

Prayers of the People for a Seven-Week Advent

By the Rev. Canon Frank and Victoria Logue

Advent I (November 6, 2011)

Celebrant: Jesus taught us to keep the lamps of our hearts ready to burn brightly on his return. As we prepare to nourish our souls in receiving the Sacrament, let us be ever mindful of those who remain in darkness, praying for the church, the world and all in need saying, Come Lord Jesus.

Reader: Radiate this and every church with your being that we here encouraged by your grace may be a light to those in darkness. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Enlighten _____ our president and all in authority that this nation may reflect your glory on earth as it is in heaven. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Ignite those who live in every land to care for your creation as a gift we have received in trust for our children and our children's children. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Shine the light of your love into this community (town, county, etc. _____) that those who live among us may know your grace and mercy. For this we pray.

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Illumine O Lord, with the light of your presence, the dark night of suffering for the sick, the dying, the jobless, and all who are alone or in need. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Enkindle our hearts with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection, knowing that those who died in you will rise, and give them the grace with _____ and all your saints to meet you in the air at your coming. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: The prayers and thanksgivings of the congregation may be offered either silently or aloud. [pause for the congregation then conclude...] For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Celebrant: Holy God, now we see through glass darkly, but you see clearly and so we trust not in the light of our will, but in your perfect will. Grant us these prayers we offer in our brokenness as we trust in your grace and mercy knowing that you will do more than we could ask for or imagine. *Amen.*

Advent II (November 13, 2011)

Celebrant: God taught us that Jesus would return like a thief in the night and that we are to therefore remain ready and watchful. As we approach the day of his coming, we offer these prayers and praises for a world as yet unprepared for his return saying, Come Lord Jesus.

Reader: Awaken this and every church with the power of your presence that we may become your hands and feet at work for the Gospel in a world yet asleep to your mercy and love. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Stir the leaders of this nation with a passion for integrity and justice giving them the grace to see all people through the eyes of your wisdom. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Rouse the people of the earth with your compassion for all that you have made that we may care for all creation as stewards of your abundant providence. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Enliven all who live in this community (town, county, etc. _____) with mutual concern for our neighbors that we may so live into love for one another that we are drawn closer to you. For this we pray.

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Rise up within the dying, the sick, the suffering and all in need, the hope of salvation which brings peace in this world and new life in the world to come. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Aware of the times and the seasons, we trust that the day of the Lord will not surprise those who died putting their faith in you but they will wake, with _____ and all your saints, to the joy of your coming in glory. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: The prayers and thanksgivings of the congregation may be offered either silently or aloud. [pause for the congregation then conclude...] For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Celebrant: Gracious God, come into our awareness as you have come into our hearts and grant these prayers and those that we do not yet dare name, giving us the courage to live always as to be ready for your coming. *Amen.*

Advent III (November 20, 2011)

Celebrant: Jesus taught us that in giving food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, welcome to the stranger, clothing to the naked, caring to the sick, and visiting those in prison, we are doing these things to him. We now approach the throne of his glory offering our prayers on behalf of all in need saying, Come Lord Jesus.

Reader: Knowing Jesus taught us to make our love for him real by caring for the least of these, may the Church reflect that care for all. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Trusting that we will one day be gathered before the throne of glory where all know Christ as King, may this nation and every nation reflect the perfect justice of the age to come which is far above all rule and authority and power and dominion. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Anticipating that your spirit will guide us into being your hands and feet in the world, we ask that the eyes of our hearts be enlightened to see the needs of those around us. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Loving our neighbors as we love ourselves we bid your compassion for this community (town, county, etc. _____) and all who live in it. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Hoping that we may show your love to the lost, the lonely, the left out, we ask your forgiveness and healing for the sick, the dying, and all in any need or trouble. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Expecting that all who die putting their trust in you will receive the riches of your glorious inheritance among the saints we remember the departed and entreat your mercy for them and grace for all who mourn. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: The prayers and thanksgivings of the congregation may be offered either silently or aloud. [pause for the congregation then conclude...] For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Celebrant: We offer these prayers and praises merciful Lord trusting not in our own righteousness, but in your great goodness. Grant our prayers according to your will that we may grow in your grace and love as we await the day of your rule in a kingdom without end. *Amen.*

Advent IV (November 27, 2011)

Celebrant: Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord stands firm. Gathered in the light of his word while living in a world ever darkening we join together to pray saying, Come Lord Jesus.

Reader: For the witness of the Church that we may boldly proclaim the Gospel and be found blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: For the justice of your coming kingdom to be reflected in this and every land. We pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: For a love of your creation to so inspire the hearts of all peoples that we may care for all that you have made as you care for us. We pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: For this community (town, county, etc. _____) and all who live in it that we may see the light of your countenance and so be saved. We pray.

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: For the sick, the suffering, the dying, the lost, the left out, and all in need of your forgiveness, we bid your mercy. Knowing that we all are but broken vessels, may we come to know the hands of the potter who is at work in our lives to bring about healing and wholeness. We pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: For the departed who have been called into the fellowship of your Son, we beseech you to grant that they may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in your heavenly kingdom. We pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: The prayers and thanksgivings of the congregation may be offered either silently or aloud. [pause for the congregation then conclude...] We pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Celebrant: In the midst of a world turned from you O God, we come with these prayers on our hearts. Grant them according to your will and assist us with your grace to cast away the works of darkness and to shine the light of Christ through our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Advent V (December 4, 2011)

Celebrant: John the Baptist cried out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord." As we prepare to celebrate his first advent in Bethlehem, we prepare for his second coming in glory. Making room in our hearts for him to come more fully, let us pray for ourselves, for one another and all in need saying, Come Lord Jesus.

Reader: That the Church may comfort the people with words of healing and peace while challenging the faithful to prepare the way of the Lord in their lives and in the world. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: That all in authority in this and every nation may speak peace to their people that all may flourish and the land will yield it increase. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: That all who live in this community (town, county, _____ etc.) may be found by him at peace. For this we pray.

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: That the many people who call on the one name of our Lord Jesus Christ yet live divided by that same faith may be gathered together as lambs in his arms that there will be one flock and one shepherd. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: That the homeless, the jobless, the friendless, and all who live in want may find the wholeness that comes from your peace alone, and that the sick, the suffering, and the dying may be assured by your comforting presence. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: That all the faithful departed may know the joy of the new heavens and a new earth where righteousness is at home. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: The prayers and thanksgivings of the congregation may be offered either silently or aloud. [pause for the congregation then conclude...] For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Celebrant: Merciful God, as we prepare for your coming, we offer these prayers and praises trusting that in your mercy and goodness you will answer the cries of our hearts not as we wish, but as you know to be best for us and for all we pray. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Advent VI *(December 11, 2011)*

Celebrant: Clothed in garments of salvation we gather our prayers and praises offering them to the one who cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly saying, Come Lord Jesus.

Reader: Proclaiming liberty to the captives may the Church bring forgiveness, healing, and good news to all held prisoner to sin and suffering. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Opening the way to freedom and peace, may the leaders of our nation rule justly and mercifully, that they may say among the nations the Lord has done great things for them. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Giving thanks in all circumstances, we pray for all creation hoping for the day in which this world reflects your glory. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Rejoicing in your power, we pray for your presence to be felt in this community (town, county, etc. _____) and by all who live in it. For this we pray.

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Holding on our hearts the sick, the dying, the troubled, and those in adversity, we beseech you to bind the brokenhearted, bringing your healing, wholeness and peace. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: Trusting in your compassion, we pray for those who have died and we bid you to comfort all who mourn, giving them a garland instead of ashes and the oil of gladness instead of mourning. For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: The prayers and thanksgivings of the congregation may be offered either silently or aloud. [pause for the congregation then conclude...] For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Celebrant: Loving God, our spirits rejoice in you as we bring our thanksgiving and prayers before you remembering your promise of mercy which you made to your children forever. Grant our prayers according to your will through your son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Advent VII (December 18, 2011)

Celebrant: Following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we too are to respond, "Here am I, let it be with me according to your word." As we approach the celebration of our Lord's birth, we offer prayers on behalf of ourselves, one another, and all in need praying that God's will be done saying, Come Lord Jesus.

Reader: For the Church, that it may be strengthened by the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to bring about the obedience of faith, we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: For this nation and all in authority, that peace and justice may reign and we shall have rest from all enemies, we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: For the peoples of the world that the lowly might be lifted up and the hungry filled with good things, we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: For this community (town, county, etc. _____) and all who live in it, that the love you taught us to have for one another might be made known. For this we pray.

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: For the dying, the sick, the prisoners, the hungry, the homeless, and all in need or trouble, that you will visit them with your healing presence, knowing that nothing is impossible with you, we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: For (_____ and all) those who have died, and for your comfort for (_____) all who mourn for them, we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Reader: The prayers and thanksgivings of the congregation may be offered either silently or aloud. [pause for the congregation then conclude...] For this we pray,

People: Come Lord Jesus

Celebrant: Merciful God, we thank you for the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages that came first to your servant Mary, and has now come to us in your most dear son. We offer these prayers and thanksgivings, trusting that in your loving kindness you will grant them according to your will. This we ask through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Permission is given to use these prayers freely, adapt as desired and give no credit to the source.
-Frank and Victoria (<http://loosecanon.georgiaepiscopal.org>)*