

Second 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:

Light and Darkness

All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.'

(John 1:3-5)

Reflection:

In the beginning, Lord
I was alone like the earth
before your Spirit moved over the
waters.

I was formless and empty
and darkness filled the depths of my heart.
Then, it was as if you declared 'Let there be Light'
and out of the darkness I began to see hope
like a shimmering ray of love breaking through the parting clouds
at the conclusion of the night.

Lord Jesus, Son of God, Saviour of the world
Be the centre of all that we are, and the life that we lead
Lord Jesus, Light in this dark World, illuminate our hearts and minds
Be the centre of all that we are, and the life that we lead.



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.

Lord, you have given us your Word for a light to shine upon our path,

Help us to ponder on that Word, and to follow its teaching,

May we find in it the light that shines more and more,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Call to Action:

- Personal Reflection:
 - Am I ready to change?
 - Am I complacent and comfortable the way I am?
 - Am I ready to ask God for help?
 - Who am I following?
- Advent Reflections: <https://www.catholic.org/advent/reflections.php>
- Arts & Faith: Advent—Second 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-second-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

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) *Light and Darkness*

