

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:

Obedience

'You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.'

Luke 1:31-33

Reflection:

Into the daily cycle of our lives

When all seems well with us and with the world

When our yoke is easy and the burden light,

You break in and scatter our complacency...

Into the daily cycle of our lives when we are comfortable and at our ease

When the fire is lit but eyes are closed,

You break in and challenge our dependency...

You break into our daily prayers, humble hearts lay souls bare,

You break in and meet us there...

You break in when defences are down with an Angel's shout or the quietest sound...

You break in and we change.

You break in and all things are changed...



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.

Merciful God of peace,

your work, spoken by the prophets,

restores your people's life and hope.

Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace,

that we may hold fast to your great goodness

and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world.

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—Third 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-third-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) *Obedience*

