










ADVENT EVENING PRAYER IN THE PARISH: NOTES AND ALTERNATIVE HYMNS, READINGS AND INTERCESSIONS





Note: The alternative texts below can be cut and pasted into the people's copy as needed. Please contact Faith Development Services if you encounter any difficulty printing off the people's copy and we will be glad to help.

STRUCTURE OF THE CELEBRATION:	POSTURE
 Greeting (Leader makes Sign of Cross)	<i>stand</i>
 Advent Hymn (The leader can place incense on coals during this hymn)	<i>stand</i>
 Two Psalms (see note below)	<i>sit</i>
 Scripture reading (only text of reading is proclaimed)	<i>sit</i>
 Magnificat (Sign of Cross is made on opening phrase; incense can be placed on coals during this Gospel canticle)	<i>stand</i>
 Intercessions	<i>stand</i>
 The Lord's prayer	<i>stand</i>
 Concluding prayer	<i>stand</i>
 Conclusion of the hour (Leader makes Sign of Cross)	<i>stand</i>








PRAYING THE PSALMS:

The recitation of the psalms can be done in a variety of ways, for example men and women on alternate verses, prayer leader/cantor and congregation taking alternate verses or congregation divided into two sides. People should be instructed as to how this will be done before the prayer begins.

MINISTERS NEEDED

-  Prayer leader
-  Reader for scripture reading (The reader does not proclaim, A Reading From... or The Word of the Lord)
-  Reader for intercessions
-  Song leader / instrumentalist to lead people in singing the opening hymn, as well as the Magnificat and any of the psalms, if they are being sung.

SET UP

-  A chair and standing microphone for the prayer leader.
-  Microphone switched on at ambo.
-  Lighting and heating as necessary in the church.
-  A prayer leaflet for participants.
-  Standing microphone if needed for song leader.
-  Appropriate number of lights already lit on Advent wreath.
-  Candles can be lighting by the altar and the ambo.

ALTERNATIVE HYMNS:

O come, O come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

R. Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel, to you shall come Emmanuel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. R.

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe. R.

O royal branch of Jesse's tree,
Redeem us from all tyranny;
From pain of hell your people free,
And over death win victory. R.

Come, O Long Expected Jesus

Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set your people free;
From our fears and sins release us, Christ in whom our rest shall be.

Israel's strength and consolation, born salvation to impart;
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born your people to deliver, born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever, now your gracious kingdom bring.

By your own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all sufficient merit, raise us to your glorious throne.

O Come, Divine Messiah

O come, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.

Chorus:

Dear saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show your face, and bid us hail the day of grace
O come, Divine Messiah the world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.

O come Desired of nations, whom priest and prophet long foretold,
Will break the captive fetters, redeem the long lost fold.

O come in peace and meekness, for lowly will your cradle be:
Though clothed in human weakness we shall your Godhead see.

Christ be our Light

Bernadette Farrell

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Chorus

Christ, be our light!
Shine out through the dark, shine!
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week One: Philippians 3:20b-21
It is to heaven that we look expectantly for coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to save us; he will form this humbled body of ours anew, moulding it into the image of his glorified body, so effective is his power to make all things obey him.

Week Two: 1 Corinthians 1:7b-9
You wait expectantly for our Lord Jesus Christ to reveal himself. He will keep you firm to the end, without reproach on the Day of our Lord Jesus. It is God himself who called you to share in the life of his Son.

Week Three: James 5:7-8,9b
Be patient then, my brothers and sisters, until the Lord comes. See how the farmer is patient as he waits for his land to produce precious crops. He waits patiently for the Autumn and Spring rains. And you also must be patient! Keep your hopes high, for the day of the Lord's coming is near. The Judge is near, ready to come in!

Week Four: Is 11:1-2
A shoot shall grow from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall spring from his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

INTERCESSIONS

(Taken from John McCann, 'Weekday Celebrations for the Christian Community' Veritas, 2000)

Set One:

Prayer Leader: My brothers and sisters, as we prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray to God for our own needs and for the needs of the whole human family.

Reader:

Renew your Church in our time, that together we may be a sign of hope and reconciliation to all. We pray to the Lord.

R. Come, Lord Jesus and show us your loving kindness.

Inspire and strengthen those in positions of authority, that they may work for truthfulness, justice and peace. We pray to the Lord.

R. Come, Lord Jesus and show us your loving kindness.

Hear the cry of the poor and suffering, that they may find brothers and sisters who are generous and compassionate. We pray to the Lord.

R. Come, Lord Jesus and show us your loving kindness.

Lift up those who are struggling with addictions and those in any kind of trouble.
We pray to the Lord.
R. Come, Lord Jesus and show us your loving kindness.

Set Two:

Prayer leader: My brothers and sisters, as we prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us earnestly ask his mercy. He came into the world to preach good news to the poor and to heal the repentant sinner. Let us ask him to come again to our world today, bringing salvation to all who stand in need.

That the Lord Jesus may be with his Church and guide it always, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

That the Lord may bless the world with his peace and the protection of his love, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

That the Lord Jesus may heal the sick, rid the world of hunger, and protect us from all disasters, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.

That the Lord may find us watching and ready at his coming, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy.