

Resources for Advent

There are a number of resources available for us to use individually or collectively in Advent.

Diocesan Advent Challenge

Advent Challenge

The Advent Challenge this year is called Gifts for Life.

“take time in the run up to Christmas to unwrap Gifts for Life

take a moment each day to think about and act on the things that truly matter

the gifts that really make a difference

receive a text or email, a verse, a thought, a prayer, a challenge.”

Sign up and get more information at the new home of the Challenge:

www.livethechallenge.co.uk

Families and Schools

Wait Look Listen is a series of Advent stories for families and schools

Download a story and a worksheet each week day in Advent together with an extra colouring sheet; the stories follow the Gifts for Life themes.

Download these from

www.livethechallenge.co.uk/download/

Prayers to begin and end the day in Advent

Alan Stewart has devised a short time of prayer that we can all join in at 8.00am and 8.00pm everyday of Advent so that we reconnect ourselves with God's love and feel connected as the Hertford Team as the body of Christ. This time of prayer and reflection can be used quietly as we travel to work, in our homes and to begin our Church

meetings. Look out for these prayer cards which will be available in all our Churches at the end of the month.

Alan has also recorded both services and they are available to listen to or download at www.allsaintshertford.org/advent.htm and the full liturgy is given below

Morning

You may wish to light a candle

Opening Responses

Among the poor and the proud, the persecuted and the privileged,

Christ is coming to make all things new.

In the private house and the market place, in the wedding feast and the judgement hall,

Christ is coming to make all things new.

With a gentle touch, with an angry word; with a conscience clear, with a burning love,

Christ is coming to make all things new.

That the kingdom might come and the world might believe; that the powerful might stumble and the humble be raised,

Christ is coming to make all things new.

Within us, without us, among us, before us, in this place, in every place, for this time and for all time,

Christ is coming to make all things new.

Holy God of Advent,

you became weak

so we would find strength in moments of heartbreak;

you left the safety of heaven to wander the wilderness of the world, holding our hands when we feel hopeless;

you set aside your glory to hold our pain so

we might be healed, even when there seems to be no hope;

you became one of us so we would never be alone in any moment, in any circumstance.

So come now, Child of Bethlehem, to strengthen us in these days.

May we feel your presence in a way we have never known, not just as one born in a stable, long ago and far away, but as the One born in our hearts. **Amen**

Take a moment to listen in the silence

Intercessions

All that I am Lord *I place into your hands*

Everything I work for *I place into your hands*

Everything I hope for *I place into your hands*

The troubles that weary me

I place into your hands

The thoughts that disturb me

I place into your hands

Each that I pray for *I place into your hands*

Each that I care for *I place into your hands*

The choices I make *I place into your hands*

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Lord by your presence, light up the past that we may learn from it with thankfulness. Light up the present that we might live in it with love.

Light up the future that we might prepare for it in hope.

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

Evening

You may wish to light a candle

Opening responses

In our watching and waiting;

come Lord Jesus.

In our hopes and fears;

come Lord Jesus.

In our homes and in our world;

come Lord Jesus.

Into this place and on this night;

come Lord Jesus.

Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

the promise he made to our fathers,

to Abraham and his children for ever

Take a moment to listen in the silence

Intercessions

Into the darkness of oppression and poverty; into a world where many have no voice and no future;

into boardrooms and factories, shanty towns and palaces;

may your light expose corruption and bring new-found hope.

Into every darkness, **Christ be our light.**

Into the darkness of war and conflict;

into trauma and brutality; fear and senselessness;

into war zones and cabinet rooms, barracks and bomb factories;

may your light make a path to peace and a road to reconciliation.

Into every darkness, **Christ be our light.**

Into the darkness of grief and sorrow;

into troubled hearts and troubled minds;

into hospital wards and waiting rooms,

broken hearts and broken homes;

may your light be a source of comfort, of healing and peace.

Into every darkness, **Christ be our light.**

Closing Prayer

Circle me Lord; keep protection near and danger afar.

Circle me Lord; keep light near and darkness afar.

Circle me Lord, keep peace within; keep evil out.

The peace of all peace be mine this night.

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