

Advent 1 - Wisdom

Leader: As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,
we look on these earthly signs--light and green branches--
and remember God's promise to our world:
Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.
Listen to the words of Solomon:
"O God of my ancestors and Lord of mercy,
who have made all things by your word,
and by your wisdom have formed humankind to have dominion
over the creatures you have made,
and rule the world in holiness and righteousness,
and pronounce judgment in uprightness of soul,
give me the wisdom that sits by your throne,
and do not reject me from among your servants....
With you is wisdom, she who knows your works
and was present when you made the world;
she understands what is pleasing in your sight
and what is right according to your commandments.
Send her forth from the holy heavens,
and from the throne of your glory send her,
that she may labor at my side,
and that I may learn what is pleasing to you."

(Wisdom of Solomon 9:1-4, 9-10)

People: **God is the source of our life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from
God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.**
(1 Corinthians 1:30)

Candle is lit while All sing:

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who ord'rest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God, your Word of wisdom goes forth
and does not return empty:
Grant us such knowledge and love of you
that we may perceive your presence in all creation and every creature;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,
now and forever. Amen.**

Advent 2 - Lord

Leader: As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,
we look on these earthly signs--light and green branches--
and remember God's promise to our world:
Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.
Listen to the words of Ezekiel the prophet:

“A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you;
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful
to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your
ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.”
(Ezekiel 36:26-28)

Candle is lit while All sing:

**O come, o come thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: O Lord our God, you gave your law that righteousness might abound:
Put it into our hearts to love justice for others as much as we desire it for
ourselves,
that, as we know you to be our judge,
so we may welcome your reign
as it is manifested through Jesus Christ our savior;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be dominion and praise for ever and ever. Amen.**

Advent 3 – Ruler of Nations

Leader: As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,
we look on these earthly signs--light and green branches--
and remember God's promise to our world:
Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.
Listen to these words from the Revelation to John:

“And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had
conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the
sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of
Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:
‘Great and amazing are your deeds,

Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations!
Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
all nations will come and worship before you,
for your judgments have been revealed.”
(Revelation 15:2-4)

Candle is lit while All sing:

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: God of power and love,
you raised Jesus from death to life,
resplendent in glory to rule over all creation.
Free the world to rejoice in his peace,
to glory in his justice,
and to live in his love.
Unite all humankind in Jesus Christ your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever. Amen.**
(from the *Book of Common Worship*)

Advent 4 – Root of Jesse

Leader: As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,
we look on these earthly signs--light and green branches--
and remember God's promise to our world:
Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.
Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.... The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.... They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On

that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.”

(Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6, 9-10)

Candle is lit while All sing:

**O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy might power to save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Almighty God,
you brought forth a royal branch
from the ancient stock of Jesse's line:
Grant that we who have been grafted into this heritage
may bear fruit worthy of Jesus Christ;
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Advent 5 – Key of David

Leader: As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,
we look on these earthly signs--light and green branches--
and remember God's promise to our world:
Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.
Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“I will commit your authority to his hand, and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open.”

(Isaiah 22:21b-23)

Candle is lit while All sing:

**O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ opened wide the gate of heaven,
making plain the way that leads to eternal joy:
Grant that we who have been buried with Christ in baptism
and raised to new life
may strive courageously for the freedom and peace of the world;
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

Advent 6 – Morning Star

Leader: As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,
we look on these earthly signs--light and green branches--
and remember God's promise to our world:
Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.
Listen to the words of Malachi the prophet:

“See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all
evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of
hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere
my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall
go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked,
for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the
Lord of hosts.”

(Malachi 4:1-3)

Candle is lit while All sing:

**O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Lord Jesus Christ, in your resurrection
you appeared as the Morning Star that knows no setting:
Dawn upon the darkness of the human heart
so that the deathly orders of this world may be overcome
and your whole creation made new;
for with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
you live and reign,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Advent 7 – Emmanuel

Leader: As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,
we look on these earthly signs--light and green branches--
and remember God's promise to our world:
Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.
Listen to the words of the gospel of Matthew:

“... an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,’ which means, ‘God is with us.’”
(Matthew 1:20b-23)

Candle is lit while All sing:

**O come, o come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Eternal God, you do not abandon us in exile
but hear our plea for returning and rest:
Visit us, we pray, with your presence
and raise us to greet with hope and joy
the promised day of salvation;
through Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns
now and for ever. Amen.**