

## PRAYERS for ADVENT SUNDAY

### INTERCESSIONS

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid  
we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.

We pray for ...

Help us to live in the light of your coming  
and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.

We pray for ...

Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and com-  
forter.

We pray for ...

Break into our lives,  
where we struggle with sickness and dis-  
tress,

and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of  
our souls.

We remember ...

Give us with all the faithful departed  
a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power  
and great glory.

Lift us up to meet you,

that with *[N and]* all your saints and angels  
we may live and reign with you in your new  
creation.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;  
give new courage to your people,  
who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy  
of your kingdom

on earth as in heaven,  
where you live and reign with the Father and  
the Spirit,

one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### THE ADVENT COLLECT

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of  
darkness and to put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in  
great humility;

that on the last day, when he shall come  
again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

*First Sunday of Advent: HOPE*

*Across the benefice this year we are lighting  
the candles of our Advent Wreaths, in church  
and at home, to remind ourselves of the great  
virtues of Hope, Peace, Faith and Love – an  
old pattern – building towards our Christmas  
Joy. These words can be used, adapted by  
Kay Garlick from the writing of Vince Gilbert.*

Break forth into shouts of joy, O people of this  
battered, weary city!

For your comforter is coming to your aid,

And he will build you up anew,

And all the world shall shout his praises!

There is a light upon the mountain –

Sing his praises, all ye people!

Good news! For God has not abandoned  
this, his people.

He has not deserted this, his city,  
this our bruised, beloved Hereford.

He comes, He calls us,

To drive out the bad, Build up the good,  
Right here –

In Friars Street and Broomy Hill

In Ferndale Road, and anywhere we go –

He comes,

He challenges

He leads us

We light this Advent candle as a sign of  
hope:

God cares, God comes, God makes his  
world anew.

## **ANOTHER FORM OF INTERCESSION**

*for the coming of Christ's Kingdom in the world*

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom.  
Father, by your Spirit  
**bring in your kingdom.**

You sent your Son to bring good news to the poor,  
sight to the blind,  
freedom to captives,  
and salvation to your people:  
anoint us with your Spirit;  
rouse us to work in his name.  
Father, by your Spirit  
**bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to bring help to the poor  
and freedom to the oppressed.  
Father, by your Spirit  
**bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to tell the world  
the good news of your healing love.  
Father, by your Spirit  
**bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to those who mourn,  
to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.  
Father, by your Spirit  
**bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to proclaim that the time is here  
for you to save your people.  
Father, by your Spirit  
**bring in your kingdom.**

God of mercy,  
**you know us and love us  
and hear our prayer:  
keep us in the eternal fellowship of Jesus  
Christ our Saviour.  
Amen.**  
*cf Isaiah 61.1-3*

## **THE ADVENT PROSE**

*The Advent Prose uses texts from Isaiah, and is sung during the season of Advent. In its Latin form, it is attributed to Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, who lived in the fourth century. Those who love it may be able to sing it to themselves, or find recording to listen to.*

Drop down ye heavens from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord,  
neither remember iniquity for ever:  
thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness,  
Jerusalem a desolation:  
our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

Drop down ye heavens from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,  
and all we do fade as a leaf:  
and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away;  
thou hast hid thy face from us:  
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Drop down ye heavens from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,  
and my servant whom I have chosen;  
that ye may know me and believe me:  
I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour:  
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Drop down ye heavens from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,  
my salvation shall not tarry:  
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:  
Fear not, for I will save thee:  
for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Drop down ye heavens from above,

and let the skies pour down righteousness.