN: The holly and the ivy (GGSB 28)

Prayers (Seated)

Leader: We are the body of Christ,
needing forgiveness and transformation.
Let us therefore confess our sins
in the presence of God.

(Silence for preparation)

Leader: If we say we are without sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is just,
and may be trusted to forgive our sins
and cleanse us from every kind of wrong.

All: Holy and Loving God
we confess that we have sinned
by choice, and by conditioning,
in ignorance, and in awareness,
by ourselves, and with others.
We take responsibility, and ask forgiveness.
By your Spirit, turn us from evil to good,
Help us to make amends,
to forgive others,
and walk in truth and love,
through Christ our Saviour. Amen

L. In repentance and faith
receive the promise:
"Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners."
God loves and values us, forgives what is past,
and calls us to new discipleship.

All: Thanks be to God!

Voices read varied names and titles of God, and fragments or complete prayers written during the workshop. Then follows this prayer of praise and adoration -

A Voice: Holy Love, beyond all names,
shaping, conceiving, weaving,
knowing and loving all things,
we praise and adore you:

All: Holy is God,
who was, and is, and is to come.
Hallelujah!

A Voice: Holy Wisdom, Jesus our Saviour,
lover of outcasts, friend of the poor,
one of us, yet one with God,
crucified and risen,
we praise and adore you:

All: Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power and wealth,
wisdom and might,
honour and glory and praise!

A Voice: Holy Spirit, storm and breath,
building bridges, breaking chains,
unseen and unexpected,
we praise and adore you:

All: Hallelujah! The Spirit comes,
through old and young,
women and men,
slave and free.
Hallelujah!

A Voice: Holy Trinity, unbounded dance of love,
far beyond us, all around us, deep within us,
in whom we live, and grow, and know each other,
we praise and adore you:

All: How deep are the wealth, the wisdom,
and the knowledge of God!
Source, guide and goal of all that is,
to God be glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.

HYMN: GGSB 17 - Her baby, newly breathing

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

From within the congregation

HYMN: GGSB 29 - One more step.

Blessing

Leader: Nothing can separate us
from the love of God.

All: We go in faith
to live as the people of God

Leader: May the Unbegotten One, Original Peace,
be our rock and sure foundation;
May the Incarnate One, Self-giving Peace,
break the walls of separation;
May the Untameable One, Disturbing Peace,
lead us beyond the known path.
Glory and praise to God,
now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Prayers (c) copyright Brian Wren

Advent Liturgy

Opening prayer

My sisters, we enter today the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread of the eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ. Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

Litany of darkness and light

Voice 1 We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully.

Voice 2 The darkness is our friend. In the darkness of the womb, we have all been nurtured and protected. In the darkness of the womb, the Christ-child was made ready for the journey into light.

All **You are with us, O God, in darkness and light**

Voice 1 It is only in the darkness that we can see the splendour of the universe - blankets of stars, the solitary glowings of distant planets.

Voice 2 It was the darkness that allowed the Magi to find the star that guided them to where the Christ-child lay.

ALL **You are with us, O God, in darkness and light**

Voice 1 In the darkness of night, desert peoples find relief from the cruel relentless heat of the sun.

Voice 2 In the blessed desert darkness Mary and Joseph were able to flee with the infant Jesus to safety in Egypt.

All **You are with us, O God, in darkness and light**

Voice 1 In the darkness of sleep, we are soothed and restored, healed and renewed.

Voice 2 In the darkness of sleep, dreams rise up. God spoke to Jacob and Joseph through dreams. God is speaking still.

All **You are with us, O God, in darkness and light**

Voice 1 In the solitude of darkness, we sometimes remember those who need God's presence in a special way - the sick, the unemployed, the bereaved, the persecuted, the homeless; those who are demoralised and discouraged, those whose fear has turned to cynicism, those whose vulnerability has become bitterness.

Voice 2 Sometimes we remember, in the darkness, those who are near to our hearts - colleagues, partners, parents, children, neighbours, friends. We thank God for their presence and ask God to bless and protect them in all that they do - at home, at school, as they travel, as they work, as they play.

All **You are with us, O God, in darkness and light**

Voice 1 Sometimes in the solitude of darkness our fears and concerns, our hopes and our visions rise to the surface. We come face to face with ourselves and with the road that lies ahead of us. And in that same darkness we find companionship for the journey.

Voice 2 In that same darkness, we sometimes allow ourselves to wonder and worry whether the human race is going to survive.

All **We know that you are with us, O God, yet we still await your coming. In the darkness that contains both our hopelessness and our expectancy, we watch for a sign of God's hope.**

For the darkness of waiting

For the darkness of waiting
of not knowing what is to come
of staying ready and quiet and attentive,
we praise you O God

R For the darkness and the light are both alike to you

For the darkness of staying silent
for the terror of having nothing to say
and for the greater terror
of needing nothing to say,
we praise you O God

R For the darkness and the light are both alike to you

For the darkness of loving
in which it is safe to surrender
to let go of our self-protection
and to stop holding back our desire
we praise you O God

R For the darkness and the light are both alike to you

For the darkness of choosing
when you give us the moment
to speak, and act, and change,
and we cannot know what has been set in motion,
but we still have to take the risk,
we praise you O God

R For the darkness and the light are both alike to you

For the darkness of hoping
in a world which longs for you,
for the wrestling and the labouring of all creation
for wholeness and justice and freedom,
we praise you O God

R For the darkness and the light are both alike to you

When I'm down and helpless

When I'm down and helpless
When lies are reigning
When fear and indifference are growing
May your kingdom come.

When joy is missing
When love is missing
And unbelief is growing
May your kingdom come.

To the sick and lonely
To the imprisoned and tortured
May your kingdom come.

Into the churches
Into our praying into our singing
May your kingdom come.

Into our hearts
Into our hands, into our eyes
May your kingdom come.

A Liturgy for Advent

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark
and take all fear away.

Amen! Alleluia! Come Lord Jesus,
You are the Alpha and the Omega,
the first and the last,
the beginning and the end.
You are the scion and offspring of David,
The bright star of the dawn,
Come! Say the Spirit of the Bride.
Come! Let each hearer reply.
Come forward, all who are thirsty!
Accept the water of life
A free gift to all who desire it,
The One who gives this testimony speaks.
Yes, I am coming soon!
Amen! Alleluia! Come Lord Jesus.

O wisdom from the mouth of the most high,
reigning over all things to the ends of the earth,
come and teach us the ways of wisdom,

O branch of Jesse standing as a sign among the nations,
whom people will summon to their aid,
and before whom even kings will keep silent,
come, set us free and delay no more.

O Key of David and Sceptre of the House of Israel,
opening where none can shut,
and closing where none can open,
come, and free the captives from prison.

O Morning Star, splendour of the Light Eternal
and bright Sun of Justice,
come and enlighten all who live in darkness
and the shadow of death.

O snowdrop, God embodied in fragile form,
Come and break through hard earth
to bring us to new life and beauty.

Reading

Isaiah Chapter 40, Verse 1-5

"Comfort, comfort my people", - it is the voice of your God; speak tenderly to Jerusalem and tell her this, that she has fulfilled her term of bondage, that her penalty is paid; she has received at the Lord's hand double measure for all her sins.

There is a voice that cries: Prepare a road for the Lord through the wilderness, clear a highway across the desert for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill brought down; rugged places shall be made smooth and mountain-ranges become a plain. Thus shall the glory of the Lord be revealed, and all people together shall see it, for the Lord himself has spoken.

Blessing

O Great Spirit of Hope, blessed be your holy seasons.
Blessed be this season when we move to a new year.
Blessed be this magical time for new beginnings and fond farewells.
Blessed be this "crack between the worlds" that we encounter at the New Year.
Blessed be this threshold place of transition between inside and outside.
Blessed be this transformation when spirits of hope and change gather.
Blessed be this passage from past securities to uncharted uncertainties
Blessed be this shifting of emotions.
Blessed be this letting go of old hurts and pains.
Blessed be this reliable balancing act of nature.
Blessed be this rededication of values of meaning in life.
O Great Spirit of Hope, blessed be your holy seasons.

Closing

This is the season of hope!
Let the Spirit of Hope surround us.
Let our spirit rise to bless this new year.



Prepare the way of the Lord

Advent responses 4

- Leader:** Prepare the way of the Lord;
ALL: MAKE A PATH FOR OUR GOD IN THE DESERT.
- Leader:** Each valley shall be exalted;
ALL: EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL BE LAID LOW.
- Leader:** The crooked shall become straight;
ALL: ROUGH PLACES SHALL BECOME PLAIN.
- Leader:** The glory of the Lord shall be revealed;
ALL: ALL PEOPLE SHALL SEE IT TOGETHER.
- Leader:** This is the promise of the Lord;
ALL: GOD'S PROMISE SHALL BE FULFILLED.

(from Isaiah 40: 3-5)



Light looked down

Christmas responses 1

- Leader:** Light looked down
and saw darkness.
ALL: 'I WILL GO THERE,' SAID LIGHT.
- Leader:** Peace looked down
and saw war.
ALL: 'I WILL GO THERE,' SAID PEACE.
- Leader:** Love looked down
and saw hatred.
ALL: 'I WILL GO THERE,' SAID LOVE.
- Leader:** So he,
the Lord of Light,
the Prince of Peace,
the King of Love,
came down
and crept in
beside us.

Advent Prayer (St Johns women's spirituality group)

Lk 1. 78-79

By the tender mercy of our God
The down 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

(Song of Zachariah)

All:

*O God, power of creation and constant carer,
you were there at our conception,
in the miracle of new life;
you are there in the natural and social forces
by which we are shaped and changed;
you are there in our stumbling attempts
to comprehend you, in the different expressions of our faith.
We believe that you are there, that you know and care.
In your power, may we soar as though on eagles' wings,
may we run and not feel faint,
march on and not grow weary...
in your name, eternal God.*

Sing: O Lord hear my prayer (Taize) x3

All:

*art and science, song and story,
birth and death, mountain and mustard seed
are all icons –
pointing beyond themselves to a greater light,
inviting us into divine encounter and transformation.*

*Let us never take for granted the signposts that you give,
nor despise the lone voice or sacrificial life.
But forgive us, in this age of instant access,
when we fail to look beyond the pointer or go further.
Give us imagination to seek that which is still hidden,
patience to wait, the will to travel on,
courage to reach towards the things we cannot grasp,
humility to be led and met and taught and loved by you.
May we thank, yet never idolise, messengers you send,
but rather hear the message, and hunger for the light.*

The Grace of ----

ADVENT LITURGY St John's Women's Spirituality Group

Responsibilities.

Liturgy

Cathy Paper for making the leaves

Ianthe Twigs and vase , scissors, tape of Iona song, liturgy sheets, labels

Beryl hole puncher

Deepthi Candles

Everyone - one inexpensive present, wrapped up for dip and pick - remind Elaine about this.

Food and Drink

Cathy Wine

Ianthe Fruit

Val Mince Pies

Liz Sausage rolls

Deepthi Orange juice

others - something!

Who will bring the spices for the mulling?

OUTLINE OF LITURGY

Taize Magnificat

Candles and Magnificat reading (Iona)

Carol for Advent

Reading: the desert is fertile

Discussion in 2s and threes- which gifts would we like to have brought to the community and what might we contribute. Then cut out leaves and stick on the "tree" of twigs, writing what we would want for the community on a label on the leaves.

Reading: In the darkness is the waiting

Prayer from Iona In the hope the universe waits

Blessing of the food and drink

Song: Will you come and see the light from the stable door

Followed by food, mulled wine and prezzies.

The Word, for our sake, became poverty clothed as the poor
who live off the refuse heap.

The Word, for our sake, became a sob a thousand times stifled
in the immovable mouth of the child who died from hunger.

The Word, for our sake, became danger in the anguish of the
mother who worries about her son growing into manhood.

The Word cut us deeply in that place of shame:
the painful reality of the poor.

The Word blew its spirit over the dried bones of the churches,
guardians of silence.

The Word awoke us from the lethargy
which had robbed us of our hope.

The Word became a path in the jungle, a decision on the farm,
love in women, unity among workers,
and a Star for those few who can inspire dreams.

The Word became Light,
The Word became History,
The Word became Conflict,

The Word became indomitable Spirit,
and sowed its seeds
upon the mountain,
near the river
and in the valley,

and those of good will heard the angels sing.

Tired knees were strengthened,
trembling hands were stilled,
and the people who wandered in darkness
saw the light ...

The Word became the seed of justice
and we conceived peace ...
The Word made justice to rain
and peace came forth from the furrows in the land.
And we saw its glory in the eyes of the poor
transformed into real men and women.

And those who saw the Star
opened up for us
the path we now follow.

Julia Esquivel, Guatemala
Threatened with Resurrection (The Brethren Press, Elgin, IL 1982).

LUKE 2.13-14 JOHN 1.14

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LUKE 2.13-14 JOHN 1.14

Advent Liturgy 2000

Song: Magnificat (Taize)

Reading with candles

My heart praises the Lord;
my soul is glad because of God my saviour,
for he has remembered me, his lowly servant!

From now on all people will call me happy
because of the great things the mighty God has done for me.

His name is holy;
from one generation to another
he shows mercy to those who honour him.

He has stretched out his mighty arm
and scattered the proud with all their plans.

(Large candle 1A doused and set aside, as KYRIE is sung)

He has brought down mighty kings
from their thrones.

(Large candle 1B doused and set aside, as KYRIE is sung)

He has lifted up the lowly.

(Small candle 2A placed, as MAGNIFICAT is sung)

He has filled the hungry with good things.

(Small candle 2B placed, as MAGNIFICAT is sung)

He has sent the rich away with empty hands.

(Large candle 1C doused and set aside, as KYRIE is sung)

He has kept the promise he made to our ancestors
and has come to the help of his servant Israel.

(Small candle 2C placed, as MAGNIFICAT is sung)

He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham
and to all his descendants forever.

Carol for Advent (see song sheet)

Advent meeting 09 Southwark Cathedral feminist group

Closing liturgy

Lighting of the Candle

Watchet Auf (*poem by Ann Lewin, written after hearing the Bach prelude*)

Each verse read antiphonally, Groups A and B.

Advent

Season when

Dual citizenship

Holds us in

Awkward tension

The world, intent on

Spending Christmas,

Eats and drinks its way to

Oblivion after dinner.

The Kingdom sounds

Insistent warnings:

Repent, be ready,

Keep awake

He comes.

Like some great fugue

The themes entwine:

The Christmas carols

Demanding our attention

In shops and pubs,

Bore their insistent way

Through noise of traffic;

Underneath, almost unheard,

The steady solemn theme of

Advent.

With growing complexity,

Clashing, bending,

Rivals for our attention,

Themes mingle and separate,

Pulling us with increasing

Urgency,

Until in final resolution,

The end attained,

Harmony rests in awful

Stillness, and

The child is born.

He comes,

Both Child and Judge.

And will he find us

Watching?

3. Carol for Advent - Song from Iona (Innkeepers)

join in when you can.

1. From a worn and weary nation -
 VENI IMMANUEL!
Where and when will come salvation?
 VENI IMMANUEL!
In the place you least expect,
in the face of real neglect,
one appointed, unanointed,
God has chosen to perfect.
 VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL!
2. To an unsuspecting mother -
 AVE MARIA!
Why choose her and not some other?
 AVE MARIA!
So that earth might be restored,
flesh no longer be ignored,
faith infected, love directed,
God through woman be adored.
 AVE MARIA! AVE MARIA! AVE MARIA!
3. In the song of God's elected -
 MAGNIFICAT!
Can the future be detected?
 MAGNIFICAT!
God the proud will overthrow,
worldly wealth will lose its glow;
hunger halted, poor exalted,
heaven appear through what we know.
 MAGNIFICAT! MAGNIFICAT! MAGNIFICAT!

Prayer "Make us Aware" (Kate McIlhagga)
(all to say last line of verses and the last verse)

Merciful God, forgive
that we fall asleep
when you call us to watch and pray.
We fail to see the signs of your coming.

Christ our Saviour, forgive
that we are not watchful
we do not choose hope
or plant the seeds of hopefulness.
We fail to see the signs of your coming.

Forgiving Spirit, forgive
that in the rush of the Christmas season
we forget to stop and listen for the sound of angel
voices
we forget to stop and look for a star
to guide us to Christ.
We fail to see the signs of God's presence.

God over all
Christ within us
Spirit around us
hear our prayer
and send your messenger
of peace to us and to your sleeping world.

Pause for reflection

The Negative and Positive aspects of Christmas

Take one of the pebbles, that stand for bigger stones, and cast it into the waste bucket, symbolising what for you is a negative aspect of Christmas. Either voice this or do it silently. Then take a flowerhead and place it in the bowl of water, symbolising what is positive for you in the Christmas season – similarly voice this or do it silently.

Agape food and drink blessings

All: We bless this Christmas bread, a symbol of our thanksgiving of the coming among us of the godhead as human. May our rejoicing lead us to pattern our lives on Jesus' compassion, justice and care for creation. (each passes the bread to the next person, saying something like bread for your journey, or sustenance etc)

We bless this fruit of the vine, a gift from God. May the warmth of this drink encourage us in the warmth and love of our relationships with one another and the loving Creator. (pass round saying something like the Cup of rejoicing)

Final prayer

All

Final Prayer (Janet Morley in All Desires known)

God our deliverer,
whose approaching birth
still shakes the foundations of our world,
may we so wait for your coming
with eagerness and hope
that we embrace without terror
the labour pangs of the new age,
through Jesus Christ.

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All: We bless this Christmas bread, a symbol of our thanksgiving of the coming among us of the godhead as human. May our rejoicing lead us to pattern our lives on Jesus' compassion, justice and care for creation.

(each passes the bread to the next person, saying something like bread for your journey, or sustenance etc)

We bless this fruit of the vine, a gift from God. May the warmth of this drink encourage us in the warmth and love of our relationships with one another and the loving Creator. (pass round saying something like the Cup of rejoicing)

Final prayer

All

Final Prayer (Janet Morley in All Desires known)

God our deliverer,
whose approaching birth
still shakes the foundations of our world,
may we so wait for your coming
with eagerness and hope
that we embrace without terror
the labour pangs of the new age,
through Jesus Christ.

Advent Friday Liturgy 03

Centring music

Reading (first line read in turn round the room, all say the second line)

The desert will sing and rejoice
and the wilderness blossom with flowers

All will see the Lord's splendour,
see the Lord's greatness and power

Tell everyone who is anxious:
Be strong and don't be afraid.

The blind will be able to see:
the deaf will be able to hear;

The lame will leap and dance
those who can't speak will shout.

Thy will hammer their swords into ploughs
and their spears into pruning knives;

The nations will live in peace;
they will train for war no more.

This is the promise of God;
God's promise will be fulfilled.

Iona Community

worship book, based on Isaiah 35 and Micah

4.1-4

Song from Iona Veni Immanuel – words on separate sheet. Taped, join in as you can.

Watchet Auf (*poem by Ann Lewin, written after hearing the Bach prelude*)

Each verse read antiphonally, Groups A and B.

Advent

Season when

Dual citizenship

Holds us in

Awkward tension

The world, intent on
Spending Christmas,
Eats and drinks its way to
Oblivion after dinner.

The Kingdom sounds

Insistent warnings:

Repent, be ready,

Keep awake

He comes.

Like some great fugue

The themes entwine:

The Christmas carols

Demanding our attention

In shops and pubs,

Bore their insistent way

Through noise of traffic;

Underneath, almost unheard,

The steady solemn theme of

Advent.

With growing complexity,

Clashing, bending,

Rivals for our attention,

Themes mingle and separate,

Pulling us with increasing

Urgency,

Until in final resolution,

The end attained,

Harmony rests in awful

Stillness, and

The child is born.

He comes,

Both Child and Judge.

And will he find us

Watching?

Discussion in pairs – What are our negative feelings about Advent and Christmas (the positive will come in later).

Building the cairn We put down a pebble to represent these feelings, either voicing them or silently.

Song Will you come and see the light

Prayer "Make us Aware" (Kate McIlhagga)

(all to say last line of verses and the last verse)

Merciful God, forgive

that we fall asleep

when you call us to watch and pray.

We fail to see the signs of your coming.

Christ our Saviour, forgive

that we are not watchful

we do not choose hope

or plant the seeds of hopefulness.

We fail to see the signs of your coming.

Forgiving Spirit, forgive

that in the rush of the Christmas season

we forget to stop and listen for the sound of angel

voices

we forget to stop and look for a star

to guide us to Christ.

We fail to see the signs of God's presence.

God over all

Christ within us

Spirit around us

hear our prayer

and send your messenger

of peace to us and to your sleeping world.

Discussion in pairs What for you are the positive aspects of Advent and Christmas?

Give thanks for these (or intercessions) placing flower heads round the central candle

Agape using mulled wine and stollen

(ALL) O loving Creator, bless this special Christmas food, made from the fruits of the earth and a symbol of the abundance with which you have endowed us.

(Pass round the stollen saying something like food for a journey of hope)

(All) O loving Creator bless this warm and sustaining wine, fruit of the earth, which symbolises your comfort and sustaining power.

(pass round with words such as "the cup of rejoicing")

Final Blessing (adapted from R. Becher)

Let us follow, where the Spirit of Hope leads us
Let us listen, as the Child of Peace cries for us
Rejoicing, as the Love of God embraces us and lets us go
With Hope, Peace and love in our hearts
And the blessing of
Creator, Child and Spirit for ever within us.

Circle Dance

1. From a worn and weary nation –
VENI IMMANUEL!
 Where and when will come salvation?
VENI IMMANUEL!
 In the place you least expect,
 in the face of real neglect,
 one appointed, unanointed,
 God has chosen to perfect.
VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL!

2. To an unsuspecting mother –
AVE MARIA!
 Why choose her and not some other?
AVE MARIA!
 So that earth might be restored,
 flesh no longer be ignored,
 faith infected, love directed,
 God through woman be adored.
AVE MARIA! AVE MARIA! AVE MARIA!

3. In the song of God's elected –
MAGNIFICATI!
 Can the future be detected?
MAGNIFICATI!
 God the proud will overthrow,
 worldly wealth will lose its glow;
 hunger halted, poor exalted,
 heaven appear through what we know.
MAGNIFICATI! MAGNIFICATI MAGNIFICATI!

4. Through the midnight air is seeping –
GLORIA!
 Why such sound when most are sleeping?
GLORIA!
 Thus shall strangers find their way
 where a simple family stay,
 recognising how surprising
 God appears when laid in hay.
GLORIA! GLORIA! GLORIA!

5. Let the very earth cry glory,
HALLELUJAH!
 Every tongue retell the story,
HALLELUJAH!
 God no longer is confined
 out of sight and out of mind.
 Gone is distance and resistance;
 Christ is here in humankind.
HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
 It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
 It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.
 Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
 It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
 By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.
 Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
 Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
 When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
 will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope alight in a young girl's eyes
 of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
 When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
 will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
 In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
 and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
 will you hide or decide to meet the light?

From Coracle (Iona) Autumn 89.

ADVENT LITURGIES

These four liturgies for Advent are designed for 'family use' – that is, all ages praying and learning and playing together. The size and shape of your 'family group' is up to you, e.g. two or three households joining together; a group of friends and neighbours; children and their friends.

But these liturgies do not have to have the participation of children to be valid, just an openness of heart that is "like a child".



Advent Song: THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

1. The Holly and the Ivy
are dancing in a ring
Around the bright red candles
And the white and shining King.
2. Oh one is for the prophets
And for the light they bring.
They are candles in the darkness
All alight for Christ the King.
3. And two for John the Baptist
Who tells us God forgives
And to make a road for Jesus
We must change the way we live.
4. And three it is for Mary
Whom God did greatly bless
And like her, when God calls us
We, too, will answer Yes.
5. And four are for God's people
In every place and day
We are watching for God's coming
We are walking in God's way.
6. To-day is Jesus' birthday
All candles are alight
And Jesus comes among us
Turning darkness into light.

Adapted from words by Emily Chisholm.

Tune – Traditional.

ADVENT ONE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Introduction and Opening Activity

Advent Words :

(Sung or said) WE THANK GOD FOR THE PROPHETS
AND FOR THE LIGHT THEY BRING
THEY ARE CANDLES IN THE DARKNESS
ALL ALIGHT FOR CHRIST THE KING.

(During the singing someone lights a candle and places it centrally).

Opening Responses :

Leader : In the beginning when it was very dark, God said let there be light.

ALL : AND THERE WAS LIGHT

Leader : God's light goes on shining in the darkness

ALL : AND THE DARKNESS HAS NEVER PUT IT OUT.

Bible Reading :

Jesus said you are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl, instead he puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before other people, so that they will see the good things that you do and praise your Father in heaven.

Matt 5: 14-16

Prayers :

Leader : We thank God to-night for all the people whose lives have been like light in dark places
(include those you have talked about and found out about).

God in your mercy

ALL : HEAR OUR PRAYER

Leader : We pray for ourselves that God's light may make us light for other people

God in your mercy

ALL : HEAR OUR PRAYER

Song :

Sing a song about light

e.g. *This little light of mine
Walk in the light
Jesus bids us shine
Give me oil in my lamp
No one will ever be the same.*

Closing Responses :

Leader : The light of God

ALL : TO LEAD US AND TO MAKE US UNAFRAID

Leader : The power of God

ALL : TO PROTECT US AND TO MAKE US STRONG

Leader : The joy of God

ALL : TO HEAL US AND TO MAKE US HAPPY

Leader : The grace of God

ALL : TO BLESS US AND TO KEEP US LOVING
NOW AND EVERMORE.

AMEN.

(Let someone blow out the candle).

Possible opening activities: Sharing the stories of prophets, past and present. Candle-making.

ADVENT TWO ORDER OF WORSHIP

Introduction And Opening Activity

Advent Words

(Sung or said) WE REMEMBER JOHN THE BAPTIST
WHO TELLS US GOD FORGIVES
AND TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR JESUS
WE MUST CHANGE THE WAY WE LIVE.

Bible Reading:

The Word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the desert. So John went throughout the whole territory of the river Jordan preaching 'Turn away from your sins, and be baptised, and God will forgive your sins'. As it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

"Someone is shouting in the desert:

'Get the road ready for the Lord

Make a straight path for him to travel' "

In many different ways John preached the good news to the people and urged them to change their ways.

Luke 3: 2-4, 18

Prayers For Ourselves :

Voice 1 : God, we live in a world that needs to change. We are part of the world and we do things that hurt each other – things that are wrong.

(SILENCE to think about these things)

We say to God –

ALL : GOD WE ARE SORRY.

WE WANT TO BE DIFFERENT.

Voice 2 : Listen to God's words, words for those who want to change. In Jesus, God says to us –

Come with me, your sins are forgiven. Don't be afraid.

ALL : GOD THANK YOU.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE.

Prayers For Others :

Leader : We pray tonight for people whose ways are changing
(families where there is a new baby, someone is ill, someone has left home, someone has died, people in countries where wars and disasters are causing painful changes)

God in your mercy

ALL : HEAR OUR PRAYER

Song :

Find a song about change or about following Jesus

e.g. *Jesus' hands were kind hands*

O Jesus, I have promised

Lord of the dance

O Lord, all the world belongs to you

Sing hey for the carpenter

Closing Responses :

Leader : As we plan and as we make decisions

ALL : GOD BE OUR WAY

Leader : As we learn and as we ask questions

ALL : GOD BE OUR TRUTH

Leader : As we grow and as we change

ALL : GOD BE OUR LIFE

AMEN

*Possible opening activities: talking about change
play some 'change games'*

ADVENT THREE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Introduction And Opening Activity

Advent Words :

(Sung or said) AND WE REMEMBER MARY
WHOM GOD DID GREATLY BLESS
AND LIKE HER WHEN GOD CALLS US
WE TOO WILL ANSWER YES

Opening Responses :

Voice : When the world began
ALL : GOD SAID YES
Voice : When Jesus came
ALL : GOD SAID YES
Voice : When we were born
ALL : GOD SAID YES
GOD SAYS YES TO LIFE AND LOVING

Bible Reading :

The psalmist reminds us that God made us and is always with us —

God you created every part of me,
You put me together in my mother's womb
When my bones were being formed
When I was growing there in secret
You knew that I was there —
You saw me before I was born.
God where could I go to escape from you?
Where could I get away from your presence?
If I flew away beyond the East
or lived in the farthest place in the West
You would be there to lead me
You would be there to help me.

from Psalm 139

Prayers :

Leader : In our prayers tonight we pray for those who travel
We pray for people whose journeys are hard and dangerous

We pray for people whose journeys are happy and hopeful

We pray for the people who make our journeys possible

We pray for ourselves that we may be ready to go where God calls us.

(These are bidding prayers, add in names and places for yourselves)

Leader : Lord in your mercy

ALL : HEAR OUR PRAYER

Song : Sing a song together about travelling
e.g. The wheels on the bus go round and round
One more step along the world I go
Father hear the prayer we offer
When the road is rough and steep
O Jesus I have promised
O where are you going
Jesus Christ is waiting

Blessing : *(said by ALL)*

BLESS TO US O GOD THE ROAD THAT IS BEFORE US
BLESS TO US O GOD THE FRIENDS WHO ARE AROUND US
BLESS TO US O GOD YOUR LOVE WHICH IS WITHIN US
BLESS TO US O GOD YOUR LIGHT THAT LEADS US HOME
AMEN.

*Possible opening activities: share stories about birth
make up family trees*

ADVENT FOUR ORDER OF WORSHIP

Introduction And Opening Activity

Advent Words :

(Sung or said) WE REMEMBER NOW GOD'S PEOPLE
IN EVERY PLACE AND DAY
WE ARE WATCHING FOR GOD'S COMING
WE ARE WALKING IN GOD'S WAY

Opening Responses :

Leader : Mountains and mole hills
ALL : PRAISE THE LORD
Leader : Puddles and seashores
ALL : PRAISE THE LORD
Leader : Sweet peas and stinging nettles
ALL : PRAISE THE LORD
Leader : Elephants and money spiders
ALL : PRAISE THE LORD
Leader : Let all of creation
ALL : PRAISE THE LORD

Bible Reading :

Before the world was created the Word already existed, he was with God, and he was the same as God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life and this life brought light to humankind. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.

God sent his messenger, a person named John who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. This was the real light — the light that comes into the world and shines on all humankind.

John 1: 1—9

Response To The Word :

Leader : In our watching and our waiting

ALL : COME LORD JESUS. BE OUR LIGHT.

(Light a large candle and place it near a large world map, laid out or displayed)

Prayers :

Leader : All over the world people wait for Jesus' birthday. We remember some of them tonight and pray that Jesus will bring light into their lives.

(Get someone to recall what you have found out about people in other countries and place a lighted night light, lit from the central candle, on their country, saying :

WE PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF

When all the lights are lit, light one for your country too, and for any other country you have a special concern for, and spend a moment in silence together remembering that Jesus is light for all the world.)

Song :

He's got the whole world in his hands
He's got the whole wide world in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got my brother and my sister in his hands
He's got my brother and my sister in his hands
He's got my brother and my sister in his hands
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the sun and the stars in his hands
 He's got the sun and the stars in his hands
 He's got the sun and the stars in his hands
 He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands
 He's got the whole wide world in his hands
 He's got the whole world in his hands
 He's got the whole world in his hands.

Closing Responses :

Leader : In our watching and our waiting
ALL : COME LORD JESUS
Leader : In our hopes and in our fears
ALL : COME LORD JESUS
Leader : In our homes and in our world
ALL : COME LORD JESUS
 COME BLESS US AND SURPRISE US, AND HELP US
 TO CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY. AMEN

(When you are ready, blow out the candles.)

*Possible opening activities: Find out how people across the world
 prepare for and celebrate Christmas.
 Make up a special litany of thanks for
 Christmas.*

*This material comes from a book of worship and activities for all ages
 called 'Advent Is For Everyone' written by Ruth Burgess, Iona
 Community member and former Abbey programme worker.*

*The book expands on all these themes, and is an invaluable resource
 for Advent.*

*It's available from: Youth/Children's Work Department,
 Diocesan House,
 13 Tower Street,
 IPSWICH. IP1 3BG*

Tel: 0473 216944



MITCHELL BUNTING

CHRISTMAS SEEN

A saviour was born . . . light cleaving darkness
 Jesus ! ye were a wee bit early
 It's now yer needed

These days the darkness is really frightening
 But you came tae save oor souls . . . no the World
 izat right ? . . . 'cause if not . . . you should know
 The World's jacket's on a shaky nail

You want tae see whit they've done tae yer birthday
 I've read ye didnie laugh much
 But ye'd laugh yerself silly at this
 Rapacious greed wrapped in tinsel
 Naive yearnings, struggling, stumbling,
 mugged in the alleyways of commerce

Actually . . . you're not that well-remembered
 Red Red Robin's more in evidence than you
 Santa Clause has hi-jacked the whole thing
 Mind you he's a saint or something
 so maybe that's aw right

But don't despair . . . no' everybody
 swallows plum pudding platitudes, I don't
 Dentures deny me such delectation

Every day's Christmas tae me
 Every morning yer born in my heart
 Though . . . every single night I go tae bed
 Having caused yer crucifixion
 But you're a realist . . . you'll understand that
 Maybe someday

Stuart Barrie

or

THE STRANGEST OF SAINTS

(Tune: Wae's me for Prince Charlie)

Chorus:

THE STRANGEST OF SAINTS,
THE SIMPLEST OF SOULS
THE SADDEST OF ALL THE EARTH'S REJECTED
ARE CHOSEN TO BE THE PEOPLE IN WHOSE LIVES
THE GOODNESS OF GOD CAN BE DETECTED.

1. Peter, the Rock, whose faith was often talk;
Thomas who sometimes doubted;
Martha who fussed, lest Jesus noticed dust,
And Paul by whom Christians once were routed.
2. Babes at the knee, a taxman in a tree;
Women by men molested;
Some who were bright and some who feared daylight,
And many the privileged few detested.
3. Who dare deride those found at Jesus' side,
Welcome despite their weakness?
Christ who knows all, expresses by his call
The wonder of everyone's uniqueness.

Prayer: A

Leader: O High King of Heaven,
In the early days, when the church was young,
You called, in the wake of the apostles,
Princes and common folk to carry the Gospel
To unbelieving lands.
Thus Patrick and Columba, Bride and Aidan
Nurtured communities of faith
On these and other shores.

ALL: FOR THEM AND FOR ALL ANCIENT SAINTS
WHO BROUGHT CHRIST'S WORD TO CELTIC
LANDS,
WE PRAISE YOU;
AND ASK THAT IN THESE LATER DAYS
THE ZEAL OF EARLY PIONEERS
MAY STILL INFUSE YOUR SCOTTISH CHURCH.
AMEN.

or B

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ,
You built your Church on the rock of redeemed
humanity;
Through Peter and Paul, through Columba and
Margaret,
Through Luther, Theresa, John 23rd, Bonhoeffer,
Through all the saints of every age,
You extended, reformed
And diversified the household of faith.

ALL: WE, WHO INHERIT THEIR WORK TODAY
AND REAP FROM WHAT OTHERS HAVE SOWN
BLESS YOU FOR ALL OUR MOTHERS AND
FATHERS IN GOD.
LIKE THEM, MAY WE SO LOVE AND SERVE YOUR
KINGDOM
THAT GENERATIONS YET UNBORN
MAY BENEFIT FROM OUR WITNESS:
AND, WHEN THE GRACE OF LIFE ON EARTH
SHALL END,
FIND FOR US A PLACE IN THE COMPANY OF
HEAVEN,
FOR YOUR LOVE'S SAKE.
AMEN

Words From The Saints

(These or other short passages may be used, of which
the first should be biblical.)

1st Reader: A Word from St. Paul.

Be always humble, gentle and patient.
Show your love by being tolerant to one another.
Do the best to preserve the
unity which the Spirit gives you
by means of the peace which binds you together.
There is one body.
There is one Spirit.
There is one hope
to which God has called all his saints.

2nd Reader: A Word from St. Theresa.

Be careful lest praise from others harms you,
especially when people tell you that you are
more saintly than others,
Remember how John the Baptist was extolled
then beheaded;
and how our Lord was praised on Palm Sunday
then derided on Good Friday.

Struggle with your own heart
against dangerous flattery.

3rd Reader: A Word from St. Francis.

Our place is to be with the suffering,
the lepers, the starving.
In the depths of their hearts,
as in the heart of even the saintliest person,
there sleeps a horrible, unclean larva.
Lean over it and say to this larva, 'I love you'.
and it will sprout wings and become like a butterfly.
Oh God of love, we bow to your power
Come and kiss us, and accomplish your miracle.

Song: IPHARADISI (from South Africa)

Ipharadisi where all the dead are living:
Ipharadisi where all the dead are living:
Ipharadisi where all the dead are living:
May we one day join them all there.

(as an alternative, Christ be beside me — words by St.
Patrick, tune: Bunessan.)

Meditation: THOSE WHOSE LIVES TOUCHED OURS

(Four people should read this meditation, each section
being preceded by a singing of the chant, during which
the person who has the four symbols lays them, one at
a time, beside a candle. It may be that during the
meditation, participants might want to write the
name of someone who comes to mind on one of the
triangles of paper.

After all the sections have been read, and all the
symbols are out, the chant is sung repeatedly as
people place their 'saints' beside the appropriate
symbols).

CHANT: UBI CARITAS ET AMOR
UBI CARITAS, DEUS IBI EST.

(Where there is love and caring, God is there)

Or: I AM THE VINE AND YOU THE BRANCHES
PRUNED AND PREPARED FOR ALL TO SEE,
READY TO BEAR THE FRUIT OF HEAVEN
IF YOU BELIEVE AND TRUST IN ME.

CHANT (1st symbol is placed).

Voice 1: Before I was born,
You prayed for me;
And when I moved from the womb to the world,
Your arms cradled me;
And you sang funny songs,
And you made sense of my gurgling language,
And you held my hand till I slept,
till I walked,
till I lost my fear,
till I was old enough to let your hand go.

CHANT (2nd symbol is placed).

Voice 2: When I was young,
You prayed for me;
When I broke my heart or bruised my skin,
You cared for me;
When I was keen to learn
You taught me;
You watched my eyes bulge
with the wonder of the world;
You heard me repeat you;
You let me cheat you;
You often said yes and sometimes said no;
And even today,
I am enriched and restrained
By what you did then.

CHANT (3rd symbol is placed).

Voice 3: When I left childhood,
You prayed for me;
When I was stubborn with my parents,
I could talk to you;
When I felt awkward with my body,
I felt comfortable with you;
And though you gave me good advice,
You saw me ignore it;
And though you gave me liberty,
You saw me abuse it;
And though you spoke of God,
You saw I did not want to know;
But still you held me through the difficult days,
And I reap the benefit now.

CHANT (4th symbol is placed).

Voice 4: Since I've become the adult
that I longed to be,
You've prayed for me;
When I had to cope with my failures,
You've accepted me;
When I was unsure of myself,
You've believed in me;
When I've stood on the brink of decisions,
You've stood beside me;
and when doubts had their day
and faith seemed remote
and the church irrelevant,
You've let God touch me.

CHANT (sung repeatedly as triangles are placed near appropriate symbols)

A Silence

Closing : FOR ALL THE SAINTS WHO'VE SHOWN
Song YOUR LOVE

1. For all the saints who've shown your love
In how they live and where they move,
In whom they care for, counsel,
Or visit now and then;
Accept our gratitude again.
2. For all the saints who've loved your name,
Whose faith increased the Saviour's fame,
Who've sung your songs in chapel
Or city street or glen;
Accept our gratitude again.
3. For all the saints who've named your will,
And shown the kingdom coming still,
Who've read the signs and marked them
In rhythm, paint or pen;
Accept our gratitude again.
4. Bless all whose will or name or love
Reflects the grace of heaven above.
Though such as these may never
Be praised by earthly powers,
Your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

(as an alternative : O God, thou art the Father by St.
Columba, tune : Durrow).

Blessing : (The leader begins and thereafter people may add
words as appropriate after which all share the
response. The leader concludes with final sentence).

Leader : The God of Abraham and Sarah
ALL : STAY WITH US NOW.

Leader : The God of Moses and Elijah
ALL : STAY WITH US NOW.

Leader : The God of Ruth and Naomi
ALL : STAY WITH US NOW.

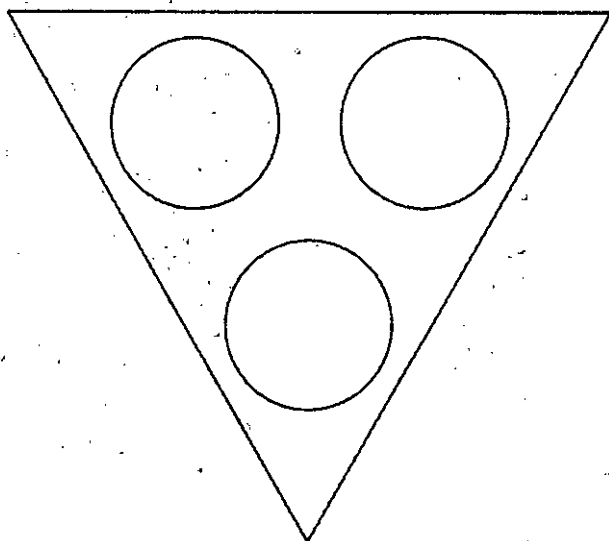
Leader : The God of Andrew, Peter, James and John.
ALL : STAY WITH US NOW.

Leader : The God of Mary of Magdala
ALL : STAY WITH US NOW.

(other names, biblical or otherwise may here be added).
Leader : The God of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
Crucified, dead, risen and ascended,
Keep us in the commonwealth of heaven
Now and evermore.
ALL : AMEN.

Notes :

- 1) Participants need only have the order of worship and the words of the material all are intended to share.
The words from saints and the words of the meditation should be given to the appropriate readers only.
- 2) The music for the words printed in the liturgy is available as follows:
IPHARADISI – from 'FREEDOM IS COMING' available from the Iona Community.
UBI CARITAS – from the Taizé Community published by Collins.
I AM THE VINE and FOR ALL THE SAINTS – from LOVE FROM BELOW, book 3 of Wild Goose Songs available from the Iona Community.
The other songs are set to well known folk tunes
All words and music printed above are © Copyright The Iona Community, but may be freely re-printed for one-off congregational use. Permission must be sought for republication of the material on a commercial basis.
- 3) Ancient celtic sign for a saint. Each person should have four of these triangles attached to their order of service.



I'M NOT GOING TO SING



SALLY CARLAW

"I'm not going to sing", he said and he spent the next thirty minutes kicking at hassocks, dropping his 10p (which naturally never made it to the collection plate) and retrieving it from under the pew. Surprisingly (to my mind) he was silent during the prayers – and never forgot the Amen. Then – he was the one the 'prayer man' (as he called him) chose to wear a cardboard halo. Saint Michael – falling up the aisle. Saint Michael – with a wicked grin and six years of laughter in him – who refused to give back his halo to the prayer man, and wore it proudly home. Blessed be God. Blessed be God in his angels and all his saints.

Ruth Burgess.

ADVENT LITURGY 1979

Song Go tell everyone - on the blue sheet (no: 2)

Readings: 1 Cor 15:42-50
Mt 6:25-34

poem on hope from 'Sharing in one hope' Bangalore 78. p 130

Discussion (divide into 2 or 3 groups)

- 1 what sort of things prevent us showing God's love to the world?
How do we offend against hope?
what sort of things prevent us ~~freely~~ from freely responding to Christ? What can we do about it?
2. Are we so taken up with attacking what 'they' do (especially the establishment) that we do not see what we ourselves are doing? (or not doing)
3. How do we use and share power in our lives? in situations of work, parish family etc. How can one balance the need to get things done (as we see them) with the freedom of others?

Bidding prayers contributed by those present

Song Many times I have turned from the way of the Lord
many times I have chosen the darkness
In the light of the day, when the shadows are gone
all I see is my sin in its darkness

chorus

Jesus came to bring us mercy.
Jesus came to bring us life again
He loves us he loves us he loves us

I confess I have sinned in the sight of the Lord,
through my pride, through my malice and weakness
I've rejected the promise that comes from the cross
where the Lord hung above us in weakness

Chorus Jesus....

With a word, with a deed, with a failure to act
with a thought that was evil and hateful,
I confess to you, brothers and sisters of mine,
I have sinned and been proven ungrateful

Chorus Jesus ..

Through my fault, through my fault, through my serious fault
I confess to you, Lord, all my sinning
But look down on me, Lord, grant your pardon and peace
with your help, I've a new life beginning.

Chorus Jesus

Litany (read round the room, all making the response)

Reader The Kingdom is both here and yet to come

All Come Lord Jesus come

Reader 'Christian hope is a resistance movement against fatalism'

All Come Lord Jesus come

Reader It is our actions, and non-actions, our words and silences that build
and destroy the kingdom
All Come Lord Jesus come!

Reader Do we say yes with our lips but in our hearts there are reservations?
All Come...

Reader Are we so busy that we fail to hear the still small voice within?
All Come ...

Reader Have we not our own forms of materialism while condemning that of others?
All Come...

Reader Consider the lilies in the field.. or do we prefer the status
conferred by the world to God's grace?

All Come...

Reader We are your people, children of the promise, are we doing your work
in the world?

All Come

Reader We are a royal priesthood, a holy nation - yet are we showing your
face to the world?

Silence (for examination of individual conscience)

Absolution

Song Shalom, my friend, shalom my friend, shalom, shalom
the peace of Christ I give you today, shalom, shalom (3 times)

(then all offer each other the peace)

Offertory prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, by whose goodness we eat
this bread and drink this cup to proclaim your salvation until the
end of time.

Eucharistic prayer

C (celebrant) Christ is risen

All The earth shall be made new

C our sins are forgiven

All let us open our hearts

C We give thanks to you our God, the provider of all good things, for
your care for us, for having sent Christ our Lord on earth to suffer
and die to free us from the bonds of our sins, that we might share
in eternal life with you.

→ To acknowledge this promised
future we join with those for whom the hope is already a reality to
say

All Holy, holy

C We look forward in joyful hope to the coming of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. It is not your wish that we should know the time of the end and we wait in patience hoping that by doing your will we bring nearer the coming of your kingdom.

All We come together today to have a foretaste of that Kingdom by sharing together this bread and wine in memory of Jesus Christ our Lord. May your Spirit, which is to help and comfort us until that final day, come therefore and make these gifts into the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord, who left us this guarantee of his continuing love for us.

C On the night before Christ had to die he broke the blessed bread and gave it to us saying 'Take and eat for this is my body'.

At the end of the meal he gave thanks over the cup of the promised kingdom saying 'take this all of you and drink from it; this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed so that all sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me'.

All We do this to remember not only that Christ suffered and died for us but also that he has gone to prepare a place for us, and it is by this hope that we live

Keep us therefore as steadfast in our love for Christ our Lord as you are in your love for us. Help us to build up treasure in heaven and disregard earthly possessions. Send your Spirit among us that we may treat others as we would have them treat us, and that we may renew our inward hearts in your sight and not just before other people. Give us the strength to follow as a pilgrim people the hard road that leads to the life promised by the cup we share.

C United in hope with your apostles and disciples, the saints of all the ages and all your suffering people on earth today, we look for the coming of the kingdom.

All Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ
In the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory is yours,
almighty God for ever and ever.

Our Father

Communion is now given, all waiting to eat the Bread together

C final prayer

Song When he comes back White sheet

Carol "Woman in the night" (tune: in the bleak midwinter)

Woman in the night
spent from giving birth
guard our precious light
peace is on the earth

Chorus Come and join the song,
Women, children, men
Jesus makes us free,
free to live again.

Woman at the well
questions the Messiah
find your friends and tell;
drink your heart's desire.

Chorus Come and join.....

Woman at the feast
let the righteous stare
come and go in peace
love him give your hair

Chorus Come and join....

Woman in the house
nurtured to be meek
leave your second place
listen, think and speak

Chorus Come and join...

Woman on the road,
welcomed and restored,
travel far and wide;
witness to the Lord, Chorus Come and join...

Taizé Chant

The musical notation for the Taizé Chant is presented in three staves. Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The notes are primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together in groups. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words aligned under specific notes and others under rests. The first staff contains the lyrics "O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r;". The second staff contains "when I call answer me. O Lord hear my pray'r, O". The third staff contains "Lord hear my pray'r. Come and lis-ten to me. O...".

O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r;

when I call answer me. O Lord hear my pray'r, O

Lord hear my pray'r. Come and lis-ten to me. O...

Advent Liturgy 2000

Song: Magnificat (Taize)

Reading with candles

My heart praises the Lord;
my soul is glad because of God my saviour,
for he has remembered me, his lowly servant!

From now on all people will call me happy
because of the great things the mighty God has done for me.

His name is holy;
from one generation to another
he shows mercy to those who honour him.

He has stretched out his mighty arm
and scattered the proud with all their plans.

(Large candle 1A doused and set aside, as KYRIE is sung)

He has brought down mighty kings
from their thrones.

(Large candle 1B doused and set aside, as KYRIE is sung)

He has lifted up the lowly.

(Small candle 2A placed, as MAGNIFICAT is sung)

He has filled the hungry with good things.

(Small candle 2B placed, as MAGNIFICAT is sung)

He has sent the rich away with empty hands.

(Large candle 1C doused and set aside, as KYRIE is sung)

He has kept the promise he made to our ancestors
and has come to the help of his servant Israel.

(Small candle 2C placed, as MAGNIFICAT is sung)

He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham
and to all his descendants forever.

(1000)

Carol for Advent (see song sheet)

Reading in two groups

The desert will sing and rejoice
and the wilderness blossom with flowers;

all will see the Lord's splendour,
see the Lord's greatness and power.

Tell everyone who is anxious:
Be strong and don't be afraid.

The blind will be able to see;
the deaf will be able to hear;
the lame will leap and dance;
those who can't speak will shout.

They will hammer their swords into ploughs
and their spears into pruning-knives;

the nations will live in peace;
they will train for war no more.

This is the promise of God;
God's promise will be fulfilled.

Iona Community Worship Book (1988)

ISAIAH 35 MICAH 4.1-4

Making of the Tree First discuss in 2s or 3s what gifts you would want for the community, and what might be your contribution. Then cut out a leaf, stick a label on it and write on it the "gift" you would wish for the faith or wider community, placing it on the tree.

Prayer: (in two groups)

For the darkness of waiting
of not knowing what is to come
of staying ready and quiet and attentive,
we praise you O God:

**For the darkness and the light
are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of staying silent
for the terror of having nothing to say
and for the greater terror
of needing to say nothing,
we praise you O God:

**For the darkness and the light
are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of loving
in which it is safe to surrender
to let go of our self-protection
and to stop holding back our desire,
we praise you O God:

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are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of choosing
when you give us the moment
to speak, and act, and change,
and we cannot know what we have set in motion,

but we still have to take the risk,
we praise you O God:

**For the darkness and the light
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For the darkness of hoping
in a world which longs for you,
for the wrestling and the labouring of all creation
for wholeness and justice and freedom,
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In hope the universe waits

Advent responses 6

Leader: In hope the universe waits:
ALL: GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL BE REVEALED.

Leader: Limited by mortality,
yet destined for liberation,
in hope the universe waits:
ALL: GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL BE REVEALED.

Leader: Groaning as if in childbirth,
sampling the fruits of God's harvest,
in hope the universe waits:
ALL: GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL BE REVEALED.

Leader: Trusting in what is unseen,
believing the best is to come,
in hope the universe waits:
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Leader: In the hiddenness of a byre
where the Maker of All will be born,
in hope the universe waits:
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(Adapted from Romans 8: 18-25)

(Lena)

Agape blessing of food and drink

(All) O loving Creator, bless these foods and wine, symbol of the abundance with which you have endowed us. We share these grapes which though one bunch are many fruits, so we too are both one and also many (as you pass the bunch round, each taking one or two grapes, saying as you pass the bunch "May this fruit of the vine strengthen you on your journey")

Song:(on song sheet) Will you come and see the light..

Followed by food, drink and prezzies.

1. From a worn and weary nation –
VENI IMMANUEL!
 Where and when will come salvation?
VENI IMMANUEL!
 In the place you least expect,
 in the face of real neglect,
 one appointed, unanointed,
 God has chosen to perfect.
VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL!

2. To an unsuspecting mother –
AVE MARIA!
 Why choose her and not some other?
AVE MARIA!
 So that earth might be restored,
 flesh no longer be ignored,
 faith infected, love directed,
 God through woman be adored.
AVE MARIA! AVE MARIA! AVE MARIA!

3. In the song of God's elected –
MAGNIFICAT!
 Can the future be detected?
MAGNIFICAT!
 God the proud will overthrow,
 worldly wealth will lose its glow;
 hunger halted, poor exalted,
 heaven appear through what we know.
MAGNIFICAT! MAGNIFICAT! MAGNIFICAT!

4. Through the midnight air is seeping –
GLORIA!
 Why such sound when most are sleeping?
GLORIA!
 Thus shall strangers find their way
 where a simple family stay,
 recognising how surprising
 God appears when laid in hay.
GLORIA! GLORIA! GLORIA!

5. Let the very earth cry glory,
HALLELUJAH!
 Every tongue retell the story,
HALLELUJAH!
 God no longer is confined
 out of sight and out of mind.
 Gone is distance and resistance;
 Christ is here in humankind.
HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
 It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
 It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.
 Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
 It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
 By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.
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Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
 Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
 When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
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Will you join the hope alight in a young girl's eyes
 of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
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Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
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Advent Liturgy 2000

Song: Magnificat (Taize)

Reading with candles

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His name is holy;
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He has stretched out his mighty arm
and scattered the proud with all their plans.

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He has brought down mighty kings
from their thrones.

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File

Advent Liturgy CWN93

Lighting of candle and prayer

Song: Mary's Child

Reading: Miryam of the Stable

Betjeman/Swann christmas song (tape)

Discussion

In pairs: What do you dread about Christmas
What do you like about Christmas?

in fours: How might we celebrate Christmas more meaningfully?
Advent is a time of waiting. How do we experience this in our lives - how can it be
be a growth experience?

Dressing of the tree

Adapted prayer from "tears of silence"

All sing Jesus Christ is waiting (separate sheet)

Agape see below

At the sharing of the stollen the response is "May the blessing of new life be upon you"

sung Shalom and greetings.

6. Invitation to the Agape Meal *(From Prayers & Poems Songs & Stories)*

We believe that all people are the children of God, and therefore have worth and dignity.

All are welcome to share in this Agape Meal, without regard for human divisions of race, sex, sexuality, class or creed.

As we prepare to follow the example of Jesus in sharing this bread and wine, let us affirm our faith:

Sisters and brothers, let us dedicate ourselves anew to live in such a way that justice may roll like waters, that peace may become real, that the dignity of all persons may be manifest.

Let us make a covenant with one another and seek to make a new beginning.

Let us declare solemnly that we are at peace with all people of good will.

We seek peace with all people.

We affirm that our security rests not in armaments.
We seek a just economic order in which everyone has access to the abundance of the earth.

We seek justice in human relationships nourished in the solidarity of the human family.

We affirm justice for all people.

We choose struggle rather than indifference.

We choose to be friends of the earth and of one another, not exploiters.

We choose to be citizens rather than subjects.

We choose to be peacemakers rather than peacekeepers.

We choose life for all creation.

We join with sisters and brothers the world over.

We join in communities of resistance to the threat of hunger and injustice, to the threat of nuclear destruction.

We unite to resist the powers of death.

Before us today are set life and death.

We choose life that we and our children may live.

Blessing of the food

All: We share this loaf today, as a sign that we are all one in the body of Christ. Just as many grains came together into the one loaf, so we are all one in Christ Jesus. Help us to reflect the life giving love of the Creator, Redeemer and Spirit in all our relationships and actions.

PRAYER FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

I said to the One standing at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light to guide me on my way!"

And she said:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand
into the hand of God. That will be brighter
for you than any light and surer than any way."

You who are to be our guide, grant that we
may recognise the LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS and
be filled with hope when we meet (it) *her*
"shining like a lamp in a dark place until the
day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts."

John I

a Pear-I

AMEN.

JESUS CHRIST IS WAITING

(Tune: Noel Nouvelet)

1. Jesus Christ is waiting,
Waiting in the streets;
No one is his neighbour
All alone he sits.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger,
Fit to wait on you.
2. Jesus Christ is raging,
Raging in the streets
Where injustice spirals
And real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too.
In the kingdom's causes
Let me rage with you.
3. Jesus Christ is healing,
Healing in the streets;
Curing those who suffer,
Touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too.
Let my care be active,
Healing just like you.
4. Jesus Christ is dancing,
Dancing in the streets
Where each sign of hatred
His strong love defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I feel triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard
Let me dance with you.
5. Jesus Christ is calling,
Calling in the streets,
'Come and walk faith's tightrope,
I will guide your feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus,
Let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me,
I will follow you.

Text and Tune: Geoffrey Alinger

- 1 Born in the night,
Mary's Child,
A long way from your home;
Coming in need,
Mary's Child,
Born in a borrowed room.
2 Clear shining light,
Mary's Child,
Your face lights up our way;
Light of the world,
Mary's Child,
Dawn on our darkened day.
- 3 Truth of our life,
Mary's Child,
You tell us God is good;
Prove it is true,
Mary's Child,
Go to your cross of wood.
4 Hope of the world,
Mary's Child,
You're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth,
Mary's Child,
Walk in our streets again.

MARY'S CHILD

Chords: G, G+, C, Am, C#b, G, Em, Am, Am7, D7, G

Reading from TEARS OF SILENCE by Jean Vanier.

First Voice: The person in misery does not need a look that judges
and criticizes, but a comforting presence
that brings peace and hope and says:
"you are a human person
important
mysterious
infinitely precious.
What you have to say
is important
because it flows from a human person.
In you there are those seeds
of the infinite
those germs of love...of beauty
which must rise from the earth of your misery
so humanity may be fulfilled.
You must rise again because we all need you,
for you are a child of God."
A look, a hand, a word can call forth life, hope, joy.

Second Voice: If you believe in me
then maybe
I can do something worthwhile.....
maybe I am worthwhile,
maybe I can do something with my life.
Thus the light of hope begins to burn.
Your constant trust in me
communicates confidence and faith,
the look in your eyes,
the touch of your hands
brings me some wondrous message of hope.



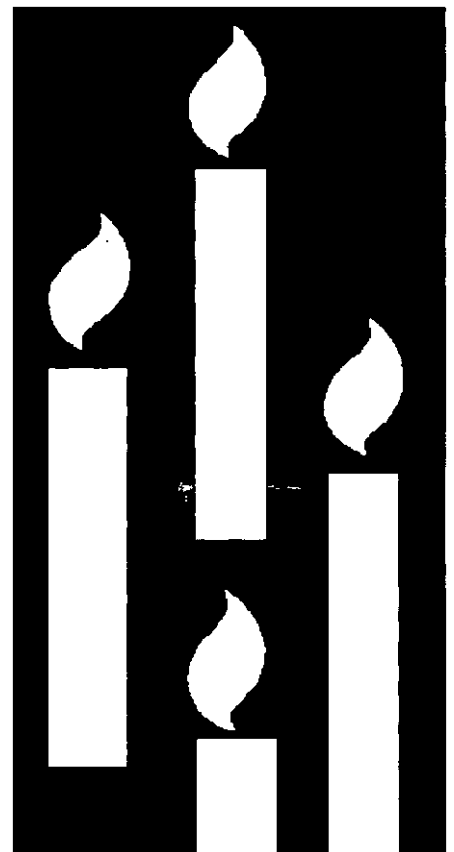
just one world

CAFOD SOUTHWARK ADVENT SERVICE

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY with CAFOD

Order of Service

**St George's Cathedral
First Sunday of Advent
3pm, 28th November 2004**



Please join us afterwards in the adjoining Amigo Hall for mulled wine and mince pies

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development : CAFOD is the official overseas development and relief agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International Federation.

Registered under the Charities Act 1960 No. 285776.

Visit our website at: www.cafod.org.uk

Please take this Order of Service home with you

Opening Carol –All to sing (please stand):

Advent Candle song (sung to the tune of Away in a Manger)
Sandra Dean (1986)

1. A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright
A candle of **hope** in December's dark night
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky
Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.

2. A candle is burning, a candle of **peace**
A candle to signal that conflict must cease
For Jesus is coming to show us the way
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay

3. A candle is burning, a candle of **joy**
A candle to welcome Mary's dear boy
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow

4. A candle is burning, a candle of **love**
A candle to point us to heaven above
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth

5. We soon honour Jesus with the Christ-Candle flame
The Christmas Eve candles will glad tidings proclaim
O come all you faithful rejoice on that night
When God comes among us, the Christian's true light

Bishop John Hine: On behalf of the Dean and CAFOD Southwark, I would like to welcome you to St George's Cathedral, the mother church of our diocese, for our Advent Service.

Isaiah in today's first reading of the Mass, invites us to begin our journey of hope, when he says "Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord." Together we move towards his dream of the mountain of the Lord, where God dwells amongst the people and there is peace, prosperity and justice for all.

Today we join with our brothers and sisters throughout the world moving towards their dream of ...

- sufficient food to eat
- clean water to drink
- primary education - for all girls and boys
- a better chance of living beyond their 5th birthday
- mothers surviving childbirth
- the spread of HIV/AIDs and malaria stopping and going into reverse
- decent homes
- trade justice and debt cancellation

(Please sit)

Reader 1: Let us pray together:

God of light, Give us hope as we begin our journey through Advent and sustain us on our way, so that we may bring your kingdom of peace, prosperity and justice to all; so that we may make poverty history.

All: Amen.

Reader 1: A reading from St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 25, verses 37-40

Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?"
And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me".

Reader 2: Let us reflect on what the Bishops of England, Wales and Scotland say in their 2003 statement on 'Trade & Solidarity',

"It will be necessary above all to abandon a mentality in which the poor – as individuals and as peoples – are considered a burden, as irksome intruders trying to consume what others have produced. The poor ask for the right to share in enjoying material goods and to make good use of their capacity for work, thus creating a world that is more just and prosperous for all."

Reader 2: We now sing a carol in which we are reminded that God raises the lowly

Carol - All to sing (please stand): The angel Gabriel from heaven came

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

2. For know, a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

(Please sit)

Reader 2: In the year 2000, our world leaders at a United Nations Summit recognised that the lowly needed to be raised, when they decided the Millennium Development Goals; they recognised the need to make poverty history. The Goals are intended to be achieved by 2015; they call for a fairer distribution of the world's resources, and an end to the suffering of millions of people.

The Goals are:

- School Readers:**
1. Halving the proportion of people who suffer from extreme hunger and of people living on less than 55p a day by 2015.
 2. Achieving universal primary education by 2015.
 3. Eliminating gender inequalities in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and at all levels by 2015.
 4. Reducing by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five by 2015.
 5. Reducing by three quarters the ratio of women dying in childbirth by 2015.
 6. Beginning to reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS, and incidence of malaria and other major diseases by 2015.
 7. Ensuring environmental sustainability; reducing by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and reversing the loss of environmental resources by 2015 and improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.
 8. Securing a global partnership for development, working together on debt, trade, public health, aid and technology issues to promote economic growth and poverty reduction by 2015.

School Reader: We reflect on why the Goals are so important and on our commitment to make poverty history, and work for a more just world.

Let us listen to Jesus proclaiming his mission to the poor:

Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
For he has anointed me,
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
To proclaim liberty to captives
And to the blind new sight,
To set the downtrodden free,
To proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

Luke 4: 17b-19

School Reader: 'Good news to the poor!' What is that supposed to mean?

School Reader: I guess Jesus was telling them that things can change for the better.

School Reader: Yes, but they haven't, have they? Jesus said those words over 2,000 years ago and the world is still a mess! More than a billion people struggle to survive on less than a dollar a day.

School Reader: More than a billion people don't even have safe drinking water.

School Reader: Yes, and over one hundred million children don't attend school.

School Reader: And our part of the world eats half of the world's food.

School Reader: I think Jesus was wasting his time talking to people about good news for the poor, and the rest of it. Nobody listened! They've really messed up our world.

School Reader: What do you mean, - 'They'? What about you? What are you doing?

School Reader: Oh, come on! You can't blame the state of the world on me! What can I do; I'm only one person?

School Reader: 'I'm only one person?'. If we all said that, nothing would ever happen!

School Reader: So, what can we do?

School Reader: Loads of things! The world leaders have said they'll work to achieve these eight Goals to combat world poverty by 2015. You could help to make that happen.

School Reader: How can we do that?

School Reader: You could write to government ministers holding them to account. Ask about how much the UK's aid budget will be increased to help achieve the Goals.

School Reader: Changes in your lifestyle can help to lift people out of poverty too. You could buy fairly traded chocolate so that a decent wage is given to the people who produce it.

School Reader: Will that really make a difference?

School Reader: Yes, especially if you tell your friends and get them to join in.

School Reader: I suppose, if we tried, we could all be 'good news to the poor'.

School Reader: That's the challenge!

School Reader: Let us reflect. How does my lifestyle affect others around the world? Do I have more than my fair share? Do I want my life to be good news to the poor? Do I want to make poverty history?

Let us sing together the carol, 'In the bleak mid-winter..'

Carol - All to sing (Please stand): **'In the bleak mid winter'**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter
long ago.</p> <p>2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him
nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away,
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.</p> <p>3. Enough for him, whom Cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk,
and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him, whom angels
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.</p> | <p>4. Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
thronged the air,
But only his mother
in her maiden bliss
worshipped the beloved
with a kiss</p> <p>5. What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what can I give him –
give my heart.</p> |
|--|---|

(Please sit)

Prayers of intercession

Bishop John Hine: We pray now to the Lord, bringing before Him the concerns and needs of all humanity, confident that God will hear and grant our prayers.

Reader 3: We pray for the world:
That the Holy Spirit may spread throughout the nations; that barriers between peoples may be broken down and that those held captive by injustice may be freed.
Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lead us, Lord, in your saving justice

Reader 3: We pray for the Church:
That we may proclaim the Gospel by our words and actions, setting an example of truth and justice for all.
Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lead us, Lord, in your saving justice

Reader 3: We pray for those in authority:
That they may be mindful of the needs and dignity of all when making decisions, and work to enable everyone to fulfil their potential.
Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lead us, Lord, in your saving justice

Reader 3: We pray for local communities:
That we may seize the opportunities presented to us to proclaim the Gospel. May our response to situations of injustice be inspired by the message Christ brings.
Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lead us, Lord, in your saving justice

Reader 3: We pray for our selves:
That we may each, men, women, children, take up the roles given us through baptism as priest, prophet and king. Help us to discern the paths our lives should take to keep us truthful to your Word and Spirit.
Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lead us, Lord, in your saving justice

Reader 3: Let us pray in silence for our own private intentions.

Reader 3: Let us say together the Our Father....

Bishop John Hine: Father God and Creator,
We offer you all our prayers, those we have spoken aloud and those we have voiced in our hearts. With trust in your constant love and concern for your world we ask all these prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Final Blessing by Bishop John Hine

Final Carol - All to sing (Please stand):

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1. 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.*

2. O Come, thou wisdom from on high,
and order all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.

3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

4. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave:

5. O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

6. O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight:

7. O come, desire of nations, blind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid every sad division cease,
and be thyself our Prince of peace.

Please join us afterwards in the adjoining Amigo Hall for mulled wine and mince pies

CAFOD Southwark, Paul Whittle (Regional Organiser) and Christine Bryant (Regional Assistant) would like to thank:

- Bishop John Hine
- The Dean
- The developing countries for what they have given us
- All our Volunteers who have helped today, and throughout the year.
- All CAFOD supporters for what they have given
- The organist, the musicians, the readers and all the other contributors to today's service.
- The students and teachers of Notre Dame School for all of their help

and invites everyone to commit to support the Goals and **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY with CAFOD in 2005 by....**

1. Telling two other people about the Millennium Development Goals, and inviting them to **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY with CAFOD**
2. Making a display explaining the MDGs in your church or school or place of work
3. Campaigning in 2005 to **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY with CAFOD**
4. Sharing your wealth by making a donation to CAFOD and by buying Fairtrade products
- see www.fairtrade.org.uk
5. Making a commitment to do voluntary work for CAFOD in your parish or school –
please contact Paul Whittle or Christine Bryant in the CAFOD Southwark Office for
details on 01322 294924 or email to southwark@cafod.org.uk

"In 2005 there is an unprecedented opportunity to end the extreme poverty and suffering of millions of members of our human family. Twenty years after Live Aid prompted huge compassion in response to thousands of people starving in Africa, the Catholic community has the chance to do something about the causes of such immense suffering...I invite you to join with CAFOD to ensure that 2005 is the year in which we Make Poverty History."
(Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, November 2004)

CAFOD
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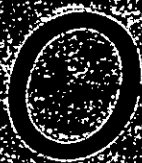
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Please take this Order of Service home with you



Radiant Dawn

*light the way
of all who long
to preach, to teach,
to consecrate
heavenly hosts
of God's indwelling.*



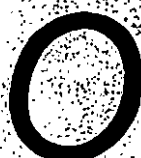
Adonai,

*set us free
from fear, despair,
misogyny.*



Emmanuel

*strengthen weary arms,
steady trembling knees
bring surcease of sorrow.*



Justice Flower of Jesse tree,

*uproot our hatreds,
wash us clean
in just-reign waters,
plant us deep in Thee.*



Advent Light

*dispel death's dark shadow.
Awaken a waiting world
to life's fresh-blessed
tomorrow.*



Key of David,

*open heaven's gate
unlock, unblock,
a captive church
too long enthralled
by hate.*

*Bring glad tidings of God's
new birth,
come through
the labour of a woman,
born,
so all know well,
Emmanuel.*

The O antiphons have been used for
Centuries in Catholic and other
churches for vespers in the last
week of Advent.

This version is by Sr Chris Schenk CSI

St John's spirituality group Advent meeting 2015

1. Lighting of the Candle

2. Prayers

1. O God, the source of all insight,
whose coming was revealed to the nations
not among men of power
but on a woman's lap,
give us grace to seek you
where you may be found,
that the wisdom of this world may be humbled
and discover your unexpected joy.

Janet Morley

Come, Christmas God

When it's cold and wet
and we long for the light
come Christmas.
Come to bring warmth and joy
to inn-keepers and travellers
to shepherds and kings;
Come to bring hope and peace
to refugees and security forces;
Come to comfort the lonely
and wipe the tear from the cheek
of those who are sad.

4. Immanuel - God with us
let your light shine
into the dark recesses
of our minds and our cities.
Let your warmth
bring forth harvests of joy.
Let your peace
enter the hearts
of those who struggle and plot
for power and advantage over others.

All

Come, Christmas God
Christ Child of Bethlehem -
Spirit of wonder
be born in us and your world
once more
that joy may be shared
peace proclaimed
and love abound.

Kate McIlhagga

Pause
O Antiphons
(See over)

In Dulci Jubilo adapted by June Boyce-Tillman

In dulci jubilo,
Let love within us glow,
See the Christ child lying
Within praesepio,
Who shares our joy and crying,
Matris in gremio.
Alpha es O.
O patris caritas
O nati lenitas
We were told we're guilty
Per nostra crimina;
But we were birthed in beauty
Coelorum gaudia
Our own births were blessed.

Ubi sunt gaudia
But here with human friends,
We hear angels singing
Nova cantica,
With these our songs are mingling
In regis curia.
We can share that joy.

REVISITING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

1. From Kingdom, to New Reign of God, to Basileia, to Kindom,
to *Companionship of Empowerment*.
2. From heroic loyalty towards the Ruling God
to: *co-creating with the Holy One in the process of empowering transformation*.
3. Incarnational Implications: *Personal – Impersonal – Transpersonal*
Aristotle: Autonomous, Self-reliant, Separate, Rational, Individual.
Alternative: "I am at all times the sum of my relationships and that is what confers
my identity and makes me unique."
4. 'The present prevailing image of the church in many parts of the world is that of organized religion with laws, rules, and structures. The church is seen as an institution in society which fulfils expected functions along with institutions like business, government, labour, and entertainment. Society has allotted a role to religion and expects it to fulfil it without interference in any other institutions and their respective functions. In allowing itself to be integrated into society, the church loses its world-transforming power'
John Fuellenbach, (1995, 250-251).
5. *Critical Dimensions for Eradicating Poverty* (re Stephen Smith)
 1. Basic Health care; 2. Basic Education;
 3. A quantity of money necessary to live with dignity;
 4. Feeling like a useful citizen;
 5. Access to information via internet/Phones;
 6. A healthy environment for healthy people;
 7. Personal Empowerment to realize one's God-given potential;
 8. Community Empowerment for meaningful participation in society.
6. *Being Disciples in the New Companionship*
 - Global Transformation – Incarnational wholeness;
 - Empowering Relationships – at every level
 - Systemic Eco-justice – for Planet and People
 - Communal Networking – to confront structural injustice
 - Unconditional inclusivity – love even your enemies!
 - Transpersonal human development – beyond individualism
 - Skills for empowering discernment – multi-disciplinary.
 - Rediscovering the meaning of empowering Ritual

Incarnation and the Cosmic Christ

1. "God is entirely self-sufficient; and yet the universe contributes something that is vitally necessary to him. . . It is not just something but "Someone" who holds together the plurality of elements in a personalizing centre, and this is the Christ."

Teilhard de Chardin.

2. "The body of Jesus like every human body, is made of cosmic dust birthed in the interior of ancient stars that long predated our planet and solar system. The iron that ran through his veins, the phosphorus and calcium that fortified his bones, the sodium and potassium that facilitated the transmission of signals through his nerves – all make the incarnation a truly cosmic event. Jesus participated in the unfolding of life and the emergence of consciousness, just like any other human being; his humanity is our humanity, and his cosmic earthly life is ours as well."

(Ilia Delio, *The Emergent Christ*, 55).

3. **Jesus and the New Cosmology:** Re-aligning Jesus with an enlarged world-view – best achieved through a reappropriation of the Kingdom of God.

Meanings of the Cosmic Christ:

1. For Christians, the historical Jesus is also the Cosmic Christ, the one and only true God.
2. Jesus the incarnate human also embodies and represents God's divine cosmic power to create and renew.
3. God's becoming in and through Jesus the Christ, reflects for us God's becoming in and through the entire creation – an ongoing evolutionary process.
4. The historical Jesus, in his human-divine body, is energized by the same cosmic/planetary elements that energizes all other creatures (Ilia Delio).
5. Is the Cosmic Christ in danger of being confused with the Great Spirit?
6. Advent - Revisioning God's Incarnation in our world
 - God's Embodiment at the heart of Creation.
 - Two strands: a) God's enfleshment in our human evolutionary story.
 - b) The Cosmic world view envisaged in the K. of God.

Jesus pointing to larger horizons.

embodiment - God loves bodies
Need to be very close to creat

JESUS: The Evolutionary Context

1. Context: *"The world that Jesus entered was seething with human longings that showed in messianic dreams, millennial fantasies, apocalyptic desperation, mystical revelations, suicidal nationalism, religious critique and reform, reactionary rigidity, and a sense that time was collapsing, that the future was foreshortened, that the mystery of reality was about to be revealed. In such a milieu, the authenticity of Jesus was like a beacon that drew all mythological motifs to itself. Incubating in the womb of that period was God's rash gamble that humanity might become more humane."* (Wink, 250).

- A rash gamble or a quantum leap of providence?
- The beginning of the collapse of Patriarchy?
- Humanity at a new evolutionary threshold. (*"Humanity has just entered what is probably the greatest transformation it has ever known. Something is happening in the structure of human consciousness. It is another species of life that is just beginning."* T. de Chardin).
- An axial moment of readiness for incarnational affirmation and celebration?
- The myopic short-sightedness of the 2000 year benchmark?

2. "God is What Happens to a Person on the way to becoming Human" (Gregory Baum)

a) *The Human Being is a catalytic agent for transformation, providing the form, lure and hunger to become who we are meant to be.* (Wink, 193).

- Evolution and the lure of the future (John F. Haught; Bloch, Moltmann, Pannenberg)

b) *We are as yet fractions of our potential, mere apprehensions and approximations of humanness; what we will be has not yet been revealed.* (Wink, 191).

- A young species on the threshold of adulthood (Elizabet Sahtouris).

c) *As bearer of the archetype of the Human Being, Jesus activates the numinous power that is capable of healing, transforming, or rebirthing those who surrender themselves to it. As such, Jesus knew himself to be in the grip of a power greater than he. A problem arises at just this point, however. When Jesus is worshipped as the sole bearer of the archetype of humanness, he is made a supernatural being. As such, he loses his connection to the struggle to be human, and becomes a cult figure in a religion focussed on his person (individual) rather than on the reality that he bore.* (Wink, 256).

3. Incarnation Re-visited!

a) *Divinity is fully realised humanity. The goal of life then is not to become something we're not – divine – but to become what we truly are – human.* (Wink, 29ff).

b) *The Human Being (Son of Man), like the Christ, is an archetypal reality. But as an archetype of humanness, the human being makes people whole, not perfect.* (Wink, 125).

c) *Incarnation became a doctrine about Jesus, not a task for us all to accomplish.* (157)

References

- Wink, Walter (2002), *The Human Being: Jesus and the Enigma of the Son of Man*.
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Gospel Inclusivity

Why is it that so many of us do not even connect anymore in the day-to-day living out of our religion with Christ's ancient vision of inclusiveness? Barbara Fiand.

Jesus pronounces throughout his ministry: those who are sure they are in are shown to be out, & those who are sure they are right are shown to be wrong. All who were hoping that the Messiah would come and sanction the traditional religious and cultural norms of their society must have been gravely disappointed. Kristin Johnston Largen

1. Gospel Inclusivity, Jewish Hospitality and the Embrace of God's Creation

"Jesus said to them, 'Which of you, if you go to a friend at midnight, and tell him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him,' and he from within will answer and say, 'Don't bother me. The door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give it to you?' I tell you, although he will not rise and give it to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence, he will get up and give him as many as he needs. (Lk.11:5-8).

"Eco" comes from the Greek word, "Oikos" which means "household" It also means "home" in BOTH local and Planetary meaning. Economy refers to managing the household, through a mutual exchange of giftedness. Ecology means understanding all the relationships that abundantly enrich the household. "We are as human beings, co-responsible with the Housholder for the household of the world." (John D. Crossan).

2. Compassion: The Great Inclusive Virtue

a) "The central quality of the community of Jesus can also be seen in the paradigm or core value which was meant to shape its life. The dominant paradigm structuring his social world was, "Be holy as God is holy" (Lev.19:20) with holiness understood as purity. Jesus echoed this passage even as he deliberately contrasted it by substituting compassion: "Be compassionate as God is compassionate (Lk.6:36). . . .Concern with purity intrinsically creates boundaries; the life of compassion intrinsically reaches across boundaries. Like the Spirit, of which compassion is the primary fruit, compassion shatters boundaries. In short the Jesus movement was a community of compassion, and to take Jesus seriously means to become part of such a community." (Marcus Borg 1994, 154).

Compassionate love is counter-cultural. It creates upheavals in the ways we understand ourselves, others, and the world. Compassion does not just alleviate suffering, but rather transforms it. Compassion helps us to experience what justice feels like.

Maureen O'Connell

b) Love even your enemies: *It cannot be stressed too much: love of enemies has, for our time, become the litmus test of authentic Christian faith.*

Walter Wink.

3. The Gentiles & Samaritans: No more Outsiders!

The programmatic mission to the Gentiles during the course of this present world was a wrenching departure for the early church and caused so much controversy in the first Christian generation. Neither the actions nor the words of the historical Jesus had given precise and detailed instructions for such an initiative. John P. Meier.

4. Inclusivity's Final Hurdle: The First Female Disciples

Women's prominence did not, however, go unchallenged. Every variety of ancient Christianity that advocated the legitimacy of women's leadership was eventually declared heretical, and evidence of women's early leadership roles was erased or suppressed.

Karen King.

An inclusive church is not an expression of secular liberalism but a fundamental Gospel imperative. Giles Fraser

The Life of Jesus as the Basis for Eucharist.

1. The Conventional Understanding: *The DEATH of Jesus as the basis for Eucharist.*

(Last Supper - eve of his death - exclusive to the twelve - emulating the Passover sacrifice - shedding blood - obedient unto death - Atonement theories - Eucharist as re-enactment of Calvary.)

2. *The LIFE of Jesus as the basis for Eucharist:*

- a) Jesus loved food and loved sharing it with others.
- b) Jesus shocked his own people, using the Open Table of total inclusiveness.
- c) The most unworthy had the primary right to be at the table with Jesus.
- d) Seminal story: not the Last Supper but Luke 24: 13-35
(*"Gather the people, to tell their story, and to break bread"* - John Shea).
- e) Role of the Holy Spirit as primary agent for Eucharistic change.
- f) *EPICLESIS*: double epiclesis in every Eucharistic Prayer.
- g) Who invokes the Holy Spirit ?
- h) Role of the ordained priest: Presider or FACILITATOR ?
- i) Eucharistic origins in the Jewish Shabat Meal: *the empowering Mother*
(*Why not adopt this as a more appropriate model for Priesthood?*)

3. *"The Common Meal tradition may look to a Last Supper in the past, to a communal meal in the present, or to a messianic banquet in the future. . . . but it can never get away from this: it is in food and drink offered equally to everyone that the presence of God and Jesus is found. . . . So the Lord's supper is political criticism and economic challenge as well as sacred rite and liturgical worship. Christians claim that God and Jesus are peculiarly and especially present when food and drink are shared equally among all."*
John Dominic Crossan.

On Being an Eucharistic Community

The Eucharist can no longer be seen as the commemoration of Jesus' sacrificial death for the salvation of the world. Rather, we must look for the central meaning of the Eucharist in Jesus' own apparent joy in sharing meals with people of the Galilean countryside. The open table of Jesus public life challenged the discriminatory social code of honor and shame which denied the Jewish peasantry the right to share meals with members of other social classes. By embracing an open table, Jesus taught a seminal truth of the Reign of God: all people are to be included as equals in the community of God's people. The Eucharist can mean no less for us today.

(Robert C. Wild (2004), *Sacred Presence*, 138)

Meals are the most frequent setting for Gospel stories. They range from informal picnics on hillsides to banquets given by dignitaries. They introduce us to some of the most diverse and colourful of Gospel characters: a woman with long hair who washes Jesus' feet, a little boy who has loaves and fishes hidden in the folds of his robe, and a short man, named Zacchaeus, who is about to have an unexpected dinner guest. Meals transport us from a wedding in Cana to a quiet dinner at a little house in Emmaus. They invite us to a party for a prodigal and let us share a Passover supper with a carpenter's son.

Meals also function as a context for the central themes of the Gospels – abundance, forgiveness, respect, compassion, love. Here, as the center-piece of Luke's Gospel, the dinner at the Pharisee's house brings all these topics together in a lesson about who is welcome at our tables.

This theme of inclusivity is one of the benchmarks of Jesus' teaching. Everyone ought to have a place at the table, especially those who have been marginalized. Obviously, this includes many who do not qualify from the guest list – people who have been relegated to the back roads and slums of the towns. When we give a luncheon, we need to make sure that no one who wants to be there is left out. Inclusivity is a Gospel mandate. It is not separate from Sabbath observance, but a central part of it.

(Fran Ferder & John Heagle (2002), *Tender Fires*, 159-160)

The great challenge today is to convert the sacred bread into real bread, the liturgical peace into political peace, the worship of the Creator into reverence for the Creation, the Christian praying community into an authentic human fellowship. It is risky to celebrate Eucharist. We may have to leave it unfinished, having gone first to give back to the poor what belongs to them.

(Raimundo Panikkar, 1977).

(Another short
assembly script)

THE TRIAL OF CHRISTMAS

a reading for Advent

by John Coutts

*Is Christmas a fraud?
Should he be placed under a banning order?
It has been done before...
Why not now?*

THE ¹² ARRAIGNMENT CONVICTION, and IMPRISONING, OF CHRISTMAS: On St. Thomas day last.

AND

How he broke out of Prison in the Holidyes and got
away, onely left his hoary hair, and gray beard, sticking be-
tween two Iron Bars of a Window.

WITH,

An Hue and Cry after CHRISTMAS, and a Letter from Mr.
Woodcock a Fellow in Oxford, to a Malignant Lady in
LONDON

And divers passages between the Lady and the Cryer,
about Old Christmas: And what shik he was fain to make
to save his life, and greet this to fetch him back
again.

With divers other Witty Passages.

As. n. l. London

Printed by Iames Mord. P. for Cifely Thewporidge; And are to be
sold by Ralph Fisher Chandler, at the signe of the Pack of Cards
in Mord. Alley, in Mord. Street.

1647. 1648

The Trial of Christmas

by John Coutts

(a dramatic reading - based on a pamphlet published in 1645)

Characters

The Judge

The Accuser

Christmas (a jovial old gentleman, suitably attired.)

The Judge I wish to make clear that this is a court of law. There will be no demonstrations either for or against the accused. Christmas is on trial for his life. The case is one of the utmost gravity. Mr Accuser, if you please....

The Accuser I appear in the case of the People versus Christmas. Before we begin, I wish to point out that Christmas is a convicted criminal, at least in England and Wales, where he was abolished by Act of Parliament.

Christmas That was in 1651.

The Judge Do not interrupt!

The Accuser. I now proceed to the charges. Firstly I accuse Christmas of Impersonation. That is to say, of False Pretences. How old are you?

Christmas I must be well over 1600. I go back to the year 354 AD, when the Roman emperor declared that the birth of Christ should be celebrated on December 25th.

The Accuser But the exact date of the birth of Jesus is unknown.

Christmas That's true. And so the Saviour of the World has an official birthday - just like her Majesty the Queen. We call it Christmas Day. In the Eastern Churches my day is on January 7th. If you fly to Moscow you can celebrate twice over.

The Judge. That will do. Confine yourself to answering the questions.

Accuser I can prove that you did not begin in the year 354. You existed long before that - as the midwinter Festival of the Unconquered Sun. You simply changed your name in order to curry favour with the Roman Emperor. You then proceeded to disguise yourself as you moved from country to country. For example - you often wear holly. But holly is rare

in the Holy Land where Jesus was born. You are an Impersonator. Your real name is YULETIDE.

Christmas My real name is "Christmas" as you know very well. It's quite true - I did pick up some old folk customs in the course of my travels. And in the past I have had connections with the Unconquered Sun. Why not? The Lord Jesus Christ is the Sun of Righteousness. Just ask all the people sitting in court...

The Judge. I warn you again. Do not try to make speeches.

The Accuser. So we have every right to call you "Yuletide"

Christmas If you like. As long as you don't, call me "Xmas" - with an "X" ..

The Accuser I now proceed to the second grave charge. That of fraud. Here is the plain evidence:

So called "carol singers" have been heard in the middle of November. But the only carol they knew was Jingle Bells.

In late October Six Santa Clauses were sighted. In six different shops. They can't all be the real one.

And furthermore - the tune "Silent Night" is played in supermarkets.....Nonstop. So where is the silence?

Things get worse: in the month of December Children are bombarded with adverts for expensive toys and games. Their poor parents are forced to pay up.

And as your day approaches, disaster looms large. People use their credit cards to heap up huge debts. Casualty Departments are crammed as drunken patients come in for treatment.

I claim that you, Christmas, are a monstrous fraud. In plain language: a rip off.

Christmas There is a grain of truth in what you say.

The Accuser Aha! You admit the charge.

Christmas Not at all. I'm one of the victims myself. I didn't hire those suspect Santa Clauses. I am fed up with the way advertisers misuse my name. And I have never told anyone to go out and get drunk.

The Accuser If you weren't there, they wouldn't do it.

Christmas They would simply find another excuse.

The Accuser I now proceed to the third and gravest charge.

You claim to be a season of goodwill. You say you "include people in".

But in fact, you shut them out.

For example, there is a mad scramble for shopping right up to Christmas Eve, but on Christmas Day the streets are dead.

You claim to provide fun for families, but what about people with no families? They are left all alone, staring at the television.

You encourage people to eat and drink too much - while people are starving in other parts of the world.

You claim to practise Peace and Goodwill, but all the time you are guilty of the vile crime of Gross Sentimentality - I repeat that - Gross Sentimentality!

Christmas In the course of my international duties I visit many places where there is flooding and starvation. If you take the trouble to go, you will find that THEY like a little bit of Christmas too - even if the only presents are a pencil and a paper hat. That is not Sentimentality.

And closer to home - I say that there is no need for anyone to left out during the Festive Season. There is plenty of genuine love if you know where to look for it.... I have here a long list of churches and charities which give practical support in the festive season. Allow me to read it.....

(HE PRODUCES A LIST)

The Judge No advertising in court. Have you anything more to say?

Christmas It is true that I was abolished in 1651. Very sincere people they were - they said I was not mentioned in the Bible and that I encouraged people to get drunk. But I soon came back by popular demand.

The Judge That will do. The court finds you guilty! Christmas, you will be placed on probation for the next 25 years.

Christmas My friends will stand by me.....All those who want to help should see me afterwards....As I said, I have a list of....

The Judge. Take him away!

(CHRISTMAS IS HUSTLED OUT, STILL WAVING HIS LIST OF HELPFUL ORGANISATIONS)

35. THE WISE PEOPLE

1. We, the wise, from Orient are;
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar;
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

CHORUS: *O, star of wonder, star of light,
Star of royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. CASPAR (a tailor):

Gold gives clothes a beauty so rare,
Sarees, shawls and copes we can wear
Make our bodies shine with the radiance of
God-given temples fair.

CHORUS

3. MELCHIOR (an aromatherapist):

Frankincense we burn in a shrine;
Perfumes tell us we are divine;
Lotions, oils, all aromas
The God within bring to mind.

CHORUS

4. BALTHAZAR (a masseur):

Myrrh in massage tells us we're loved,
Helps to soothe the place that is rough,
Makes us feel a warm acceptance
On earth as in heav'n above.

CHORUS

5. Glorious now we all can arise,
Parts of God's own sacrifice.
Heav'n sings alleluia,
Alleluia the earth replies.

CHORUS

Text: June Boyce-Tillman, based on the original of J H Hopkins (1820-1891)
Tune: We three kings by J H Hopkins (1820 - 1891) arranged June Boyce-Tillman

Song: Roots (June Boyce Tillman)

Trees stand firm, roots reach down,
Grounded in the earth's deep warming.

Branch and leaf stretching out
Draw their Wisdom from connecting.

We abide in love
Firmly found in human friendship.

We can stand unafraid
Rooted in a God incarnate

Homeless Christ, form our roots,
So our branches blossom freely

2 Poems: The sheepdog UA Fanthorpe

Christmas John Betjeman (read or Donald Swann on tape)

All greet each other with the **Peace**

Final carol - In dulci Jubilo

In dulci júbilo
Now sing with hearts aglow
Our delight and pleasure
Lies in presepio
Like sunshine is our treasure
Matris in g emior
Alpha es et O

O patris caritas
O nati lenitas
Deeply were we stained
Per nostra crimina
But thou for us has gained
Coelorum gaudia
O that we were there

Ubi sunt gaudia
In any place but there
There are angels singing
Nova cantica
And there the bells are ringing
In regis curia
O that we were there

- *The peace of earth to Him;
- * the joy of heaven to Him.
- *The homage of a King be His,
King of all victory;
- *The welcome of a Lamb be His,
Lamb of all glory:
The Son of glory down from on high.
All hail, let there be joy.

- * Deep in the night
the voice of the waves on the shore
announced to us: Christ is born!
Son of the King of kings
from the land of salvation,
the mountains glowed to Him,
the plains glowed to Him,
then shone the sun on the mountains high to Him.
All hail, let there be joy.

- * God the Lord has opened a Door.
Christ of hope, Door of joy!
Son of Mary, hasten thou to help me:
In me, Lord Christ, let there be joy.

New Year

'The Opening Door' is to be used as a first-footing prayer. In Scotland, and the northern parts of England, New Year is given much importance. Folk go from house to house wishing each other a good year ahead, and celebrate their good wishes with food and plenty of drink. It is often seen as important who should be the first to cross the threshold and 'bring in the year' once midnight has passed.

This song (spoken or sung) asks Christ Himself to come and first-foot for us. The door is opened to

welcome Him in and invite His blessing, whether He comes in silence or in the company of other guests.

The Opening Door

This day is a new day
that has never been before.
This year is a new year
the opening door.

Enter, Lord Christ
we have joy in Your coming.
You have given us life
and we welcome Your coming.

I turn now to face You
I lift up my eyes
Be blessing my face, Lord,
Be blessing my eyes.
May all my eye looks on
be blessed and be bright.
My neighbours, my loved ones
be blessed in Your sight.

You have given us life
and we welcome Your coming.
Be with us, Lord
we have joy, we have joy.
This year is a new year
the opening door.
Be with us, Lord
we have joy, we have joy.

Covenant Service

This may be used at the first opportunity at the beginning of a year, or at some other appropriate time of new beginnings. This may be for a community,

Milked wine? Thomas =
Stolen -

1 P copy

Group A & B

2 Readers for the desert will bloom

3 for Micah - 3rd time

Advent Friday Liturgy 05

Centring music

Naming ourselves round the circle

Reading from Iona - said antiphonally groups A and B

The desert will sing and rejoice
and the wilderness blossom with flowers

All will see the Lord's splendour,
see the Lord' greatness and power

Tell everyone who is anxious:
be strong and don't be afraid.

The blind will be able to see:
the deaf will be able to hear;

the lame will leap and dance
those who can't speak will shout.

Your will hammer their swords into ploughs
and their spears into pruning knives;

The nations will live in peace;
they will train for war no more.

This is the promise of God;
God's promise will be fulfilled.

All say (Is 11 1-4)

On him the spirit of the Lord will rest:
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of counsel and power..
with justice he will judge the poor,
and defend the humble in the land with equity.

Reflection (read slowly, 1 voice to bottom of page Dec 11 in Advent
readings from Iona, 2nd voice for the next page. 3 voices,

Short Silence

All say

God of latent life and growing shoots,
we wait for you in an expectant world;
we long for your wisdom to be at work in our lives
and, with our sisters and brothers,
we yearn for your justice to be done on earth.

Song Will you come and see the light (Brian Wren)

Discussion in twos and threes: for you what are the positive and negative aspects of Advent and Christmas?

Building a cairn and garden (cast away the negative in placing down a stone and follow this by a bidding prayer of hope for the future, putting a flower round the central candle)

Prayer: "Make us Aware" (Kate McIlhagga)
(all saying the last line of the verse and the last verse)

*3 readings
9.12.11*

Merciful God, forgive
that we fall asleep
when you call us to watch and pray.
We fail to see the signs of your coming

Christ our Saviour, forgive
that we are not watchful
we do not choose to hope
or plant the seeds of hopefulness.
We fail to see the signs of your coming

Forgiving Spirit, forgive
that in the rush of the Christmas season
we forget to stop and listen for the sound of angel voices
we forget and stop and look for a star
to Guide us to Christ
We fail to see the signs of God's presence.

**God over all
Christ within us
Spirit around us
hear our prayer
and send your messenger
of peace to us and to your sleeping world.**

Pause for reflection

Candle shape gifts each take a small candle shape and write on it some gift like joy or energy. These are then put in a basket, stirred around, and each takes one and spends a minute or two in quiet reflection about it.

(the following song to the tune of "In the Bleak Midwinter" was written at the recent AGM of CWN where "Women Word and Spirit, plus explanatory strap line was adopted as a better way of describing the Network.)

Women Word and Spirit
nearing Christmas Day
Lost in all confusion
Trying to find our way

How do we find meaning
in the rush and hype?
seeking simple giving
love and joy and light

Women Word and Spirit
Turn around and see
Lets embrace this season
With integrity

Sharing love and laughter
in a troubled world
gifts of transformation
bringing peace on earth.

Blessing of food and drink (using mulled wine and stollen)

(All) O loving Creator, bless this special Christmas food, made from the fruits of the earth and a symbol of the abundance with which you have endowed us.

(pass around the stollen saying something like food for the journey of hope)

(All) O loving Creator, bless this warm and sustaining wine, fruit of the earth, which symbolises your comfort and sustaining power.

(pass around with words such as "the cup of rejoicing)

Final Prayer (Janet Morley in All Desires known)

God our deliverer,
whose approaching birth
still shakes the foundations of our world,
may we so wait for your coming
with eagerness and hope
that we embrace without terror
the labour pangs of the new age,
through Jesus Christ.

Final Song In Dulci Jubilo (adapted by June Boyce Tillman)

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.
Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope alight in a young girl's eyes
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Brian Wren

In Dulci Jubilo adapted by June Boyce-Tillman

In dulci jubilo,
Let love within us glow;
See the Christ child lying
Within praesepe,
Who shares our joy and crying,
Matris in gremio.
Alpha es O.

O patris caritas
O nati lenitas
We were told we're guilty
Per nostra crimina;
But we were birthed in beauty
Coelorum gaudia
Our own births were blessed.

Ubi sunt gaudia
But here with human friends;
We hear angels singing
Nova cantica;
With these our songs are mingling
In regis curia.
We can share that joy.

NIGHT PRAYER for

+ ADVENT. +

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. Amen.
Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

Three weeks into this season of Advent, looking forward to the birth of the Christ child, let us renew in ourselves that vision of God's perfect Kingdom which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of all God's loving purpose for us.

Jesus said to his disciples "Were you not able to stay awake for one hour? Keep watch all of you...."

If our heart is willing, the Lord will come and teach us to pray.
In the silence of our hearts, let us confide in almighty God....(a short period of silence follows.)

We all sing together(with tape):

Bless the Lord my soul,
And bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul,
He rescues me from death (repeat...)

A Gospel Reading, then :

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings..

We all sing together:

Exaltabo te, Deus meus, et laudabo te: Alleluia! (I will exalt you, my God, and I will praise you.)

THE NUNC DIMITTIS:

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel,
Glory to the Father...

THE INTERCESSIONS:

Prayers are offered ending with:-

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray; and in your mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
and: Our Father...

THE BLESSING:

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
For you alone, Lord, make us dwell in security.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
For the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night-watch looks for the morning,

So do we look for you, O Christ

Bless us and keep us, this night and always. Amen.

We all sing together:

Confitemini Domino, quoniam bonus.... Alleluia!"(Let us trust in the Lord for he is good.)

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



R Rorate caeli desuper et nubes pluant justum.

Heavens, drop dew from above and the clouds will rain justice.

1 Do not be angry Lord, and do not remember our sins any longer. Look, the city of holiness has been made a desert, Sion has been made a desert, Jerusalem has been abandoned; the home of your sanctification and glory where our ancestors praised you.

R Rorate caeli desuper et nubes pluant justum.

Heavens, drop dew from above and the clouds will rain justice.

2 We have sinned and been made filthy with guilt, we have all fallen like leaves, our sins have carried us away like the wind; you have turned your face away from us and crushed us in the hand of our sins.

R Rorate caeli desuper et nubes pluant justum.

Heavens, drop dew from above and the clouds will rain justice.

3 O Lord, look on the affliction of your people and send us the one you promised; send out the lamb, the ruler of the world, from the stony desert to the mountain of the daughter of Sion so that he can take away the yoke of our captivity.

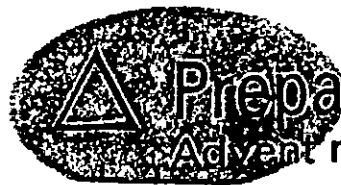
R Rorate caeli desuper et nubes pluant justum.

Heavens, drop dew from above and the clouds will rain justice.

4 Be comforted, be comforted my people, I tell you that your salvation is coming. Why are you grieving and renewing your sorrow? Do not be afraid. I will save you for I am the Lord your God, the holy one of Israel, your redeemer.

R Rorate caeli desuper et nubes pluant justum.

Heavens, drop dew from above and the clouds will rain justice.



Prepare the way of the Lord

Advent responses 4

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord;
ALL: MAKE A PATH FOR OUR GOD IN THE DESERT.

Leader: Each valley shall be exalted;
ALL: EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL BE LAID LOW.

Leader: The crooked shall become straight;
ALL: ROUGH PLACES SHALL BECOME PLAIN.

Leader: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed;
ALL: ALL PEOPLE SHALL SEE IT TOGETHER.

Leader: This is the promise of the Lord;
ALL: GOD'S PROMISE SHALL BE FULFILLED.

(from Isaiah 40: 3-5)



Light looked down

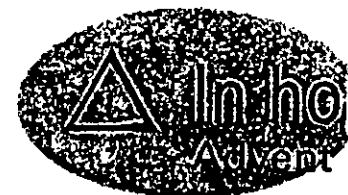
Christmas responses 1

Leader: Light looked down
and saw darkness.
ALL: 'I WILL GO THERE,' SAID LIGHT.

Leader: Peace looked down
and saw war.
ALL: 'I WILL GO THERE,' SAID PEACE.

Leader: Love looked down
and saw hatred.
ALL: 'I WILL GO THERE,' SAID LOVE.

Leader: So he,
the Lord of Light,
the Prince of Peace,
the King of Love,
came down
and crept in
beside us.



In hope the universe waits

Advent responses 6

Leader: In hope the universe waits:
ALL: GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL BE REVEALED.

Leader: Limited by mortality,
yet destined for liberation,
in hope the universe waits:
ALL: GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL BE REVEALED.

Leader: Groaning as if in childbirth,
sampling the fruits of God's harvest,
in hope the universe waits:
ALL: GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL BE REVEALED.

Leader: Trusting in what is unseen,
believing the best is to come,
in hope the universe waits:
ALL: GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL BE REVEALED.

Leader: In the hiddenness of a byre
where the Maker of All will be born,
in hope the universe waits:
ALL: GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL BE REVEALED.

(Adapted from Romans 8: 18-25)

Cloth for the Cradle

Worship resources and readings for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany

The Wild Goose Worship Group



Prepare the way of the Lord

Advent responses 4

- Leader:** Prepare the way of the Lord;
ALL: MAKE A PATH FOR OUR GOD IN THE DESERT.
- Leader:** Each valley shall be exalted;
ALL: EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL BE LAID LOW.
- Leader:** The crooked shall become straight;
ALL: ROUGH PLACES SHALL BECOME PLAIN.
- Leader:** The glory of the Lord shall be revealed;
ALL: ALL PEOPLE SHALL SEE IT TOGETHER.
- Leader:** This is the promise of the Lord;
ALL: GOD'S PROMISE SHALL BE FULFILLED.

(from Isaiah 40: 3-5)



Light looked down

Christmas responses 1

- Leader:** Light looked down
and saw darkness.
ALL: 'I WILL GO THERE,' SAID LIGHT.
- Leader:** Peace looked down
and saw war.
ALL: 'I WILL GO THERE,' SAID PEACE.
- Leader:** Love looked down
and saw hatred.
ALL: 'I WILL GO THERE,' SAID LOVE.
- Leader:** So he,
the Lord of Light,
the Prince of Peace,
the King of Love,
came down
and crept in
beside us.



In hope the universe waits

Advent responses 6

- Leader:** In hope the universe waits:
ALL: GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL BE REVEALED.
- Leader:** Limited by mortality,
yet destined for liberation,
in hope the universe waits:
ALL: GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL BE REVEALED.
- Leader:** Groaning as if in childbirth,
sampling the fruits of God's harvest,
in hope the universe waits:
ALL: GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL BE REVEALED.
- Leader:** Trusting in what is unseen,
believing the best is to come,
in hope the universe waits:
ALL: GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL BE REVEALED.
- Leader:** In the hiddenness of a byre
where the Maker of All will be born,
in hope the universe waits:
ALL: GOD'S PURPOSE SHALL BE REVEALED.

(Adapted from Romans 8: 18-25)

Cloth for the Cradle

Worship resources and readings for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany

The Wild Goose Worship Group

110 - Thick white meditation
pebbles & spiral
notes & stones.
CD/radio player -

December 09 Friday liturgy

Centring music

This particular Advent is centred on the environmental crisis, marked by the Copenhagen conference, which focuses our hopes and fears for the future.. It is a time when we can deepen our discernment about what the Godhead coming to us in human form means, and what is our relation to the whole creation process. In trying to follow Christ how must we act to pattern ourselves on his justice, and compassion and care for creation?

Reading (from the U.N Environmental Sabbath programme)
(each in turn reads a line, all saying "We have forgotten who we are")

We have forgotten who we are.

We have forgotten who we are

We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding
of the cosmos

We have become estranged from the movements
of the earth

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our own security

We have exploited simply for our own ends

We have distorted our knowledge

We have abused our power.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the land is barren

And the waters are poisoned

And the air is polluted.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the forests are dying

And the creatures are disappearing

And humans are despairing.

We have forgotten who we are.

We ask forgiveness

We ask for the gift of remembering

We ask for the strength to change.

We have forgotten who we are.

411

Discussion in twos and threes: What could our "Christmas present" be to planet earth? How can we celebrate Christmas in an eco-friendly and non-consumerist way?

Place on the spiral a small glass pebble, expressing your prayer for the future, or silently

Short guided meditation taken from Thich Nhat Hanh

Prayer: Pregnant with Hope (from The Green Heart of the Snowdrop) (Take a line each, all to say last verse)

Now is the time of watching and waiting
a time pregnant with hope
a time to watch and pray.

Christ our advent hope,
bare brown trees,
etched dark across a winter sky,
leaves fallen, rustling,
ground hard and cold,
remind us to prepare for your coming;
remind us to prepare for the time
when the soles of your feet will touch the ground,
when you will become one of us
to be at one with us.

May we watch for the signs,
listen for the messenger,
wait for the good news to slip into our world, our lives.
Christ our advent hope,
help us to clear the way for you;
to clear the clutter from our minds,
to sift the silt from our hearts,
to move the boulders that prevent us meeting you.

Help us to make straight the highways,
to unravel the deception that leads to war,
to release those in captivity.
May sorrow take flight,
and your people sing a song of peace
and hope be born again.

Alk
1

MAGNIFICATS

My soul weeps
and my spirit lies battered within me
for the world belongs to the heartless imagination of the wealthy
and greed for profit and fear of war rule the earth;
the powerless go unheard and the hungry are not fed
the poor and the weak are oppressed
and great things are done in the name of this generation.
Arrogant men and submissive women
squander the inheritance of our faith
and seeds of hope are left to die in the dust.
Who will save our children for the promise of your mercy?
Who will scatter the darkness of our disobedience to the calls for justice?
You who have looked with favour on your lowly servant Mary
will redeem your people in every generation.

Glory to the one who created us and who re-creates us,
glory to the one who redeemed us and who goes on redeeming us
Glory to the one who sanctifies and sustains us, now and for ever.
Amen (Terry Garley In MOW newsletter, Oct 84)

Part of Magnificat of Acceptance (from "Miryam of Nazareth-£5 p & p inc)

Yes, forever in the life of humankind
people will sing of this loving encounter!
through remembering this moment, the faithful
will know all things are possible in God
Holy is the place within me where God lives.
God's tender fingers reach out from age to age

I have experienced the creative power of God's embracing arms
and I know the cleansing fire of unconditional love.
I am freed from all earthly authority
and know my bonding to the Author of all earthly things.

I am filled with the news of good things;
my favour with God,
faithful trust in the gentle shadow of the Most High,
the mystery of my son, Jesus,
the gift of companionship with my beloved kinswoman,
Elizabeth, who believes as I believe.....

Magnificat used in "Widening the Web" celebrated at Embracing the Base, Dec 85, adapted from Phoebe Willett's version.

My heart is bubbling over with joy
with God it is good to be a woman
from now on tell all peoples, proclaim
it is a wonderful gift to be.
The One in whom power truly rests
has lifted us up to praise,
God's goodness shall fall like a shower
on the trusting of every age.
The disregarded have been raised up
the pompous and powerful shall fall ...
God has made good the word
given at the dawn of time

December 09 Friday liturgy

Centring music

This particular Advent is centred on the environmental crisis, marked by the Copenhagen conference, which focuses our hopes and fears for the future.. It is a time when we can deepen our discernment about what the Godhead coming to us in human form means, and what is our relation to the whole creation process. In trying to follow Christ how must we act to pattern ourselves on his justice, ~~and~~ compassion and care for creation?

Reading (from the U.N Environmental Sabbath programme)
(each in turn reads a line, all saying "We have forgotten who we are")

We have forgotten who we are.

We have forgotten who we are
We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding
of the cosmos

We have become estranged from the movements
of the earth

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our own security
We have exploited simply for our own ends
We have distorted our knowledge
We have abused our power.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the land is barren
And the waters are poisoned
And the air is polluted.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the forests are dying
And the creatures are disappearing
And humans are despairing.

We have forgotten who we are.

We ask forgiveness
We ask for the gift of remembering
We ask for the strength to change.

We have forgotten who we are.

Short pause

3 readings

1 "We were created in God's image, in the image of love, and our goal is to grow more fully into that image by loving each other and the world in concrete, practical daily ways: in other words, in just and sustainable ways. (from "Life abundant: rethinking theology and economy for a planet in peril". Sallie McFague).

2 "We must act now and wake up to our moral obligations. The poor and vulnerable are members of God's family and are the most severely affected by droughts, high temperatures, the flooding of houses and more severe and unpredictable events. We, who should have been responsible stewards preserving our vulnerable, fragile planet home, have been wantonly wasteful through our reckless consumerism, devouring natural resources. We need to be accountable to God's family". Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in his foreword to "the Green Bible" (NRSV).

3 We need to reinterpret the phrase ""have dominion" to mean not humanity above nature - exercising mastery over it, but **with** nature, serving and keeping it, which is the kind of dominion Jesus showed. We are there to show, in our care for the cosmos, the maker's care. "We are called to be stewards of God's creation...we connect with the earth and its creatures through our serving and preserving them. We connect with God's creation when we recognize the interrelatedness of all creatures and their interdependence" (from Like a Garden: a biblical spirituality of growth- Sara Juengst)

Carol for Advent - Song from Iona (Innkeepers)

1. From a worn and weary nation -
VENI IMMANUEL!

Where and when will come salvation?
VENI IMMANUEL!

In the place you least expect,
in the face of real neglect,
one appointed, unanointed,
God has chosen to perfect.

VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL!

2. To an unsuspecting mother -
AVE MARIA!

Why choose her and not some other?
AVE MARIA!

So that earth might be restored,
flesh no longer be ignored,
faith infected, love directed,
God through woman be adored.

AVE MARIA! AVE MARIA! AVE MARIA!

3. In the song of God's elected -
MAGNIFICAT!

Can the future be detected?
MAGNIFICAT!

God the proud will overthrow,
worldly wealth will lose its glow;
hunger halted, poor exalted,

heaven appear through what we know.

MAGNIFICAT! MAGNIFICAT! MAGNIFICAT!

Discussion in twos and threes: What could our "Christmas present" be to planet earth? How can we celebrate Christmas in an eco-friendly and non-consumerist way?

Place on the spiral a small glass pebble, expressing your prayer for the future, or silently

Short guided meditation taken from Thich Nhat Hanh

Prayer: Pregnant with Hope (from The Green Heart of the Snowdrop) (Take a line each, all to say last verse)

Now is the time of watching and waiting
a time pregnant with hope
a time to watch and pray.

Christ our advent hope,
bare brown trees,
etched dark across a winter sky,
leaves fallen, rustling,
ground hard and cold,
remind us to prepare for your coming;
remind us to prepare for the time
when the soles of your feet will touch the ground,
when you will become one of us
to be at one with us.

May we watch for the signs,
listen for the messenger,
wait for the good news to slip into our world, our lives.
Christ our advent hope,
help us to clear the way for you;
to clear the clutter from our minds,
to sift the silt from our hearts,
to move the boulders that prevent us meeting you.

411/
Help us to make straight the highways,
to unravel the deception that leads to war,
to release those in captivity.
May sorrow take flight,
and your people sing a song of peace
and hope be born again.

Blessings of Food and Drink

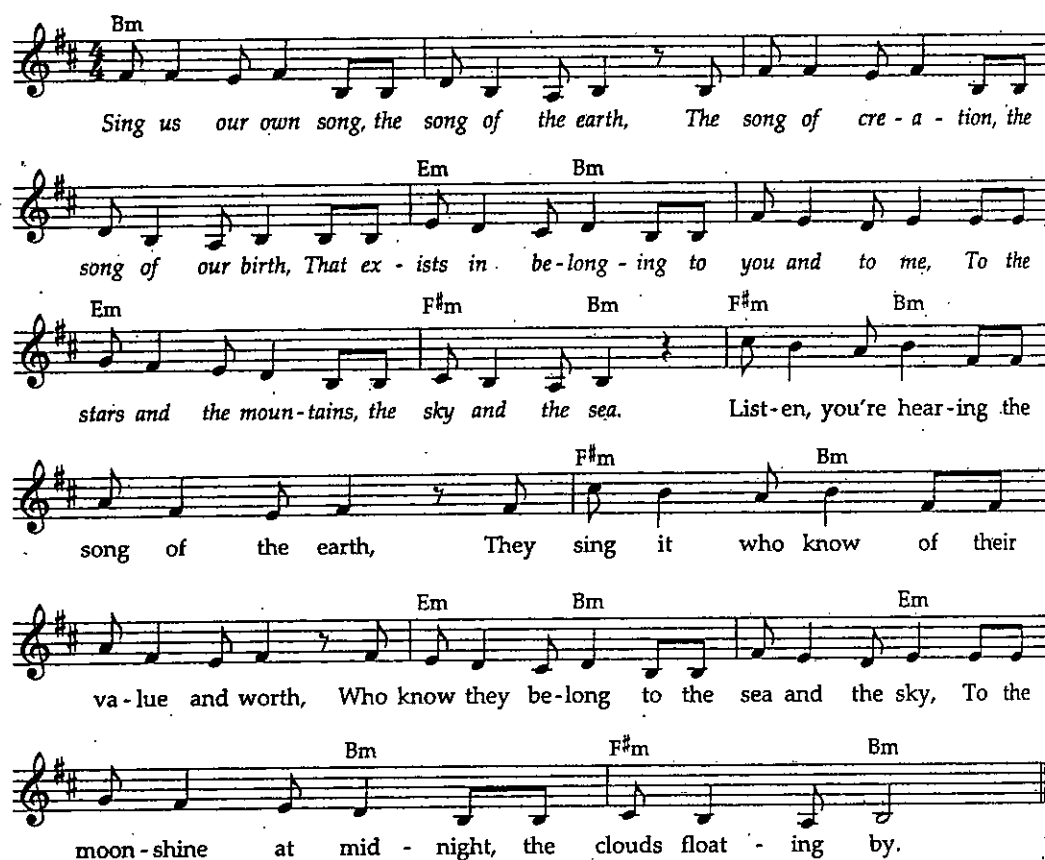
We bless This Christmas bread, a symbol of our rejoicing at the coming among us of Jesus Christ as human. May our rejoicing lead us to pattern our lives on his compassion, justice and care for creation.

We bless this life giving water, recalling this as a gift from God that we pollute at our peril. May our seasonal celebrations lead us to be active in guarding the cosmos of God.

Song of the earth

114 Song of the Earth

June Boyce-Tillman (1943-)



Sing us our own song, the song of the earth, The song of cre-a-tion, the
song of our birth, That ex-ists in be-long-ing to you and to me, To the
stars and the moun-tains, the sky and the sea. List-en, you're hear-ing the
song of the earth, They sing it who know of their
va-lue and worth, Who know they be-long to the sea and the sky, To the
moon-shine at mid-night, the clouds float-ing by.

- 2 It is not one song, but patchworks of sound,
That includes all the pitches that people have found,
That includes the vibrations of earthquakes and bees,
Of the laughing fire's crackling and murmuring breeze.
Chorus

- 3 All blend together to make the earth song,
Fragmented parts separated too long,
In finding our true notes and colours and beats
We make sacred spaces where we all meet.
Chorus

Advent liturgy

All Help us ..

Reader How much of our lives have we kept from you, O Lord?

All Help us ..

Reader Will we give up what we are doing when something else is needed?

All Help us ..

Reader Have we had the courage to proclaim that in Christ there is
neither jew nor greek, male nor female, bond nor free?

All Help us..

Reader Have we colluded with the distorted view of women's role and failed
to act prophetically?

All Help us ..

Reader Have we used the gifts you have given us to build up the body of
Christ to its fullness?

All Help us ..

Reader Have we been ready to wander as a pilgrim searching for the truth,
a foreign land?

All Help us .

Reader Have we lived as if we really expected you to return?

All Help us

Reading: poem from Images p 30

Short silence

Litany of hope (the response is maranatha, which means come Lord, do not delay)

Reader You Lord are the living bread which has come down from heaven, your
flesh given for the life of the world.

All Maranatha

Reader The grass withers, the flower falls but your word remains for ever

All Maranatha

Reader We are your people and you are our God

All Maranatha

Reader You gave yourself for the sins of many and we wait for the fullness of
salvation

All Maranatha ...

Reader The lion will lie down with the lamb and humanity will not kill humanity any more

All Maranatha

Reader In the new heaven and the new earth righteousness will abound

All Maranatha

Reading from "on being a christian" on the meaning of Christmas
p 452 (hardback ed)

Bidding prayers (extempore)

Blessing of food and drink (taken from the agape prayers of the Didache)

Leader Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of this food and drink that we share together as a sign of your kingdom, which is to come in glory, and yet is already here now in so far as you live among us in the love we have for one another.
(wine is poured out)

All We give thanks to you, our creator, for this wine, remembering Israel your people, brought like a vine out of Egypt, and planted in the promised land (wine is passed round)
(the bread is broken and passed round and all say)

All As we break the bread we thank you O creator for the life and knowledge of yourself which you gave us through Jesus Christ. To you be glory for ever.

As this broken bread was scattered upon the mountains, but was brought together and became one, so let your children, Lord, be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ for ever. (all eat)

Final Song O Come O Come Emmanuel.

1p Dec 85

Advent Friday Liturgy 03

Centring music

Reading (first line read in turn round the room, all say the second line)

The desert will sing and rejoice
and the wilderness blossom with flowers

All will see the Lord's splendour,
see the Lord's greatness and power

Tell everyone who is anxious:
Be strong and don't be afraid.

The blind will be able to see:
the deaf will be able to hear;

The lame will leap and dance
those who can't speak will shout.

Thy will hammer their swords into ploughs
and their spears into pruning knives;

The nations will live in peace;
they will train for war no more.

This is the promise of God;
God's promise will be fulfilled.

Iona Community

worship book, based on Isaiah 35 and Micah

4.1-4

Song from Iona Veni Immanuel – words on separate sheet. Taped, join in as you can.

Watchet Auf (*poem by Ann Lewin, written after hearing the Bach prelude*)

Each verse read antiphonally, Groups A and B.

Advent

Season when

Dual citizenship

Holds us in

Awkward tension

The world, intent on

Spending Christmas,

Eats and drinks its way to

Oblivion after dinner.

Friday Liturgy Group advent 07

Centring music

Reading (first line read in turn round the room, all say the second line)

The desert will sing and rejoice
and the wilderness blossom with flowers

All will see the Lord's splendour,
see the Lord's greatness and power

Tell everyone who is anxious:
Be strong and don't be afraid.

The blind will be able to see:
the deaf will be able to hear;

The lame will leap and dance
those who can't speak will shout.

Thy will hammer their swords into ploughs
and their spears into pruning knives;

The nations will live in peace;
they will train for war no more.

This is the promise of God;
God's promise will be fulfilled *Iona Community worship book, based on Is 35 and Micah 4.1-4*

All say: (Is.11:1-4)

On him the spirit of the Lord will rest:
A spirit of wisdom and understanding,
A spirit of counsel and power.
With justice he will judge the poor,
And defend the humble in the land with equity

The lighting of the Advent candles (4 candles are placed on the paper advent wreath and lit one each at the beginning of each stanza of the prayer poem (from Iona's "Conifers and Candles")

All: God we come to you in our waiting

Grp A We wait with our fears,
our anxieties and frustrations
our pains and regrets,
our shame and confusion.

God help us to wait in peace Pause

We wait with impatience:
We rush around, preparing for the festivities,
not leaving the space to prepare
our hearts.
God, help us to wait in faith.

Pause

We wait in excitement:
We are ready to celebrate!
We know the story with its humbleness, simplicity,
and wonder.
God, help us to nurture our joy.

Pause

We wait in thanksgiving:
We are free and able to celebrate.
We have others around us to share in the journey.
We are able to wonder in the marvel of your gift.
God, help us to receive your love. AMEN

Katrina Crosby

Song (Brian Wren) Will you come and see the light

Prayer (All)

God of latent life and growing shoots
We wait for you in an expectant world:
We long for your wisdom to be at work in our lives
And, with our sisters and brothers,
We yearn for your justice to be done on earth

Discussion in 2s and 3s How can we use the Advent and Christmas season
positively, and diminish its negative aspects?

"Make us Aware" (Kate McIlhagga) (all say last line of verses and the last verse)

A Merciful God, forgive
that we fall asleep
when you call us to watch and pray.
We fail to see the signs of your coming

B Christ our Saviour, forgive
that we are not watchful
we do not choose to hope
or plant the seeds of hopefulness.
We fail to see the signs of your coming

A Forgive Spirit, forgive
that in the rush of the Christmas season
we forget to stop and listen for the sound of angel voices
we forget and stop and look for a star
to Guide us to Christ
All We fail to see the signs of God's presence.

God over all
Christ within us
Spirit around us
hear our prayer
and send your messenger
of peace to us and to your sleeping world.

Pause for reflection

Intercessions Place glass pebble on the spiral leading to Christ, with a spoken or silent prayer.

CWN Christmas song written at the 05 conference

Blessing of food and drink (using mulled wine and stollen)

(ALL) O loving Creator, bless this special Christmas food, made from the fruits of the earth and a symbol of the abundance with which you have endowed us.

(Pass round the stollen saying something like food for a journey of hope)

(All) O loving Creator bless this warm and sustaining wine, fruit of the earth, which symbolises your comfort and sustaining power.

(pass round with words such as "the cup of rejoicing")

Final Blessing (from the Manna Centre for the homeless) All say:

During this Christmas season
May we be blessed
With the spirit of the season,
Which is peace.
The gladness of the season
Which is hope,
And the heart of the season,
Which is love.

Final Song In Dulci Jubilo (June's version)

Time will you can't follow me

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.
Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope alight in a young girl's eyes
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Brian Wren

In Dulci Jubilo adapted by June Boyce-Tillman

In dulci jubilo,
Let love within us glow;
See the Christ child lying
Within praeseptio,
Who shares our joy and crying,
Matris in gremio.
Alpha es O.

O patris caritas
O nati lenitas
We were told we're guilty
Per nostra crimina;
But we were birthed in beauty
Coelorum gaudia
Our own births were blessed.

Ubi sunt gaudia
But here with human friends;
We hear angels singing
Nova cantica;
With these our songs are mingling
In regis curia.
We can share that joy.

in BIK midwinters

CWN/WWS Song

Women Word and Spirit
nearing Christmas Day
Lost in all confusion
Trying to find our way

How do we find meaning
in the rush and hype?
seeking simple giving
love and joy and light

Women Word and Spirit
Turn around and see
Lets embrace this season
With integrity

Sharing love and laughter
in a troubled world
gifts of transformation
bringing peace on earth.

Advent Friday Liturgy 03

Centring music

Reading (first line read in turn round the room, all say the second line)

The desert will sing and rejoice
and the wilderness blossom with flowers

All will see the Lord's splendour,
see the Lord's greatness and power

Tell everyone who is anxious:
Be strong and don't be afraid.

The blind will be able to see:
the deaf will be able to hear;

The lame will leap and dance
those who can't speak will shout.

Thy will hammer their swords into ploughs
and their spears into pruning knives;

The nations will live in peace;
they will train for war no more.

This is the promise of God;
God's promise will be fulfilled.

Iona Community

worship book, based on Isaiah 35 and Micah

4.1-4

Song from Iona Veni Immanuel – words on separate sheet. Taped, join in as you can.

Watchet Auf (*poem by Ann Lewin, written after hearing the Bach prelude*)

Each verse read antiphonally, Groups A and B.

Advent

Season when

Dual citizenship

Holds us in

Awkward tension

The world, intent on

Spending Christmas,

Eats and drinks its way to

Oblivion after dinner.

The Kingdom sounds

Insistent warnings:

Repent, be ready,

Keep awake

He comes.

Like some great fugue

The themes entwine:

The Christmas carols

Demanding our attention

In shops and pubs,

Bore their insistent way

Through noise of traffic;

Underneath, almost unheard,

The steady solemn theme of

Advent.

With growing complexity,

Clashing, bending,

Rivals for our attention,

Themes mingle and separate,

Pulling us with increasing

Urgency,

Until in final resolution,

The end attained,

Harmony rests in awful

Stillness, and

The child is born.

He comes,

Both Child and Judge.

And will he find us

Watching?

Discussion in pairs – What are our negative feelings about Advent and Christmas (the positive will come in later).

Building the cairn We put down a pebble to represent these feelings, either voicing them or silently.

Song Will you come and see the light

Prayer "Make us Aware" (Kate McIlhagga)

(all to say last line of verses and the last verse)

Merciful God, forgive

that we fall asleep

when you call us to watch and pray.

We fail to see the signs of your coming.

Christ our Saviour, forgive

that we are not watchful

we do not choose hope

or plant the seeds of hopefulness.

We fail to see the signs of your coming.

Forgiving Spirit, forgive

that in the rush of the Christmas season

we forget to stop and listen for the sound of angel

voices

we forget to stop and look for a star

to guide us to Christ.

We fail to see the signs of God's presence.

God over all

Christ within us

Spirit around us

hear our prayer

and send your messenger

of peace to us and to your sleeping world.

Discussion in pairs What for you are the positive aspects of Advent and Christmas?

Give thanks for these (or intercessions) placing flower heads round the central candle

Agape using mulled wine and stollen

(ALL) O loving Creator, bless this special Christmas food, made from the fruits of the earth and a symbol of the abundance with which you have endowed us.

(Pass round the stollen saying something like food for a journey of hope)

(All) O loving Creator bless this warm and sustaining wine, fruit of the earth, which symbolises your comfort and sustaining power.

(pass round with words such as "the cup of rejoicing")

Final Blessing (adapted from R. Becher)

Let us follow, where the Spirit of Hope leads us
Let us listen, as the Child of Peace cries for us
Rejoicing, as the Love of God embraces us and lets us go
With Hope, Peace and love in our hearts
And the blessing of
Creator, Child and Spirit for ever within us.

Circle Dance

1. From a worn and weary nation –
VENI IMMANUEL!
 Where and when will come salvation?
VENI IMMANUEL!
 In the place you least expect,
 in the face of real neglect,
 one appointed, unanointed,
 God has chosen to perfect.
VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL! VENI IMMANUEL!

2. To an unsuspecting mother –
AVE MARIA!
 Why choose her and not some other?
AVE MARIA!
 So that earth might be restored,
 flesh no longer be ignored,
 faith infected, love directed,
 God through woman be adored.
AVE MARIA! AVE MARIA! AVE MARIA!

3. In the song of God's elected –
MAGNIFICAT!
 Can the future be detected?
MAGNIFICAT!
 God the proud will overthrow,
 worldly wealth will lose its glow;
 hunger halted, poor exalted,
 heaven appear through what we know.
MAGNIFICAT! MAGNIFICAT! MAGNIFICAT!

4. Through the midnight air is seeping –
GLORIA!
 Why such sound when most are sleeping?
GLORIA!
 Thus shall strangers find their way
 where a simple family stay,
 recognising how surprising
 God appears when laid in hay.
GLORIA! GLORIA! GLORIA!

5. Let the very earth cry glory,
HALLELUJAH!
 Every tongue retell the story,
HALLELUJAH!
 God no longer is confined
 out of sight and out of mind.
 Gone is distance and resistance;
 Christ is here in humankind.
HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
 It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
 It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.
 Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
 It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
 By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.
 Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
 Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
 When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
 will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope alight in a young girl's eyes
 of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
 When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
 will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
 In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
 and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
 will you hide or decide to meet the light?