

Fourth 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:

Birth and Re-Birth

'While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.'

(Luke 2:6,7)

Reflection:

Beneath the surface of your story
is an inescapable fact
You entered this world
as vulnerable as any one of us
in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross.
Our fears, our insecurities and our sins
all that can separate us from God
exchanged by your Grace for Love.
We cannot comprehend the reasoning
only marvel that Salvation comes to us
through a baby born in a stable,
who reaches out to a world in need.



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.

Ever faithful God,

through prophets and angels,

you promised to raise up a holy child who would establish a household of peace and justice.

Open our hearts to receive your Son,

that we may open our doors to welcome all people as sisters and brothers,

and establish your household in our time.

Amen.



Call to Action:

- Personal Reflection:
 - Do I really believe in Jesus Christ as my saviour?
 - Am I able to be patient and show patience?
 - How can I bring the healing of Jesus into the world?
- Advent Reflections: <https://www.catholic.org/advent/reflections.php>
- Arts & Faith: Advent—Forth 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-forth-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) *Birth and ReBirth*

