

## First Week of Advent Prayer for Families

### Acknowledgement of Land:

As we gather in prayer this morning we acknowledge the First Nations peoples of this land.

They were the first to sit and talk to each other here.

They were the first to listen to the wisdom of the Ancestors here.

They were the first to listen deeply to each other and the earth, and so make it part of their way of living, their way of proceeding.

We know that this land was, is and will always be Gimuy Wallabara Yidinji land, it has nurtured them and continues to nurture each of us.

We gather to imagine what is possible when we listen deeply to the people of our place, acknowledge the past and stand together for the future.

### Context:

Advent is a time of spiritual renewal: a chance to start again, to come home if we've drifted away, to rediscover the joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Jesus comes to make his home among us and within us. Advent offers us a chance to rediscover this.

### Scripture:

#### *The Creative Breath*

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.'

'... And the Spirit (*the breath*) of God was hovering over the waters.'

(John 1:1-3, Genesis 1:2)

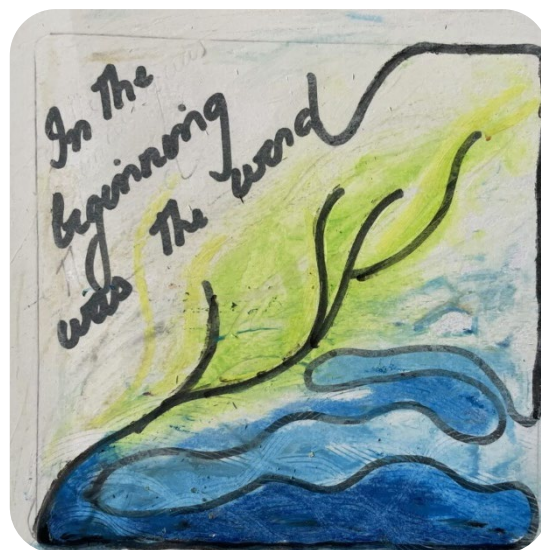
### Reflection:

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts  
That the God who breathed this world into being  
Placed stars into the heavens  
And designed a butterfly's wing  
Is the God who entrusted his life  
to the care of ordinary people  
became vulnerable that we might know  
how strong is the power of Love  
A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp  
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore  
O Lord, our Lord,

***How majestic is your name in all the earth***

You have set your glory above the heavens,

***How majestic is your name in all the earth.***



**Prayer:**

Circle us, Lord

Circle us with the light of your presence, bright within this dark world

Enable us to be overcomers of fear and temptation

Enable us to be victors over sin and despair

Enable us to become that which you would desire.

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation,

**Circle us with the light of your presence.**

Circle us, Lord

Circle our family within the shelter of your outstretched arms

Protect them in each moment of their daily lives

Protect them in the decisions that they face

Protect their homes and relationships.

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation,

**Circle our families with the light of your presence.**

Circle us, Lord

Circle this nation with Advent love and hope

Create a desire to listen to the Advent message

Create a willingness to understand and respond

Create a need to reach out to the Christ Child.

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation,

**Circle our nation with the light of your presence.**

Circle us, Lord

Circle this world with the joy of your Salvation

Where there is sickness and disease bring healing

Where there is hunger and despair bring hope

Where there is torture and oppression bring release.

Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation

**Circle this world with the light of your presence.**

Give us ears to hear, O God,

and eyes to watch,

that we may know your presence in our midst

during this holy season as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ.

**Amen**



## Call to Action:

- Personal Reflection:
  - What is my focus as I prepare for Christmas?
  - Do I see Christ in the people around me, particularly in the marginalized?
  - What else do I need to be ready for the coming of the Lord?
- Advent Reflection: <https://www.catholic.org/advent/reflections.php>
- Arts & Faith: Advent—First Sunday Imaginative Prayer Exercise (Cycle B). Use this reflection to take a new look at this season of preparation through the lens of sacred art. <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/arts-faith-advent-first-sunday-imaginative-prayer-exercise-2/>

## References:

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (2023) Advent: a guide for the perplexed.  
<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/advent-a-guide-for-the-perplexed>

Faith and Worship- Celtic Advent Liturgies

[https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent\\_Celtic\\_Christian\\_Celebration.htm#gsc.tab=0](https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent_Celtic_Christian_Celebration.htm#gsc.tab=0)

The Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2022) First Sunday of Advent (December 3, 2023)

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=48>

**Image:** Adrien Innes-Simpson (2023) *The Creative Breath*

