



Advent 2022

***A journey with
Isaiah***

Staff Prayer

Our Program

- This Advent we are going to be praying with the readings from each of the Sundays of Advent.
- Our focus will be on the first reading of each week, which is taken from the Prophet Isaiah.
- These readings invite the listener to consider justice and hope, especially from the perspective of those most in need of them.
- The readings, paint the picture of the deep longing or yearning for a world that is inspired by God.

Isaiah?

Prophets from 3 different periods in Israel's history contributed to the writing of the Book of Isaiah.

The period covered is from 742 to 500 BCE

Themes in Isaiah include faithfulness to God, justice for the poor and hope for the future.

These themes reflect the context of the time including when the people were living in exile in Babylon. Therefore, the writer was trying to inspire the people to live in hope and to be assured of God's love and that their lives would improve.

From The Catholic Youth Bible, 2011, St. Mary's Press Winona



Week One: *Let us Walk in the Light of the Lord*

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge with humility and gratitude the traditional custodians, of this land.

They call us to remember their ancestors

Who in their ancient wisdom

Saw the sacredness and wonder of all creation and respected it.

May the Great Creator life giver of all, move now in our lives.

That we may be set free to celebrate together the antiquity of this land and its First People, caring for both in the future.

By Aunty Betty Pike

Invitation to Prayer

WEEK ONE: *Let us Walk in the Light of the Lord*

Become aware of how you are today, listen to what your body is telling you.

If you feel comfortable, I invite you to participate in today's prayer as we begin our journey of Advent.

Let us become aware of God's presence. In the name of The Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen

Light the first Advent candle

We Gather....

Creator God

This Advent wake us up! Stir our hearts and hands into action and activity. Show us the way to be a light to all in need. Encourage and empower us to live and be God's Dream of justice, love and compassion for all people.

We ask this through Jesus our brother.

Amen

(adapted from Rina Wintour)



First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 2: 1-4

We Listen....

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Lectio Divina (print this slide out for each participant)

Read (lectio)

Begin by slowly and meditatively reading your Scripture passage out loud. Listen for a particular word or phrase that speaks to you at this moment and sit with it for a time.

Meditate (meditatio) - Read the same passage a second time. As you re-engage the text, let the word or phrase that stood out become your invitation to dialogue with God. Allow the word or phrase to wash over you and permeate your thoughts and feelings.

Pray (oratio) - Read the text a third time. What is God saying to you in these words? What do you want to say to God? What feelings do these words raise up in you? Share your answers with God.

Contemplate (contemplatio)

Read the text a final time. As you do, release the word or phrase you have been praying with. Be still and rest in God's embrace. What gift has God given you to take away from this prayer? To what action might God be inviting you? Thank God for this gift and invitation as you conclude your prayer.

Adapted from <https://www.catholic.sg/the-practice-of-lectio-divina/>

For us today....

Individually or as a group reflect upon....

What are the “swords” and “spears” in our lives, in our world today?

What is your vision of transformation?

In your thinking what needs to transform in our world today?

We go Forth....

Creator God

This Advent, we recall Your dream for us to become a community of care and compassion, breaking forth a new reality for all creation as Isaiah invited us to do. Encourage and empower us to live and be God's Dream for one another and the whole earth community. We ask this prayer through Christ the Lord.

Amen



Week Two: *The Spirit of the LORD shall rest*

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge with humility and gratitude the traditional custodians, of this land.

They call us to remember their ancestors

Who in their ancient wisdom

Saw the sacredness and wonder of all creation and respected it.

May the Great Creator life giver of all, move now in our lives.

That we may be set free to celebrate together the antiquity of this land and its First People, caring for both in the future.

By Aunty Betty Pike

Invitation to Prayer

WEEK TWO: ***The Spirit of the Lord Shall Rest***

Become aware of how you are today, listen to what your body is telling you.

If you feel comfortable, I invite you to participate in today's prayer.

Let us become aware of God's presence. In the name of The Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen

Light the second Advent candle.

We Gather....

Creator God

This Advent wake us up! Stir our hearts and hands into action and activity. Show us the way to be a light to all in need. Encourage and empower us to live and be God's Dream of justice, love and compassion for all people.

We ask this through Jesus our brother.

Amen

(adapted from Rina Wintour)

Second Sunday of Advent

We listen...

Isaiah 11: 1-3

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Lectio Divina (print this slide out for each participant)

Read (lectio)

Begin by slowly and meditatively reading your Scripture passage out loud. Listen for a particular word or phrase that speaks to you at this moment and sit with it for a time.

Meditate (meditatio) - Read the same passage a second time. As you re-engage the text, let the word or phrase that stood out become your invitation to dialogue with God. Allow the word or phrase to wash over you and permeate your thoughts and feelings.

Pray (oratio) - Read the text a third time. What is God saying to you in these words? What do you want to say to God? What feelings do these words raise up in you? Share your answers with God.

Contemplate (contemplatio)

Read the text a final time. As you do, release the word or phrase you have been praying with. Be still and rest in God's embrace. What gift has God given you to take away from this prayer? To what action might God be inviting you? Thank God for this gift and invitation as you conclude your prayer.

Adapted from <https://www.catholic.sg/the-practice-of-lectio-divina/>

For us today....

Individually or as a group reflect upon....

What does our world need to grow and nurture?

What are the places of unexpected growth that we encounter?

How may the places of “unexpected growth” reveal something of the Spirit of God?

We go Forth....

Creator God

This Advent, we recall Your dream for us to become a community of care and compassion, breaking forth a new reality for all creation as Isaiah invited us to do. Encourage and empower us to live and be God's Dream for one another and the whole earth community. We ask this prayer through Christ the Lord.

Amen



Week Three: *For waters shall break forth in the wilderness*

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge with humility and gratitude the traditional custodians, of this land.

They call us to remember their ancestors

Who in their ancient wisdom

Saw the sacredness and wonder of all creation and respected it.

May the Great Creator life giver of all, move now in our lives.

That we may be set free to celebrate together the antiquity of this land and its First People, caring for both in the future.

By Aunty Betty Pike

Invitation to Prayer

WEEK THREE: ***For Waters Shall Break Forth in the Wilderness***

Become aware of how you are today, listen to what your body is telling you.

If you feel comfortable, I invite you to participate in today's prayer.

Let us become aware of God's presence. In the name of The Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen

Light the third Advent candle.

We Gather....

Creator God

This Advent wake us up! Stir our hearts and hands into action and activity. Show us the way to be a light to all in need. Encourage and empower us to live and be God's Dream of justice, love and compassion for all people.

We ask this through Jesus our brother

Amen

(adapted from Rina Wintour)

Third Sunday of Advent

We listen...

Isaiah 35: 5-6

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;



Lectio Divina (print this slide out for each participant)

Read (lectio)

Begin by slowly and meditatively reading your Scripture passage out loud. Listen for a particular word or phrase that speaks to you at this moment and sit with it for a time.

Meditate (meditatio) - Read the same passage a second time. As you re-engage the text, let the word or phrase that stood out become your invitation to dialogue with God. Allow the word or phrase to wash over you and permeate your thoughts and feelings.

Pray (oratio) - Read the text a third time. What is God saying to you in these words? What do you want to say to God? What feelings do these words raise up in you? Share your answers with God.

Contemplate (contemplatio)

Read the text a final time. As you do, release the word or phrase you have been praying with. Be still and rest in God's embrace. What gift has God given you to take away from this prayer? To what action might God be inviting you? Thank God for this gift and invitation as you conclude your prayer.

Adapted from <https://www.catholic.sg/the-practice-of-lectio-divina/>

For us today....

Individually or as a group reflect upon....

What are our blind spots?

What don't we hear? What could we be missing to REALLY see or hear?

In your dreaming what are “the waters that need to break forth” in the world today?

We go Forth....

Creator God

This Advent, we recall Your dream for us to become a community of care and compassion, breaking forth a new reality for all creation as Isaiah invited us to do. Encourage and empower us to live and be God's Dream for one another and the whole earth community. We ask this prayer through Christ the Lord.

Amen



Week Four: *Look, the young woman is with child*

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge with humility and gratitude the traditional custodians, of this land.

They call us to remember their ancestors

Who in their ancient wisdom

Saw the sacredness and wonder of all creation and respected it.

May the Great Creator life giver of all, move now in our lives.

That we may be set free to celebrate together the antiquity of this land and its First People, caring for both in the future.

By Aunty Betty Pike

Invitation to Prayer

Week Four: ***Look, the Young Woman is with Child***

Become aware of how you are today, listen to what your body is telling you.

If you feel comfortable, I invite you to participate in today's prayer.

Let us become aware of God's presence. In the name of The Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen

Light the fourth Advent candle.

We Gather....

Creator God

This Advent wake us up! Stir our hearts and hands into action and activity. Show us the way to be a light to all in need. Encourage and empower us to live and be God's Dream of justice, love and compassion for all people.

We ask this through Jesus our brother

Amen

(adapted from Rina Wintour)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

We listen...

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel.



Lectio Divina (print this slide out for each participant)

Read (lectio)

Begin by slowly and meditatively reading your Scripture passage out loud. Listen for a particular word or phrase that speaks to you at this moment and sit with it for a time.

Meditate (meditatio) - Read the same passage a second time. As you re-engage the text, let the word or phrase that stood out become your invitation to dialogue with God. Allow the word or phrase to wash over you and permeate your thoughts and feelings.

Pray (oratio) - Read the text a third time. What is God saying to you in these words? What do you want to say to God? What feelings do these words raise up in you? Share your answers with God.

Contemplate (contemplatio)

Read the text a final time. As you do, release the word or phrase you have been praying with. Be still and rest in God's embrace. What gift has God given you to take away from this prayer? To what action might God be inviting you? Thank God for this gift and invitation as you conclude your prayer.

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For us today..

Individually or as a group reflect upon....

How can we be a sign of God in the world?

What would being a sign of God look like for us?

Imagine the world recognized all the “signs of God” already with us –
What could this lead to?

We go Forth....

Creator God

This Advent, we recall Your dream for us to become a community of care and compassion, breaking forth a new reality for all creation as Isaiah invited us to do. Encourage and empower us to live and be God's Dream for one another and the whole earth community. We ask this prayer through Christ the Lord.

Amen