

## Advent - Preparing The Way

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas . It is described as a 'penitential' season, but this is usually misunderstood: penitence in Christian usage does not mean being sorry, it means auditing your life in God's presence and looking for chances to change and to grow.

Advent runs from the fourth Sunday before Christmas - Advent Sunday - to Christmas Eve. It therefore contains four Sundays, with the last week possibly being incomplete.

### *Sentence for Season*

A voice of one calling in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'

### *Creeds*

On my heart I set words

The word 'Fiat' of all creating and wonder

The word 'Ave' of all rescuing and vision

The word 'Veni' of all welcoming and glory On my heart I set words

A word to speak at my setting out

A word to speak in my journeying

A word to speak for my returning home On my heart I set the Word

Will He come from the North, bringing his own body as food for our lives?

Will He come from the East, leading the whole world on the way of salvation?

Will He come from the South, lighting a lamp in every heart?

Will He come from the West, from all that is truly holy?

He will come from among us, from an ordinary woman, offering holiness, light, safety and life to every human being, here, in this place, at this time.

My beloved is coming  
But I will not wait for him before I arise  
My beloved is coming  
But I will not wait for him before I speak  
My beloved is coming  
But I will not wait for him before I act  
My beloved is coming  
But I will not wait for him  
For I trust in my beloved  
And I know my beloved trusts in me

### *Prayers for Weeks*

#### **Advent Sunday**

Creator, Sustainer and Purpose of all that is, who sowed Hope in the deepest pit of sin, and brought that Hope to full growth in the birth, death and resurrection of your Son, help us to live in the shade of that Hope until you bring it to its greatest flowering in the return of your Son in glory, and our fulfilment in your eternal joy. Amen.

#### **Second Sunday in Advent**

Holy Lord and Sustainer of All, open our hearts to trust in your loving grace, that our eyes may be open to see you, our minds open to prepare for you, and our arms open to welcome you and all whom you love. Amen.

#### **Third Sunday in Advent**

Eternal God, who declared your creation of time and space to be eternally good, and who rejoiced to see the human race come forth to the wonder of life, give us the grace to rejoice in the prospect of your coming, the wonder of your birth, death and resurrection, and the joy of your eternal home. Amen.

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

Most Glorious God, who became a baby in your mother's arms, sharing in her love and wonder at a new birth, give us the gift of sharing in wonder at your new birth within us, at our resurrection to share in your glory, and at your love without limit or demand to us and to all your children. Amen.

### *Days of the Week*

#### **Sunday**

As I sweep my floor may I sweep your path  
As I wash my car may I wash my heart  
As I defrag my computer may I defrag my thinking  
As I weed my garden may I weed my life  
As I clip on my ID may I clip on your name  
As I clean my windows may I clean my vision  
So that I can welcome you into my home, my world and my heart.

#### **Monday**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who overturned the tables of the money changers in your temple, overturn the tables in the temple of our heart, that we may no longer be a den of thieves, but instead become a house of prayer. This we ask through your Name which alone should be precious to us. Amen

#### **Tuesday**

Your coming brings peace to all on earth  
The peace of a soul ransomed by your death  
The peace of a people reunited by your resurrection  
The peace of a body healed by our death  
The peace of a life renewed by our resurrection  
The peace of a heaven and earth recreated by your death, your resurrection, and your coming again in glory.

## Wednesday

I don't know your name  
I don't know if you can hear  
I don't know if you can understand  
I don't know if you know me  
And I don't care.  
All I know is that a light is shining  
And I want to go towards it.  
Shine on me!

## Thursday

When I help, and am robbed, help me to help the next time  
When I support, and am exploited, help me to support the next time  
When I listen, and am cheated, help me to listen the next time  
When I trust, and am betrayed, help me to trust the next time  
When I love, and am used, help me to love the next time.

## Friday

Jesus is coming!  
The watchman on the tower calls, Jesus is coming!  
The lark on the meadow calls, Jesus is coming!  
The cow in the stall calls, Jesus is coming!  
The lights in the street call, Jesus is coming!  
The gifts in the shops call, Jesus is coming!  
The ads on the telly call, Jesus is coming!  
The laughter of children calls, Jesus is coming!  
The posters in the chapels call, Jesus is coming!  
The light in our hearts calls, Jesus is coming!  
Come, Lord Jesus!

## Saturday

Come, Lord Jesus! But not here -  
Go next door, to the lonely

Go next door, to the struggling family  
Go next door, to the debt-prisoned  
Go next door, to the sick  
Go next door, to the hungry and thirsty  
Go next door, to the immigrant worker  
Because I want to meet you, and that's where I should be.

*Close*

Almighty God, whose Son came to your world in the form of a servant and was obedient even to death, help us to prepare for His coming to our hearts as our Lord by obedience to his word and by serving our neighbour for his sake; through that same Jesus Christ, our Rescuer, our High Priest and our eternal Hope. Amen.

*Ending Sentence*

Come, Lord Jesus!