

## December 2019: Collects, Reading & Intercessions

*Bible readings are suggestions - they can be divided, discussed etc*

<p><b>Dec 1</b></p>	<p><b>Advent 1 The true Light was coming into the World</b>          “It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness” (Proverb)</p> <p>God, you said ‘Let there be Light’ and there was Light cutting through the darkness. Help us to shine your light into the dark places of the world and of our lives that we may see clearly where and how your Kingdom comes and may spread its power and peace to all.</p>	<p>Isaiah 2 : 2-7          Luke 1 : 67- 79 Benedictus          John 1 : 1-14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give thanks for those whose faith nurtures and inspires us</li> <li>• those who are persecuted for their faith</li> <li>• those who translate, publish &amp; distribute the Bible, Christian writers &amp; publishers</li> <li>• Christmas appeals</li> <li>• for churches as they work on their Come &amp; See programmes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dec 8</b></p>	<p><b>Advent 2 The darkness has not overcome it</b>          “And it seems to me you lived your life like a candle in the wind, never knowing who to cling to.....” (Song)</p> <p>God, your Spirit moved over chaos, drew from it a beautiful and fragile world and breathed us into life. Steady our hearts, still the world’s storms and reveal your Kingdom in all its strength and redeeming power.</p>	<p>Job 19 : 1-27          Isaiah 11 : 1-9          Isaiah 42 : 1-9, 14-16          Matthew 11 : 2-5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give thanks for those who feel lost, in darkness or at the mercy of others for survival</li> <li>• celebrities, especially those whose publicity influences the young</li> <li>• charities working with children and the vulnerable over Christmas</li> <li>• those whose faith has been battered by others or by circumstances</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dec 15</b></p>	<p><b>Advent 3 Open your heart and say “O”</b>          The Great O’s...The Majestic Names of God : O Wisdom etc</p> <p>God, you are Wisdom, you are Lord of Hosts and King of Kings; yet you are Emmanuel, God with us, here and now. You came as a small baby, born of those who cherished your Word, longed to see your Kingdom come and were faithful. Grant us that same longing and faithfulness to bring in your Kingdom in our day, in our place, for your glory.</p>	<p>O Wisdom: Proverbs 8:22-31          O Adonai: Exodus 3:1-12          O King: Ephesians 2:14-18          O Emmanuel: Isaiah 7:10-14          See Common Worship p211</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give thanks for artists, musicians, writers, for beauty, creativity, playfulness and joy</li> <li>• Pray for all preparing Christmas worship, Nativity plays; for broadcasters</li> <li>• for all who broker or keep peace between nations, ethnic groups &amp; political factions</li> <li>• Prepare to welcome Christ into all the activities of your life over Christmas</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dec 22</b></p>	<p><b>Advent 4 Born for all times &amp; all seasons</b>          “The Word was made flesh ..... and we have seen his glory....” (John 1)</p> <p>God, you commanded the Israelites to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord and the Red Sea opened in front of them. Grant that amid the busyness of Christmas we may find time to stand still and see you come to lead us into the freedom of your Kingdom in our time.</p>	<p>Matthew 1 : 18-25          Luke 2 : 4-20          Galatians 4 : 4-7          Philippians 2 : 2-11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Christmas prayer material and pass it on / send it with cards &amp; gifts</li> <li>• Pray for those who come to church for family events, socials and festivals – that all may draw closer to God</li> <li>• for ecumenical prayer ventures and shared works, prayer groups and cells</li> <li>• for those who will be working, away from their families or alone over Christmas</li> </ul>

# COME+SEE

*A person acts as leader;  
the other members join in the words in bold*

Father in Heaven,  
**mould me into Christlikeness; and stir up in me,  
the fire of your love.**

## ***Praise***

**Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus**

I look from afar and lo I see the power of God  
coming

**And a cloud covering the whole earth.**

Go out to meet Him, and say, "Tell us, are you  
He that should come to reign over your  
people Israel?"

**High and low, rich and poor, one with another.**

Go out to meet him, and say, "Are you he that  
should come?"

**Tell us, are you he?**

Stir up your strength, O Lord, and come,  
**Come to reign over your people Israel!**  
**Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus**

***Bible reading set for the week*** (see diary)

***The Prayers*** (see diary)

Watchful at all times, we pray  
**Father, may we see your kingdom come.**

Among the nations and in peace  
**Father, may we see your kingdom come.**

In the reading of your Word, in our prayer, our  
celebrations & fellowship  
**Father, may we see your kingdom come.**

As we tell and retell in art, in song and in drama  
the story of your coming among us  
**Father, may we see your kingdom come.**

In our care for the sick, the poor, the lost, the  
homeless, the displaced and the marginalised  
**Father, may we see your kingdom come.**

As with all the saints, we seek to carry your light  
into and within your world  
**Father, may we see your kingdom come.**

***The Collect for the Week*** (see diary)

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours now and for ever. Amen.

***The Come and See Prayer***

**Father in Heaven,  
mould me into Christlikeness;  
and stir up in me the fire of your love.**

**Holy Spirit, fill me with your power;  
and help me to tell of the love and salvation in  
Jesus of Nazareth**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father,  
renew my friendship in you;  
and help me to serve you with a quiet mind  
and a burning spirit.**

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
please keep me in the joy, simplicity, and  
compassion of your holy Gospel. Amen.**

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**May the Lord when he comes find us watching  
and waiting. Amen**

*"Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of  
splendid torch which I have got a hold of for  
the moment, and I want to make it burn as  
brightly as possible before handing it on to  
future generations."* George Bernard