

Advent

December



Intentions

We pray that we will be signs of God's love and mercy in our world.

For all of us to follow the example of Mary Our Good Mother, who trusted that the Word of the Lord would be fulfilled.

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in the shadow of poverty and suffering.

For what else shall we pray...

Opening Prayer

Dear God,
Help us see, as a gift, the waiting for the coming of Jesus.
Let us remember that waiting draws out the sweetness of things easily taken for granted.
May we accept the blessing of waiting as a time of preparation for Jesus Christ coming into the world.
Amen.



We Listen

The scripture readings of Advent invite us to recall our faith history, to assume the position of the expectant people of Israel, waiting in joyful hope for the coming of the Messiah. Seeing what is happening in our world today, we realise, like our ancestors of our faith, that we have a very real need of a Saviour. So, words like waiting, yearning, hoping, longing, listening, praying, and staying awake are Advent words, Advent concepts. (*Waiting in Hope*: www.famvin.org)

We live in liminal time, in the already and the not yet. Christ has come, and he will come again. We dwell in the meantime. We wait. (*Tish Harrison Warren, The Liturgy of the Ordinary, 104.*)

We Reflect

When we're waiting, we're "awake", we're on the alert for something or someone: news, a bus, a friend, an email, a phone call... While we wait, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear, we will experience God's presence in what is happening around us. And while we wait, we may see other waiting people, the elderly, parents, disabled people, teenagers and notice the look in their eyes, the joy, the pain, the hope, the despair; we may see beautiful things, ugly things; we may hear a kind word, a cruel word, a baby's cry, a shout of rage, a snatch of music... Such experiences are all part of the Advent journey.

"Waiting in hope" is the signature tune of Advent, and we all long to hear the melody of hope in our lives. (*The Tablet 26 November 2020*).

What will you do to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord?



We Respond

On a personal level, we may find a way to ease the tension of a fractured relationship or to ask forgiveness of someone hurt by a broken promise. Perhaps there are injustices on a wider scale, at home or further afield, on which we should take some action. Should care of the Earth assume a more important part in our thinking and action this Advent?

Would now be a good time to make a stand for what is right?



Closing Prayer

(The Wonder of Waiting by Debbie Dillow: Author at Sisters of Providence, December 3, 2016)

Dear God,

I sit in quiet,
My mind races ahead of me.
I let those thoughts pass,
waiting.
Listening in quiet
for that gentle voice of God.
Wondering when will I hear the whisper.
Waiting. Waiting.
Emmanuel, God with us
come be with me as I sit, waiting.
Wondrous waiting.

Mary our Good Mother...**pray for us**
St Marcellin Champagnat...**pray for us**
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop...**pray for us**
And let us always remember...**to pray for one another**

