Advent service

Welcome

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Advent is a season of expectation, we look forward to the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, His wondrous birth. The story of Advent is one of mystery, hope and thanksgiving and whilst it is an exciting time for children and young people, it can also be a time of pressure for parents and caregivers.

During this part of the Church year, decorations are simple and in the northern hemisphere, Advent falls during a season of darkness. Let Mothers' Union, that continues to fight against injustice, poverty and violence, bring light to those who are struggling.

To You Lord we lift up our souls; our God we have put our trust in You, You are God our Saviour; for You have we waited all the day long. (Psalm 25:1,4)

Collect

God of hope, when Christ Your Son appears, may He not find us asleep or idle, but active in His service and ready. **Amen**

© A New Zealand Prayer Book. Published by W. Collins. 1989

First Reading

Psalm 2:1-5
This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia,
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia**

Gospel reading

Matthew 24:36-44
This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

Affirmation of faith

We say together in faith
Holy, holy, holy
Is the Lord God almighty
Who was, and is, and is to come

We believe in God the Father, who created all things;
For by His will they were created
And have their being

We believe in God the Son, who was slain;
For His blood
He purchased us for God,
From every tribe and language,
From every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit
the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen

© The Archbishops' Council 2002 and published by Church House Publishing.

Intercessions

In joyful expectation of His coming, we pray to Jesus, saying Come Lord Jesus
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to Your Church as Lord and judge.
Help us to live in the light of Your coming and give us longing for Your Kingdom
Come Lord Jesus,
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations.
Before you rulers will stand in silence

Come Lord Jesus,
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to Your people with a message of victory and peace.
Give us the victory over death, temptation and evil.
Come Lord Jesus,
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us Saviour and Comforter.
Break into our lives,
where we struggle with sickness and distress
and set us free to serve You forever
Come Lord Jesus,
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us from heaven Lord Jesus,
with power and great glory,
lift us up to meet You with all Your saints and angels
to live with You forever
Come Lord Jesus,
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

© The Archbishops' Council 2002 and published by Church House Publishing.

Lord's prayer

Let us pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in the words of our Saviour taught us.

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy 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
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
forever and ever.
Amen.

Blessing

Our Lord says I am coming soon.
Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

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

May God Himself, the God of peace make you perfect and holy, and keep you all safe and blameless in spirit, soul and body for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ, Amen.