

Advent Prayers for a Household

A simple and adaptable spiritual practice, for use in homes. Household members may take turns leading prayers and reading the Bible passage for a given day or week.

A Time to Come Together

If there is an Advent wreath with candles

Leader We light *these candles* in hope and expectation.

All **Jesus is the light of the World.**

Candles are lit.

Continue (or begin, if there is no wreath)

Leader We wait joyfully for the coming of Jesus.

All **Into the world, into the Church, into our home
Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!**

A Time to Be Together

A Bible passage (suggestions overleaf) is read aloud by one member of the household. Following the reading, the household will be together in its own way. Some suggestions:

Share a meal at a table.

Enter into silence, for 1-30 minutes, or more. Silence may be marked by stillness, pondering the passage read from the Bible, or gazing on the Advent candles or an icon. Alternatively, it may be combined with an activity like a household task or Christmas preparation.

Have a discussion. While this may be part of sharing a meal together, it could also happen in another setting. Consider a question: Did something happen today that reminded you how much God loves the world? Was there a time today when you felt particularly close to Jesus? What might we do this Advent and Christmas as an act of loving service?

A Time to Pray Together

Prayers are offered, silently or aloud, concluding with the Lord's Prayer. The following litany may be used.

Leader That the Church will be a place of hope and a sign of the goodness of God,

All **Hear us, Lord of Glory, for you we wait.**

Leader That all people will serve the needs of others and care for creation,

All **Hear us, Lord of Glory, for you we wait.**

Leader That this home will be a place of welcome, patience, truth, safety, and love,

All **Hear us, Lord of Glory, for you we wait.**

All **Our Father...**

A Time to Go into the World Together

The household acknowledges its vocation within the wider world.

Leader Peace be upon us and within this house,

All **And in all the world**

Leader Let us share Good News wherever we may be.

All **Amen, Amen!**

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Suggested Bible Readings

For each week in Advent, a single verse is suggested to be read during A Time to Be Together. Also noted are other weekly readings for Advent, for those who may wish a longer reading and additional ones through the week.

For the Week of Advent I

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. *Matthew 24:44 (NRSV)*

Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

For the Week of Advent II

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

For the Week of Advent III

You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. *James 5:8*

Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46-55, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

For the Week of Advent IV

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. *Isaiah 7:14*

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

About this Prayer Resource

Advent Prayers for a Household is intended for use in homes, regardless of the size and form of the household (e.g., singles, friends, couples, children, teens and parents). It may be used once or several times a week. It is designed to be used as is—simple for the household on the go—or expanded with other resources or improvisation. Folks are encouraged to add readings, activities, discussion topics that are meaningful to those in their household.

With thanks for the insight of those from other households. Also to those from a household near: Diane, Hannah, Mary Grace, and Rachel.

Your feedback would be appreciated: pjhobbs@rogers.com.

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* Consultation on Common Texts, *The Revised Common Lectionary*, Advent Year A (Winfield, BC: Woodlake Books, 1992), 25.

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