

Christmas Prayers

Written by Silvia Purdie

Advent Blessing

Be alert, be awake, be ready, for the Lord is coming!
Be watchful, take note; open your eyes for the Lord is here!
Listen carefully for his voice in the crowd and in the stillness.
Be on the lookout for his hand at work, for God is at work.
Look and you will see his love in action.
Be ready to notice God's grace making space for hope,
and his peace shimmering on the water.

Advent Confession:

Lord forgive our impatience.
We get quickly frustrated when problems arise
We confess our expectations that our lives should be easy and free of pain
Lord be patient with us, and teach us patience.
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

Lord forgive our impatience with the people closest to us.
We confess that our love gets crowded with frustrations and conditions
as we try to change each other before we change ourselves.
Teach us to love as you love us.
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

Lord forgive our impatience with our own bodies.
We confess our daily limitations, our aches and complaints
Forgive us for pushing ourselves too far
Teach us, Lord, to be kind to ourselves,
to speak gently to ourselves and to rest.
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

Lord forgive our impatience with the world around us
and those who make decisions that affect us.
We confess that we want things to suit us,
and we struggle to see things from different perspectives.
Forgive our pre-judgements and quick condemnations.
Lord enlarge our view that we might see the world as you see it.

Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

Lord, we pray, give us holy impatience with the world as it is.
Stir us for mission. Inspire us to be your change agents.
We confess that we have settled for what is
and dropped our eyes from the vision of your kingdom.
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

Words of assurance

In Christ you are forgiven.
In Christ you are lifted up out of the darkness that surrounds us on
every side
into the light and love of eternity.
In Christ you are loved more than you can know.
Be at peace. Amen.

Lord's Prayer for Christmas

Our Father in Heaven, holy is your name.
We praise you this morning, we give you thanks.
We bring to you our joy this Christmas
Thank you for countless blessings, big and small
thank you for precious children, thank you for old friends
thank you for the colours and music and tastes of Christmas,
and all they evoke in us.

Your kingdom come, your will be done
We bring you our worries this Christmas
the wrongness of things, the people not here,
the strife and stress in the world, our own government, our church
Take our worries and make of them something good, we pray.

Give us this day our daily bread
We bring you our needs this Christmas
You alone know what we hunger for
You know all those who do not have bread, let alone cake
Feed us with what we truly need,
so that we can feed others in your name.

Forgive us our sins, and release us to forgive others
We bring you our regrets, and our frustrations

Fill us with your love, so that we might indeed be people of joy forgiven, forgiving, free.

For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,
shining from the dawn of time
shining in the Bethlehem star
shining in our midst today. Amen.

Prayers for others

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Dear God, we pray for all people who feel lost in the dark in this life.

Be near to those who feel sad,
heal those who are sick.

Give light to those who cry out to you, Lord Jesus, we pray.

**You have given your people great joy;
they rejoice in what you have done.**

Dear God, we pray for families everywhere this Christmas time, that there will be real joy in every home

No matter how much money or food or how many presents,
may there be joy in belonging in family

May every child feel that they are loved this Christmas,
and every old person feel that they are loved.

For a child is born to us! A son is given.

Dear God, we pray for little babies, and for those not yet born
Bring them safe into this world

Make us a society where every child is cared for.

**He will be called, "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Eternal Father,"
"Prince of Peace."**

Dear God, we pray for peace for our world, peace in our time

May people everywhere find true peace from knowing you, Mighty God and Eternal Father.

His authority shall grow continually and there shall be endless peace

This we pray, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Christmas Prayer

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
for love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine
for the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
once in Royal Davids city
in a manger for his bed, one silent night.

These words ring in our souls, for we know them so well,
these words wrought from scripture, threaded in song.

As we sing these old familiar carols, speak to us again living Lord
and as we sing new carols, sing in our hearts afresh, Living Lord
that we may become each of us mangers in whom the son of God
comes to dwell, Emanuel, God with us.

God bless these children who lead our singing this morning,
and their families

God bless all our families at this Christmas time, near and far.

God bless us in our worship and our busy-ness and our resting

May you living again in us as we live in you.

Amen.

Light of the World

(Prayers of Intercession)

O Jesus, light of the world, come into the dark places of this earth.

You bring a light from God that only you can shed.

Light eternal, your light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness does not overcome it.

We bring to you the darkness of our world, in war, starvation, cruelty, and
exploitation.

We bring to you the darkness of our earth, damaged and defaced by
pollution.

and we pray for your strong leadership in our world.

Come, King of the Jews, be King, bring peace!

We bring to you the darkness known by those who are sick or grieving,
and we pray for your healing touch.

We bring to you the darkness of our relationships,
as families gather at this time we ask for patience and friendship, for kind
words and gentle touch. Strengthen our families, Lord, shine your light of
love on us.

O Jesus, light of the world, be a morning star above for us,
a radiance within, the shining all around that lets us live in love.
so that we may reflect your brightness and give glory to God in heaven.

As the Wise Men brought precious gifts, we offer ourselves again this
evening, along with these gifts of money.

...

Everlasting God,
you brought the nations to your light
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Fill the world with your glory,
and show yourself to all the nations,
through him who is the true light
and the bright morning star,
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Christmas Blessings

Advent Blessing

Go now in the everlasting goodness of God
who is infinitely patient with us
who shines in our hearts and sings in our lives
who is coming into the world.
Go in hope. Amen.

Blessing

May the echo of angel song fill your Christmas
and the love of Mary and Joseph fill your home.
The presence of God-with-us carry you through all that lies ahead,
and the peace of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, be in you
and go with you, this Christmas day and every day.
Amen.

Blessing (from John 1)

May the blessing of God shine in you, the life of God that is the light of the world.
May the grace and truth of Jesus Christ grow in you.
May the Spirit of God be at home in your heart,
for God became flesh and came to be with us.
May the glory of God surround you and uplift you,
this Christmas time and for all eternity. Amen.

May the peace of Christ

Once, long long ago, away in a manger, Christ was born
Now and here, in a glorious summer's day here at the ends of the earth,
Christ is alive with us.
In all things we give thanks, in all our ways we sing God's praise
As you go, keep on singing!
May the peace of God ring in your mind and heart and soul
until all fears are laid to rest, all anxiety calmed
for Christ is Lord, born in Bethlehem, Lord of all.

Blessing

As you go, go with hope, hope born in the midst of struggle, the hope of
Simeon waiting for the Christ child.
As you go, go with peace, peace born in the still point in the human soul
where Christ is known
As you go, go with love, love born where people reach out toward one
another, the love of Joseph and Mary

As you go, go with joy, joy born not from us, but springing up to bless and to surprise, Christ with us, yes, even at Christmas. Amen.

Blessing for Christmas Day

Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

May you go with adoration ringing in your heart.

Enjoy the gifts and blessings of Christmas

as you celebrate the birth of Jesus, whatever this day brings.

Go in peace. Amen.

Blessing for Christmas Eve Night

This holy night, may hope and peace, joy and love be yours

This holy night, may the Lord of all shine in your heart

and in your home

with love strong to save and mercy strong to overcome

through all the year ahead.

Go now in Jesus' name. Go in peace. Amen.

Let the light shine

Let the light that shone in the darkness shine upon us.

Let it shine within us, sparking hope and sustaining joy.

Let it shine around us, that it might show us the way that leads to our neighbors.

And let it shine above us, that it might reveal the Christ who manifests your presence.

May you know the blessings of our brilliant and generous God this Christmas and always. Amen.

Dedication of Offering

Dear God, you are so good to us; thank you!
You are generous to us in so many ways.
Thank you especially for sending us your son, Jesus,
born in a manger to be close to us.
Thank you that we can be friends with him and follow him.
You give us gifts so that we can give to others
Thank you for work to do and people to love.
Bless us as we serve and bless these gifts we bring.
May the whole earth ring with your praise!
Amen.

Dedication of the offering

Gifts are for giving, and our good God loves to give.
We celebrate and give thanks that we are part of a great cycle of
generosity
into which we place our very lives;
for all we are is gift, nothing we have is ours alone.
Bless these gifts we bring, and bless us in the giving
that all may be well and every manner of things may be well
through Jesus Christ our saviour, Amen.

Dedication of the offering (*Advent – waiting*)

We wait for you, we long for you to come.
We wait with eager anticipation for the kingdom of God to be revealed.
We wait with open hearts, living generous lives,
that Christ may be seen in us
and through us reach those in need.
We dedicate these gifts we bring, and ourselves to your service,
God of grace. Amen.

Celtic Christmas Blessings *(traditional)*

In the light of the Christmas star – God bless you.
In your travels, both near and far –
God bless you.
As you celebrate Jesus' birth – God bless you.
As you pray for peace on earth – God bless you.

By the brilliance of the Christmas candle
may God fill your home with light and warmth
and guide your footsteps through the New Year
in ways of joy and peace!

A Celtic Christmas Blessing

God send us a happy Christmas!
His blessing be on our home.
His love be around our loved ones
wherever they may roam.

God send us a holy Christmas!
His name be on every mind
and close to the crib of Bethlehem
true happiness may we find.

God send us a peaceful Christmas!
May the sweetness of memories throng
where we sit at the festive table
and sing a soothing song.

God send us a merry Christmas
to us and all we love!
On our home may the babe of Bethlehem
smile down from his home above.

Nollag Shona
Nollaig Chridheil

The light of the Christmas star to you
the warmth of home and hearth to you
the cheer and good will of friends to you
the love of the Son and God's peace to you