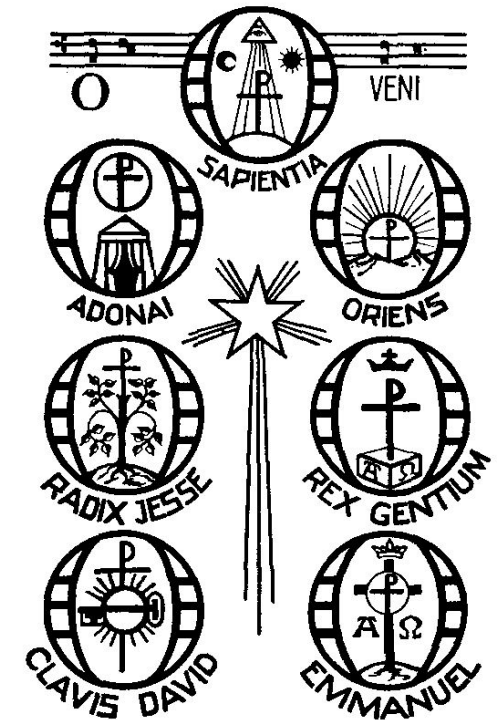


Daily readings for Advent and Christmas 2009

'Advent' comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means 'coming', and is a period of preparation and anticipation for the nativity of Christ. Advent is the first season of the new church year, and begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, thus giving four weeks to the season or, at least, four Sundays.

Although Advent was originally a period of preparation for the celebration of the nativity of Christ, what is termed the **First Coming**, another strand developed from the early Middle Ages, which was consideration of the **Second Coming**, thought of almost exclusively in terms of the Last Judgement, when secret sins will be brought to light and wickedness rooted out, and the faithful people of God saved and received into everlasting happiness.



The Second Sunday of Christmas

Prayer

God of community,
whose call is more insistent than ties of
family or blood:
may we so respect and love
those whose lives are linked with ours
that we fail not in loyalty to you,
but make choices according to your will,
through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Sunday 3 January

The Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31.7-14 or *Ecclesiasticus 24.1-12*

• *Psalms 147.13-21* or Canticle:

Wisdom 10.15-21 • *Ephesians 1.3-14* •

John 1.[1-9,] 10-18

‘You have been stamped with the seal of
the Holy Spirit of the Promise, who is the
pledge of our inheritance.’

(*Ephesians 1.13b-14a*)

Monday 4 January

1 John 3.7-10 • *Psalms 98.1, 8-16* •

John 1.35-42

‘It was to undo all that the devil has done
that the Son of God appeared.’

(*1 John 3.8*)

Tuesday 5 January

1 John 3.11-21 • *Psalms 100* • *John 1.43-51*

“You will see heaven open and the angels
of God ascending and descending over
the Son of man.” (*John 1.51*)



19 December – *O Radix Jesse*

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you
kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their
prayer : Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

cf Isaiah 11.10; 45.14; 52.15; Romans 15.12

20 December – *O Clavis David*

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no
one can shut; you shut and no one can open : Come and lead the
prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and
the shadow of death.

cf Isaiah 22.22; 42.7

21 December – *O Oriens*

O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of
righteousness : Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.

cf Malachi 4.2

22 December – *O Rex Gentium*

O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making
both one : Come and save the human race, which you fashioned
from clay.

cf Isaiah 28.16; Ephesians 2.14

23 December – *O Emmanuel*

O Emmanuel, our King and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations
and their Saviour : Come and save us, O Lord our God.

cf Isaiah 7.14

Daily Prayer – A short service for daily prayer, to be used either
alone or in groups, is included in this leaflet.

Readings – The readings listed in this leaflet are the regular readings
used daily in many Christian churches for this season. There are
three strands woven together through the season: the coming of
Christ long ago in Bethlehem; the coming of Christ to us now where
we are; and the coming of Christ at the end of time. May our
approach to Christmas through daily prayer, Bible reading, and
worship lead us to rejoice ever more profoundly in God’s love for us
in his incarnate Son, Jesus Christ.

Christmas



Prayer

God our beloved,
born of a woman's body,
you came that we might look upon you,
and handle you with our own hands.
May we so cherish one another in our
bodies that we may also be touched by
you; through the Word made flesh, Jesus
Christ, Amen.

Readings

Friday 25 December Christmas Day

*Isaiah 52.7-10 • Psalm 98 • Hebrews 1.1-4
[5-12] • John 1.1-14*

'But to all who received him, who
believed in his name, he gave power to
become children of God, who were born
not of blood or of the will of the flesh or
of the will of man, but of God.'

(John 1.12-13)

Saturday 26 December Stephen, Deacon, first Martyr

*2 Chronicles 24.20-22 or Acts 7.51-60 •
Psalm 119.161-168 • Acts 7.51-60 or
Galatians 2.16b-20 • Matthew 10.17-22*
'Rulers have persecuted me without a
cause, but my heart stands in awe of your
word.' (Psalm 119.161)

The First Sunday of Christmas



Prayer

Loving Word of God, you have shown us
the fullness of your glory in taking
human flesh. Fill us, in our bodily life,
with your grace and truth;
that our pleasure may be boundless,
and our integrity complete,
in your name, Amen.

Readings

Sunday 27 December The First Sunday of Christmas John, Apostle and Evangelist

*Exodus 33.7-11a • Psalm 117 • 1 John 1 •
John 21.19b-23*

- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 'Who is this King of glory?' *
'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

Psalm 24

**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.**

THE WORD OF GOD

PSALMODY AND READING(S)

See below for psalms and readings for the day.

ANTIPHON

Lord Jesus, you are the one who is to come, *
the one whom we await with longing hearts.

Or, from 17 December, see antiphons printed above, pages 2-3.

CANTICLE : A SONG OF GOD'S HERALD

- 1 Go up to a high mountain, herald of good tidings to Zion; *
lift up your voice with strength, herald of good tidings to Jerusalem.
- 2 Lift up your voice, fear not; *
say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!'
- 3 See, the Lord God comes with might, *
and his arm rules for him.
- 4 Behold, his reward is with him, *
and his recompense before him.
- 5 God will feed his flock like a shepherd, *
and gather the lambs in his arms;
- 6 He will carry them in his breast, *
and gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 40. 9-11

The Third Week of Advent



Prayer

God our healer,
whose mercy is like a refining fire:
touch us with your judgement,
and confront us with your tenderness;
that, being comforted by you,
we may reach out to a troubled world,
through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Readings

Sunday 13 December

The Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3.14-20 • Cantic: *Isaiah 12.2-6* or *Psalm 146.4-10* • *Philippians 4.4-7* • *Luke 3.7-18*

‘[John said] “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming ... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”’ (Luke 3.16)

Monday 14 December

Numbers 24.2-7,15-17 • *Psalm 25.3-8* • *Matthew 21.23-27*

‘Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.’ (Psalm 25.4)

Tuesday 15 December

Zephaniah 3.1-2,9-13 • *Psalm 34.1-6,21-22* • *Matthew 21.28-32*

‘At that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord.’ (Zephaniah 3.9)

Wednesday 16 December

Genesis 49.2,8-10 • *Psalm 72.1-5,18-19* • *Matthew 1.1-17*

“She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1.21)

Thursday 17 December

Jeremiah 23.5-8 • *Psalm 72.1, 2, 12, 13, 18-20* • *Matthew 1.18-24*

‘When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do.’ (Matthew 1.24)

Friday 18 December

Judges 13.2-7, 24-25 • *Psalm 71.3-8* • *Luke 1.5-25*

‘On you have I relied since my birth since my mother’s womb you have been my portion, the constant theme of my praise.’ (Psalm 71.6)

Saturday 19 December

Isaiah 7.10-14 • *Psalm 24.1-6* • *Luke 1.26-38*

‘In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.’ (Luke 1.26-27)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

As we look for the coming of your kingdom, Lord, teach us to pray:

R/ **Our Father ...**

THE CONCLUSION

THE BLESSING

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

R/ **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

R/ **Amen.**

The First Week of Advent



Prayer

God our deliverer, whose approaching birth still shakes the foundations of our world: may we so wait for your coming with eagerness and hope that we embrace without terror the labour pangs of the new age, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Readings

Sunday 29 November The First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33.14-16 • Psalm 25.1-9 • 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13 • Luke 21.25-36
“Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away.” (Luke 21.33)

Monday 30 November Andrew the Apostle

Isaiah 2.1-5 • Psalm 122 • Matthew 8.5-11
‘For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.’ (Psalm 122.9)

Tuesday 1 December
Isaiah 11.1-10 • Psalm 72.1-4,18-19 • Luke 10.21-24

‘His judgement will not be by appearances, his verdict not given on hearsay.’ (Isaiah 10.3)

Wednesday 2 December
Isaiah 25.6-10a • Psalm 23 • Matthew 15.29-37

‘The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.’ (Psalm 23.1)

Thursday 3 December
Isaiah 26.1-6 • Psalm 118.18-27a • Matthew 7.21,24-27

‘It is not anyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord”, who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.’ (Matthew 7.21)

Friday 4 December
Isaiah 29.17-24 • Psalm 27.1-4,16-17 • Matthew 9.27-31

‘The lowly will find ever more joy in the Lord and the poorest of people will delight in the Holy One of Israel’ (Isaiah 29.19)

Saturday 5 December
Isaiah 30.19-21,23-26 • Psalm 146.4-9 • Matthew 9.35—10.1,6-8

‘The Lord protects the stranger, he sustains the orphan and widow.’ (Psalm 146.9)

The Second Week of Advent



Prayer

O God our disturber, whose speech is pregnant with power and whose word will be fulfilled: may we know ourselves unsatisfied with all that distorts your truth, and make our hearts attentive to your liberating voice, in Jesus Christ, Amen.

Readings

Sunday 6 December The Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5.1-9 or Malachi 3.1-4 • Cantic: Luke 1.68-79 • Philippians 1.3-11 • Luke 3.1-6

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” (Luke 3.4)

Monday 7 December
Isaiah 35 • Psalm 85.7-13 • Luke 5.17-26
‘Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to the

faint-hearted, “Be strong! Do not be afraid. Here is your God, vengeance is coming, divine retribution; he is coming to save you.” (Isaiah 35.3-4)

Tuesday 8 December
Isaiah 40.1-11 • Psalm 96.1,10-13 • Matthew 18.12-14

‘With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth.’ (Psalm 96.13)

Wednesday 9 December
Isaiah 40.25-31 • Psalm 103.8-13 • Matthew 11.28-30

‘Jesus said, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.’ (Matthew 11.28)

Thursday 10 December
Isaiah 41.13-20 • Psalm 145.1,8-13 • Matthew 11.11-15

‘The oppressed and the needy search for water and there is none, their tongue is parched with thirst. I, the Lord will answer them.’ (Isaiah 41.17)

Friday 11 December
Isaiah 48.17-19 • Psalm 1 • Matthew 11.16-19

‘It was towards John that all the prophecies of the prophets and of the law were leading’ (Matthew 11.13)

Saturday 12 December
Ecclesiasticus 48.1-4,9-11 or 2 Kings 2.9-12 • Psalm 80.1-4,18-19 • Matthew 17.10-13
‘God of hosts, bring us back, let your face shine on us and we shall be safe.’ (Psalm 80.19)

**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.**

THE PRAYERS

Lord God, your Son came to earth to save us:
grant us faith and hope in him.

He came to strengthen us in holiness:
Lord, make us holy in spirit, soul and body, that we may rejoice in his
advent.

As you have created the world and all who live in it,
so redeem the work of your hands at the coming of your Son our Saviour.

Christ our King will come to judge and to save:
fill the peoples with reverence and grant the rulers of the nations humility
before you.

You have given us the law of love in our hearts by your Holy Spirit:
bind us together in fellowship and unity for the day of salvation.

The Light of Christ shines in the darkness:
banish all the works of darkness and protect us at times of temptation.

Keep us faithful and make us fruitful, as we wait in expectation for the
coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ with all his angels, and prepare us for
the perfect peace and joy of his kingdom with all your holy ones.

THE COLLECT

The Collect of the day is said – see dated weeks below – or the following

Come, Lord Jesus Christ,
do not delay:
make us watchful and keep us faithful,
and by your coming
raise us to the joy of your kingdom ...

The Fourth Week of Advent



Prayer

O unknown God, whose presence is
announced not among the impressive but
in obscurity: come, overshadow us now,
and speak to our hidden places;
that, entering your darkness with joy,
we may choose to co-operate with you,
through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Readings

Sunday 20 December The Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Micah 5.2-5a • Cantic: Magnificat or
Psalm 80.1-8 • Hebrews 10.5-10 • Luke
1.39-45 [46-55]*

‘[Elizabeth exclaimed to Mary] : “Blessed
are you among women and blessed is the
fruit of your womb”. (Luke 1.42)

Tuesday 21 December

*Zephaniah 3.14-18 • Psalm 33.1-4, 11-12,
20-21 • Luke 1.39-45*

““Blessed is she who believed that there
would be a fulfilment of what was spoken
to her by the Lord”.’ (Luke 1.45)

Tuesday 22 December

1 Samuel 1.24-28 • Psalm 113 •

Luke 1.46-56

‘Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the
lowliness of his servant.” (Luke 1.46-48)

Wednesday 23 December

Malachi 3.1-4, 4.5-6 • Psalm 25.3-9 •

Luke 1.57-66

““The Lord you are seeking will suddenly
enter his Temple; and the angel of the
covenant whom you are longing for, yes,
he is coming”, says the Lord of hosts.’
(Malachi 3.1)

Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve

*2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-11, 16 • Psalm 89.2,
21-27 • Acts 13.16-26 • Luke 1.67-79*

““Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he
has looked with favour on his people and
redeemed them.” (Luke 1.68)

Daily Prayer in Advent

THE PREPARATION

V/ O Lord, open our lips

R/ **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

V/ Our Sovereign and Saviour draws near.

R/ **Come, let us adore the Lord.**

**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.**

THE OPENING CANTICLE

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, *
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas *
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, *
or who can rise up in his holy place?'
- 4 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, *
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, or sworn an oath to a lie;
- 5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, *
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him, *
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 'Who is the King of glory?' *
'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

'We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life.' (1 John 1.1)

Monday 28 December

The Holy Innocents

Jeremiah 31.15-17 • Psalm 124 • 1

Corinthians 1.26-29 • Matthew 2.13-18

'Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.' (Matthew 2.14-15)

Tuesday 29 December

1 John 2.3-11 • Psalm 96.1-4 • Luke 2.22-35

'Bring an offering and enter his courts, adore the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.' (Psalm 96.8b-9)

Wednesday 30 December

1 John 2.12-17 • Psalm 96.7-10 • Luke 2.36-40

'When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Nazareth. And as the child grew to maturity, he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.' (Luke 2.39-40)

Thursday 31 December

1 John 2.18-21 • Psalm 96.1,11-13 • John 1.1-18

'You have been anointed by the Holy One, and have all received knowledge.' (1 John 2.20)

Friday 1 January

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Numbers 6.22-27 • Psalm 8 •

Galatians 4.4-7 • Luke 2.15-21

'What are human beings that you spare a thought for them, or the child of Adam that you care for him? Yet you have made him little less than a god.' (Psalm 8.4-5a)

Saturday 2 January

1 John 2.22-28 • Psalm 98.1-4 • John 1.19-28

'Remain in him now, children, so that when he appears we may be fearless, and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.' (1 John 2.28)

This theme of judgement has overlain the season, giving it a more penitential aspect, which is the reason why purple is the liturgical colour for Advent. However, purple is also a regal colour; Tyrian purple was an incredibly expensive dye in the ancient world, extracted from molluscs – several thousand of which were needed to dye one robe.

One of the traditions of the prayers of the days leading up to Christmas is the **Advent Antiphons** or '**O**' **Antiphons**. These are refrains sung before and after the **Magnificat** (or Song of Mary), a canticle that is used daily in Evening Prayer throughout the year. The origin of these particular refrains is not known precisely but they are referred to by Boethius (480–524/5) so seem to have been in use at least by this time.

If you have looked at the calendar in a prayer book you may have noticed the phrase 'O Sapientia' on 17 December (or 16 December in the *Book of Common Prayer*); this is the first of the 'O' antiphons, *O Wisdom*, each of which gives a title for the Messiah. They have been incorporated into the popular Advent hymn *O come, O come, Emmanuel* by J. M. Neale. These antiphons can helpfully be used in personal devotions to reflect on the nature of Christ as Christmas approaches:

17 December – *O Sapientia*

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other mightily, and sweetly ordering all things : Come and teach us the way of prudence.

cf Ecclesiasticus 24.3; Wisdom 8.1

18 December – *O Adonai*

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai : Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

cf Exodus 3.2; 24.12

The Epiphany



Prayer

O God, the source of all insight, whose coming was revealed to the nations not among men of power but on a woman's lap: give us grace to seek you where you may be found, that the wisdom of this world may be humbled and discover your unexpected joy, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Tuesday 6 January

The Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6 • Psalm 72. [1-9,] 10-15 •

Ephesians 3.1-12 • Matthew 2.1-12

'The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage.' (Matthew 2.10-11)

Notes: The weekly prayers used in this leaflet are from *All Desires Known* / Janet Morley. – Expanded edition. – London : SPCK, 1992. © Janet Morley 1988, 1992 • The weekday readings are from the Daily Eucharistic Lectionary; Sunday readings are from Year C of the Common Worship Lectionary • Daily Prayer version compiled by Colin Lunt • Psalm 24 and the canticle 'A Song of God's Herald' are from *Common Worship : Services and Prayers for the Church of England* copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 • Cover illustration: anonymous; other illustrations: Clemens Schmidt • CPL • Advent daily 2009.lwp • 2009/11/21