

# Season of Prayer

Advent 2020



We are pleased that you are able to gather with us as we journey through this season of Advent, the season of anticipation, and as we gather, let us be expectant that we will meet with the living God.

The base material is taken from the Order for Baptist Ministry ([www.orderforbaptistministry.co.uk](http://www.orderforbaptistministry.co.uk)) and readings from 'Advent for Everyone: Apostles' by Tom Wright.

The liturgy has been put together to reflect the time of day that we gather, namely the evening, and as we spend time praying as part of the Baptist family here in the East Midlands, take a moment to find a quiet space and get yourself comfortable.

The minimum time to journey through this liturgy is probably about 20-25 minutes, but please take whatever time you have to lead yourself through it. If there are others you can join with please do, and we would encourage you (however strange it may sound) to speak the words out loud!

Before you use the words below, take a few deep breaths and as you breathe in simply say 'Emmanuel – God with us' quietly to yourself a few times and take a moment to centre and focus on Jesus our Saviour.

When you are ready use the words below to lead yourself in prayer, take your time, pause and reflect as you go and note down anything that you feel God maybe saying to you.

May God turn his face towards you, may he bless you and may you feel his presence close to you.

Let us begin...

## ***Becoming Present to God***

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Our ever-present God,  
**in this place and at this time, come to us.**

***A short moment of silence.***

**O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here.**

(from *O Come, O Come Immanuel*)

### ***Celebrating the Presence of God***

Generous God,  
we come to you, the God who comes to us.  
We give you praise that you came in creation,  
founding the world and fashioning human beings in your  
likeness;  
**calling a people into being  
and walking alongside them come what may.**

You came in Jesus Christ  
in self-giving love and in resurrection life.  
**You came by your Spirit,  
making disciples drunk with grace.**

And you have come to us,  
**through friend and stranger,  
in joy and pain,**  
opening our eyes to the reality of Christ and playing in ten  
thousand places.

**Help us to celebrate your presence  
as we seek to make known your love to the world,  
and as we look with hope to the new creation  
which will break in when you come again.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

*A pause to quietly name any specific thanks or praise.*

### ***Acknowledging our Humanity***

God of grace, we acknowledge before you  
that we are not the people you want us to be,  
nor the people we want to be:  
***we have marred your image in us,  
and tarnished the image we have of ourselves.***

Come to us with forgiveness  
and make whole that which is broken.  
Fill us afresh with your Spirit  
that we might serve you and your people  
with gratitude and joy. Amen.

## ***Listening to the Word of God***

### **Week 1 (30<sup>th</sup> Nov-4<sup>th</sup> Dec): A time of thanksgiving**

Monday: Psalm 16:1-4; Isaiah 65:17-18; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Tuesday: Psalm 24:1-10; Isaiah 65:17-18; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15  
Wednesday: Psalm 28:1-9; Isaiah 65:17-18; Colossians 1:9-14  
Thursday: Psalm 40:1-5; Isaiah 65:17-18; 1 Timothy 4:1-5  
Friday: Psalm 42:1-11; Isaiah 65:17-18; Revelation 4:6b-11

### **Week 2 (7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Dec): A time for patience**

Monday: Psalm 46:1-11; Isaiah 11:1-9; Hebrews 6:9-12  
Tuesday: Psalm 50:1-5; Isaiah 11:1-9; Hebrews 12:1-3  
Wednesday: Psalm 75:1-10; Isaiah 11:1-9; James 1:1-8  
Thursday: Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 11:1-9; James 5:7-11  
Friday: Psalm 81:1-4; Isaiah 11:1-9; 2 Timothy 4:1-5

### **Week 3 (14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Dec): A time for humility**

Monday: Psalm 89:1-8; Isaiah 7:10-14; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
Tuesday: Psalm 96:1-13; Isaiah 7:10-14; Galatians 6:1-5  
Wednesday: Psalm 97:1-12; Isaiah 7:10-14; Philippians 2:5-11  
Thursday: Psalm 98:1-9; Isaiah 7:10-14; James 4:1-10  
Friday: Psalm 122:1-9; Isaiah 7:10-14; 1 Peter 5:1-7

### **Week 4 (21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Dec): A time for joy**

Monday: Psalm 126:1-6; Isaiah 9:1-7; Romans 16:25-27  
Tuesday: Psalm 130:1-8; Isaiah 9:1-7; 2 Corinthians 7:2-10  
Wednesday: Psalm 132: 13-18; Isaiah 9:1-7; Philippians 4:2-8

## ***Canticle***

I saw a new heaven and a new earth,  
**for the first earth and the first heaven had passed  
away and the sea was no more.**  
And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,  
**coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as  
bride adorned for her husband.**  
And I heard a great voice from the throne saying,  
**‘Behold, the dwelling of God is among mortals.**  
He will dwell with them and they shall be his peoples,  
**and God himself will be with them.**  
He will wipe every tear from their eyes,  
**and death shall be no more.**  
Neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any  
more,  
**for the former things have passed away.’**  
And the One who sat upon the throne said,  
**‘Behold, I make all things new.’**

(Revelation 21:1-5a)

## ***Reflecting on our Roots***

Living God, enable us this day to be pilgrims and companions:

**Committed to the way of Christ,  
faithful to the call of Christ,  
discerning the mind of Christ,  
offering the welcome of Christ,  
growing in the likeness of Christ,  
engaging in the mission of Christ,  
in the world that belongs to Christ.**

### ***Bringing our Concerns***

Advent Lord,  
we celebrate your coming as a human being  
and the gift of your presence by your Spirit.  
**With longing for your coming again  
when this world will be put to right  
and swords shall be beaten into ploughshares,  
and nations shall learn war no more,  
we pray for signs of your kingdom  
as we bring to you our concerns today.**  
We pray for the world...the church...the people.

***A time of prayer for you to bring those things that rest on  
your heart.***

As we draw our prayers to a close, we join together in the  
prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### ***Prayer for the Day's End***

As the day closes, may the Lord grant us a quiet night and a  
peaceful end.

***Take a moment to recollect the day and reflect upon its  
encounters.***

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray that you,  
with steadfast love,  
would keep your watch around us while we sleep.

**Grant us sleep to refresh the soul this night  
and should we be wakeful,  
so fill our minds with your Word that all fear  
and anxiety might be banished  
and our hearts be restful,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### ***Blessing***

Glory to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.