

# an advent for all the church family **SERVICE**

## **1 We gather for worship**

*We say together the lines in bold type*

*Singing, Scripture sentence, greeting, introduction or prayer*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you**

*Either:*

Loving Lord,  
come to us and give us life,  
joy and peace,  
that we may praise you now with our lips  
and all the day long with our lives,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*or:*

Restore us, Lord God of hosts:  
**show us the light of your face,**  
turned towards us.

Will you not give us life again:  
**that your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your mercy, O Lord:  
**and grant us your salvation.**

Blessed is the King who comes  
in the name of the Lord!  
**Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**



## **2 We light the Advent candles**

*On the first Sunday in Advent, we light one red or purple candle and sing the first two verses of the carol; on the second we light two, and sing the first three verses, and so on until Christmas, when we light the white candle as well.*

The holly and the ivy  
are dancing in a ring,  
round the berry-bright red candles  
and the white and shining King.

O, one is for God's people,  
in every age and day.  
We are watching for his coming.  
We believe and we obey.

And two are for the prophets  
and for the light they bring.  
They are candles in the darkness,  
all alight for Christ the King.

And three for John the Baptist.  
He calls on us to sing:  
"O prepare the way for Jesus  
He is coming, Christ the King."

*Emily Chisholm (alt.) © 1972 Galliard Ltd.*

And four for Mother Mary.  
"I cannot see the way,  
but you promise me a baby,  
I believe you. I obey."

And Christ is in the centre,  
for this is his birthday,  
with the shining lights of Christmas  
singing, "He has come today."

*Tune: The Holly and the Ivy*

*We say together the prayer for the particular Sunday:*

**Advent 1:**

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
born in David's city of Bethlehem,  
born like him to be a king:  
Be born in our hearts this Advent,  
be king of our lives today.  
Amen.

**Advent 2:**

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
the prophets said  
you would bring peace  
and save your people in trouble.  
Give peace in our hearts today  
and show all the world  
God's love. Amen.

**Advent 3:**

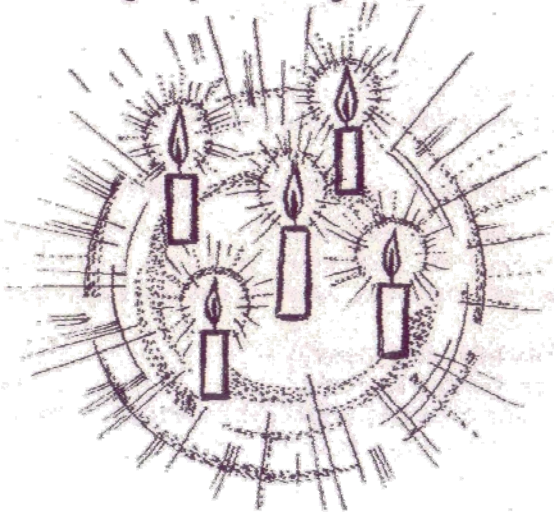
Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
John told the people to prepare,  
for you were very near.  
As Christmas grows closer  
day by day,  
help us to be ready  
to welcome you now. Amen.

**Advent 4:**

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
blessed is Gabriel who  
brought good news;  
blessed is Mary Mother of God.  
Bless your Church preparing  
for Christmas;  
and bless us your children who  
long for your coming. Amen.

**3 We confess our sins**

O King enthroned on high,  
you fill the earth with your glory:  
your name is holy,  
Lord God almighty.  
In our sinfulness we cry to you  
to cleanse us  
and take our guilt away,  
that our lips  
may speak your word,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



*The minister declares God's forgiveness.*

#### **4 We praise the Lord**

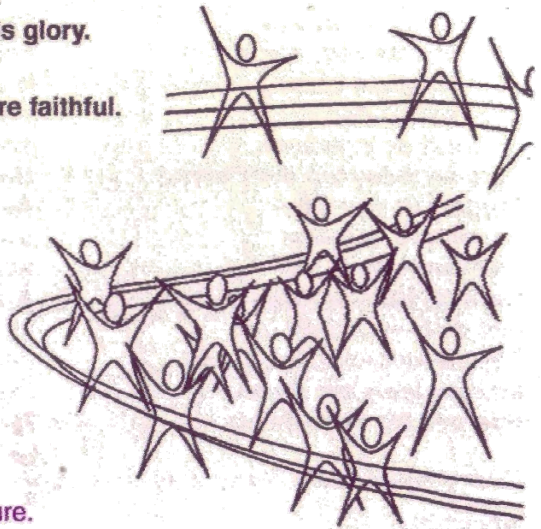
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:  
**may the whole earth be filled with his glory.**

Light has sprung up for the righteous:  
**and joyful gladness for those who are faithful.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Let us worship the Lord:  
**all praise to his name.**

Psalm and/or Songs



#### **5 We proclaim the Word**

A reading or readings from Holy Scripture.

*After each reading, silence, then the reader may say:*

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

Canticle or Songs

Sermon

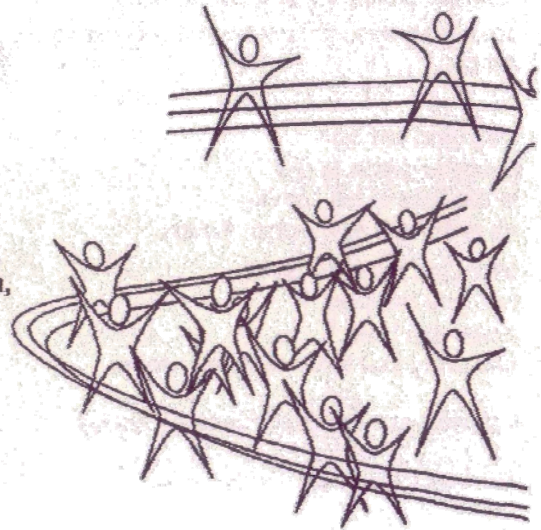
#### **6 We affirm the faith**

Let us declare our faith in God:  
**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**



## **7 We thank and pray**

Let us pray with confidence  
to the Father:

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us,  
we boldly pray:

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Other prayers follow. Some may have the response:*

Maranatha\*  
Come, Lord Jesus.

*The prayers end with the collect.*

## **8 We go out in God's strength**

May God the Father,  
who loved the world so much  
that he sent his only Son  
to come among us in great humility,  
open your eyes to look for his coming again.  
**Amen.**

May God the Son  
give you grace to live  
in the light of his coming  
as redeemer and judge. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit  
free you from sin,  
make you holy,  
and bring you to eternal life. **Amen.**

*A blessing or the Grace may be added.*

\*This Aramaic word means 'Our Lord, come'.