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**The Gathering—Introit Hymn**

1. 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*
2. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave:
3. O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight:
4. O come, 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.
5. 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:

### **Advent Prose**

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Turn your fierce anger from us O Lord, and remember not our sins forever.

**Your holy cities have become a desert, Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation; our holy and beautiful house, where our ancestors praised you.**

We have sinned and become like one who is unclean; we have all withered like a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind have swept us away.

You have hidden your face from us and abandoned us to our iniquities.

**Pour down, O heavens from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.**

You are my witnesses says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know me and believe me. I myself am the Lord and none but I can deliver; what my hand holds, none can snatch away.

**Pour down O heavens from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.**

Comfort my people, comfort them; my salvation shall not be delayed. I have swept your offences away like a cloud; fear not, for I will save you. I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your redeemer.

**Pour down, O heavens from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.**

Almighty and eternal God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again in glory, he may find in us a home prepared for himself; who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Jesus, Saviour of the world, come to us in your mercy. We look to you to save and help us.**

After supper. He took the cup. Again he offered you thanks and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

**We obey your Son's command. We recall Christ's blessed passion and death. We celebrate Christ's glorious resurrection and ascension. We look for the coming of Christ's Kingdom.**

Made one with Christ, we offer you these gifts, and with them we offer ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Hear us most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine. By the Spirit's life-giving power may they be for us the Body and Blood of your Son, and, kindled by the fire of your love, may we be renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Make us grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter our true eternal home, where with Mary, the mother of our Lord, and the holy ancestors of every generation we will worship you in glory everlasting.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, now and forever, world without end. **Amen.**

### **Communion**

#### **Communion Hymns**

#### **GO OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

#### **Anglican's Act Prayer**

Grant us grace, O God, to seek your vision for our Church, so that, anchored in the love of Christ, committed to your mission in your world, and transformed by the power of your Holy Spirit, we may all embody and proclaim your message of redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **Blessing and Dismissal**

Be a light in the name of God the Creator who lightens the world, be a light in the name of the Son who reaches out to save us, and be a light in the power of the Holy Spirit who sustains the world; And the blessing of the One Holy and Undivided Trinity be with you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

#### **Recessional hymn**

## **CELEBRATE AT THE TABLE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Taught by your Spirit, we who bear your threefold likeness look for the City of Peace, in whose light we are transfigured and the earth is transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose who await the coming of your Son, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory;

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus you showed us yourself. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, he opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, at supper with his disciples, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to them saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

In the night sky of the Southern Hemisphere, the four central stars of the Southern Cross shine permanently above us. From ancient times, these stars offered travellers and ocean navigators who looked up to them, a sense of direction, the way to true south. In this season of Advent, we remember and anticipate the coming into the world of the light that enlightens everyone.

### **Blessing of the Advent candles**

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you. Bless us and our Advent candles. May the light that shines forth from them illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas, just as the Southern Cross has guided pilgrims through the ages. We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.

**Amen**

### **Advent 1**

Let us offer ourselves anew as witnesses to the advent of Christ's glory, seeking to bring Christ's light and love to those who sit in darkness.

**O come, O come Emmanuel; you are our light and our salvation: Come Lord Jesus Christ.**

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Christian liturgical year. We celebrate the beginning of another year by looking to the end of time when the culmination of history ACRUX in the Southern Cross constellation to remind ourselves of the growing light of the dawn of the Kingdom of God.

Light the bottom candle.

Let us pray

**Immanent God: grant us the grace to perceive the signs of your coming, that we might ever be alert and awake to receive you anew and afresh; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*children bring their stars to the sanctuary\*

### **Advent 2.**

Let us offer ourselves anew as witnesses to the advent of Christ's glory, seeking to bring Christ's light and love to those who sit in darkness.

**O come, O come Emmanuel; you are our light and our salvation: Come Lord Jesus Christ.**

Today is the second Sunday in Advent when we listen carefully for the prophetic voice of God which calls us to repentance. As we light the candle which depicts the star MIMOSA in the Southern Cross constellation, let us be reminded of our need to expose our sin to the light.

Light the left candle

Let us pray

**God of all ages, let your spirit be born in us, that we might discern your voice in the midst of our frantic world; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*children bring their star gifts to the sanctuary\*

### **Advent 3.**

Let us offer ourselves anew as witnesses to the advent of Christ's glory, seeking to bring Christ's light and love to those who sit in darkness.

**O come, O come Emmanuel; you are our light and our salvation: Come Lord Jesus Christ.**

Today is the third Sunday of Advent when we remember John the Baptist, who called the people to a baptism of repentance. As we light the candle which depicts the star GACRUX in the Southern Cross constellation, let us remember that John prepared the way for the one who baptises with Spirit and fire!

The top candle is lit

Let us pray

**God of humility; burn away our arrogance so that like John the Baptist, our lives will point beyond ourselves to Christ: in whose name we pray. Amen.**

\*children bring their stars into the sanctuary\*

O God, we wait in hope and expectation with those who are dependent on your creation for survival; who pray that rain may ease the drought; with fisherman needing favourable weather, that the ocean yield its bounty; with those who work tirelessly promoting the preservation of our planet, that it may be well for those who come after us. We are waiting.

**Come Lord Jesus**

O God, we wait in hope and expectation with those who seek healing; those in dark places due to illness, death, loneliness, divorce, addiction; with those who know their illness has no cure; with those who work in over-crowded and ill-equipped clinics trying to make a difference. We are waiting.

**Come Lord Jesus**

O God, we wait in hope and expectation with all children who have to deal with abuse, crime, violence at school, at play and in their homes; child-headed households; with pregnant women everywhere, especially those who have not chosen their state and wonder how they will cope.

We are waiting.

**Come Lord Jesus**

O God we come to you in our waiting, filled with hope, expectancy and joy. We wait patiently in faith and with compassion, ready to find you in those we encounter daily.

**Bring to birth your Son in us so that we will be your hands and feet, your eyes and ears. Amen.**

Let your light shine on us Lord, to overcome the darkness of our hearts, that we may attain to the light which is Christ.

The peace of the Lord be with you always:

**Peace be with you.**

### Prayers of the Church

O God, as Advent people, we wait in hope and expectation for our King, our key to completeness, who is coming again to redeem us; who is working in the present to give birth to God's desired future for all. May we persist in situations of costly discipleship to work and pray for the realisation of God's Kingdom here on earth, as it will be in heaven. We are waiting:

**Come Lord Jesus**

O God, we wait in hope and expectation with all who come together here in worship, with those who hope to meet you in the stillness. Show us the truth where we are ignorant or wilfully blind, that we may live our lives in the light of your love and grow your kingdom. We are waiting:

**Come Lord Jesus**

O God, we wait in hope and expectation with all who pray for a change in political attitudes; with leaders who acknowledge your authority, who use their power selflessly promote lasting peace; with those who strive to change the law for the betterment of the poor; and for all who fight for a better world. We are waiting:

**Come Lord Jesus**

O God, we wait in hope and expectation with those who suffer injustice and oppression in a world under curse; with those fleeing war-torn countries; with those who live with the threat of terrorism; with those who are persecuted for their faith; and with those who campaign courageously for justice and peace. We are waiting:

**Come Lord Jesus**

O God, we wait in hope and expectation with those who are victims of the inequalities of our world, the poor, the homeless, whose shacks are destroyed by fire or on the whim of a politician; with refugees who live in fear of xenophobic attacks, and with the millions worldwide who are starving.

We are waiting:

**Come Lord Jesus**

### Advent 4.

Let us offer ourselves anew as witnesses to the advent of Christ's glory, seeking to bring Christ's light and love to those who sit in darkness.

**O come, O come Emmanuel; you are our light and our salvation: Come Lord Jesus Christ.**

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent when Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent when we marvel at Mary's gracious acceptance of her divine pregnancy. We light the candle which depicts the star DELTA CRUCIS in the Southern Cross constellation to remind us that with Mary we carry the light of Christ in us.

The right candle is lit

Let us pray

**Source of life: conceive in us the same willing spirit which Mary exuded, so that like her, we will be true servants of God; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Today is the day we celebrate the incarnation of Jesus Christ, who took on flesh and became a human being. We light the candle which depicts the star EPSILON Crucis in the Southern Cross constellation. As we do this, we refuse to forget the one who brings light into the world.

The 5<sup>th</sup> candle is lit

Let us pray

**O Emmanuel: we give you thanks and praise for wrapping yourself in humanity and dwelling among us. Amen**

### Call to Worship

With longing hearts we await you Lord.

**Come Lord Jesus and save our people.**

Now is the time to wake out of sleep.

**Our salvation is at hand.**

Lift up your heads O gates, lift them high.

**And the king of glory shall come in.**

Holy God you make all things new. Come and meet us in our Advent worship. Keep us watchful and make us ready to welcome our Saviour when he comes.

### Prayer of Preparation

Living God, help us to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand

That understanding, we may believe

That believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honour and glory in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### Confession

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore and strengthen us through our Saviour Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your will. Amen.**

### Forgiveness

As we remember who and what we are, what we have done and what we have left undone, may God in mercy forgive, renew and restore us to live as God intended; partners with God in a new creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Advent 4

Micah 5: 2 – 4

Psalm 80: 1 – 7 on Page 705

Hebrews 10: 5 – 10

Luke 1: 39 – 45

### Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9: 2 - 7

Psalm 96 on Page 725

Titus 2: 11 – 14

Luke 2: 1 – 20

### Christmas Day

Isaiah 52: 7 – 10

Psalm 98 On Page 727

Hebrews 11: 1 – 12

John 1: 1 - 14

### The Sermon

### RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### The Advent Creed

We say together in faith. **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come**

We believe in God the Father who created all things: **for by God's will they were created and have their being**

We believe in God the Son who was incarnate for our salvation: **with his blood he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who prepares us for the advent of Christ: **The Spirit and the Bride say "Come!" Even so come Lord Jesus! Amen.**

### **Proclaim the Word**

Advent 1. **Alleluia.** The one who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming”. Amen.

Come Lord Jesus. **Alleluia.** Revelation 22: 20.

Advent 2. **Alleluia.** Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All flesh shall see the

salvation of God. **Alleluia.** Luke 3: 4, 6.

Advent 3. **Alleluia.** I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.

**Alleluia.** Matthew 11: 10.

Advent 4. **Alleluia.** The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.

**Alleluia.** Matthew 1: 23.

### **Advent 1—Readings**

Jeremiah 33: 14 – 16

Psalms 25: 1 – 10 on Page 632

1 Thessalonians 3: 9 – 13

Luke 21: 25 – 36

### **Advent 2**

Baruch 5: 1 – 9

Luke 1: 68 – 79 (in place of the Psalm)

Philippians 1: 3 – 11

Luke 3: 1 – 6

### **Advent 3**

Zephaniah 3: 14 – 20

Isaiah 12: 2 – 6 (in place of the Psalm)

Philippians 4: 4 – 7

Luke 3: 7 – 18

### **COLLECT—Advent 1:**

**Almighty Father, your Son came to us in humility as our saviour, and at the last day he will come again in glory as our judge: give us grace to turn away from darkness, to the light of Christ, that we will be ready to welcome him: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Advent 2.**

**God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation: make us ready for the message that prepares the way, so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy, we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

### **Advent 3.**

**God of hope and joy, you sent John the Baptist to announce the coming of your Son: inspire all who serve in your Church to prepare for his coming again; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

### **Advent 4.**

**God of Elizabeth and Mary: make our hearts leap with joy, fill our mouths with songs of praise and make us ready to welcome the Christ in our midst; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in glory everlasting. Amen.**

### **Christmas Eve**

**Heavenly Father, you made this holy night radiant with the brightness of your Son Jesus Christ; help us to welcome him as the world’s true Light, and bring us to eternal joy in his kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Christmas Day**

**God most high, you sent your Son into the world to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure Virgin: grant that he may continually live in us and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven; where he lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**