

Advent Prayer

Leader: O God, open our lips

All: And we shall praise your name.

Leader: God of the everlasting dawn;
God who unbinds the world from night

All: We give you thanks and praise.

Hymn

(tune the Old 100th)

Creator of the stars of night,
Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse
Should doom to death a universe,
You came, O Saviour, to set free
Your own in glorious liberty.

Come, Sun and Saviour, to embrace
Our gloomy world, its weary race,
As groom to bride and bride to groom:
The wedding chamber, Mary's womb.

At your great name, O Jesus, now
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
Come in your holy might we pray,
Redeem us for eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below,
From all assaults of our dread foe.

(Eighth Century hymn)

Psalm 25

All: Come, and make all things new, build up this ruined earth; restore our faded paradise, Creation's second birth.

Side 1: Lord, I give myself to you. I trust you God;
do not fail me, nor let my enemies gloat.
No one loyal is shamed, but traitors know disgrace.

Side 2: Teach me how to live, Lord, show me the way.
Steer me toward your truth,
you my saving God, you, my constant hope.

Side 1: Recall your tenderness, your lasting love.
Remember me, not my faults, the sins of my youth.
To show your own goodness, God, remember me.

Side 2: Good and just is the Lord,
guiding those who stray.
God leads the poor, pointing out the path.

Side 1: God's ways are faithful love
for those who keep the covenant.
Be true to your name, O Lord,
forgive me my sin though great.

Side 2: Do you respect God?
Then God will guide your choice.
Your life will be full, your heirs will keep the land.
God befriends the faithful, teaches them the covenant

All: Come, and make all things new, build up this ruined earth; restore our faded paradise, Creation's second birth.

Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Intercessions

R : Let the day come, Lord, when our misery will find your mercy.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

R: Let the day come, Lord, when our poverty will find your riches

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

R Let the day come, Lord, when our path will find the way to your house

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

R: Let the day come, Lord, when our tears will find your smile

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

R: Let the day come, Lord, when our joy will find your heaven

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

R: Let the day come, Lord, when your church will find the kingdom

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Let us pray:

Leader: God our saviour, you utter a word of promise and of hope and hasten the day of justice and freedom, yet we live in a world forgetful of your word, our watchfulness dulled by the cares of life.

All: Keep us alert. Make us attentive to your word, ready to look on your Son, when he comes with power and great glory. Make us holy and blameless, ready to stand secure when the day of his coming is upon us.

Leader We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Blessing and Sending Forth

Leader: May the God of hope fill us with all the joy and peace of our faith, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us go in peace to love and serve our God.

All: Thanks be to God