



## ADVENT 2 SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." **Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.**

Source of all light send your Son Jesus Christ to shine in our dark world. Help us to prepare our hearts to receive him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

*Prepare the Way of the Lord CP 107*

*Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.*

Restore us, O Creator of the stars of night;

**show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Will you not give us life again, **so that your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your mercy, O God, **and grant us your salvation.**

Blessed is the Christ who comes in your name! **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. In your tender compassion the dawn from on high is breaking upon us to dispel the lingering shadows of night.

As we look for your coming among us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, so that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

***Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13***

***Show us your salvation. Let us see your steadfast love.  
Show us your salvation. Let us see your steadfast love again.***

***You, O God, renew the earth, you restore all things. You have forgiven us again. You will speak and we will hear, you will speak your peace. We turn our hearts to you in faith fullness.***

***Show us your salvation. Let us see your steadfast love.  
Show us your salvation. Let us see your steadfast love again.***

***Surely your salvation is within our reach. Your glory dwells now on the earth. Steadfast love and faithfulness have embraced again. Your peace and justice have renewed their love.***

***Show us your salvation. Let us see your steadfast love.  
Show us your salvation. Let us see your steadfast love again.***

***Justice will shine down again. Seeds of faith will grow. The earth is nourished by your love You will give to us what's good. We will follow you along the paths of justice and of love.***

***Show us your salvation. Let us see your steadfast love.  
Show us your salvation. Let us see your steadfast love again.***

***Isaiah 40:1-11***

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

Now it is time to awake out of sleep, **for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**  
Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed, **for the night is far spent.**

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light,  
**for the day is at hand.**

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh,  
**for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

**2 Peter 3:8-15a**

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him,

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

***Comfort, Comfort Ye My People CP 100***

***Comfort, comfort ye my people; speak ye peace: thus says your God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load;  
speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them:  
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.***

***Hark! The herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near,  
calling us to new repentance since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, the warning call obey! Now prepare for Christ a way;  
let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.***

***Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble as befits Messiah's reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the taken that God's Word is never broken.***

**Mark 1:1-8**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice

of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

*sermon*

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height: **look to the east and see your children,** gathered from the west and the east **at the word of the Holy One.** They rejoice that God has remembered them **and has brought them back to you.** For God has ordered that every high mountain **and the everlasting hills be made low,** and the valleys filled up to make level ground **so that they may walk safely in the glory of God.** The woods and every fragrant tree **have shaded them at God's command.** For God will lead this people with joy in the light of the divine glory \* **with the mercy and righteousness that comes from God.** Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit: **as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:

**Love your neighbour as yourself.**

There is no commandment greater than these.

In joyful expectation let us pray to God, our Saviour and Redeemer.

O Wisdom from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Head of the house of Israel, you appeared in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Branch of Jesse standing as a sign among the nations, all rulers will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Morning Star, bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations: come and save us, O Anointed One. **Lord Jesus, come soon.**

*Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud.*

*Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember*

- *the church, that we may be ready for the coming of Christ;*
- *the leaders of the church;*
- *the nations, that they may seek peace and reconciliation;*
- *those who are working for justice in the world and*
- *the broken, that they may find God's healing.*

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 coming your Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen**

*Lift Your Voice by David Taylor*

***Lift your voice! In the wilderness cry, "Make a highway for God."  
Valleys rise. Mountains fall to your knees at the glory of God.***

***Every one is able. Lift up your voice, do not fear. Like a shepherd, God gathers us near to the stable. See, our God has come to save us.***

***Lift your voice! In the wilderness cry, "Make a highway for God."  
Valleys rise. Mountains fall to your knees at the glory of God.***

***When the night grows longer, when all the stars disappear. We will wait on our God to draw near and grow stronger. We will rise on wings as eagles!***

***Lift your voice! In the wilderness cry, "Make a highway for God."  
Valleys rise. Mountains fall to your knees at the glory of God.***

God of hope, you call us from the exile of our sin with the good news of restoration; you build a highway through the wilderness; you come to us and bring us home. **Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



*Today we pray for PWRDF and their partner UTOONI in Kenya. They work building wells in rural communities and provide donkeys for transportation for those who have to travel far for water.*

Awaiting his coming in glory and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God, source of all being, eternal word and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**May Christ, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. Amen.**

***Come, O God of All the Earth CP 589***

***Come, O God of all the earth: come to us, O righteous one;  
come, and bring our love to birth in the glory of your Son.  
Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you!  
Raise your joyful cries! Dance to the life around you!***

***Come, O God of wind and flame: fill the earth with righteousness;  
teach us all to sing your name: may our lives your love confess.  
Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you!  
Raise your joyful cries! Dance to the life around you!***

***Come, O God of flashing light, twinkling star and burning sun;  
God of day and God of night: in your light we all are one.***

*Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you!  
Raise your joyful cries! Dance to the life around you!*

*Come, O God of snow and rain: shower down upon the earth;  
come, O God of joy and pain, God of sorrow, God of mirth.  
Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you!  
Raise your joyful cries! Dance to the life around you!*

*Come, O justice, come, O Peace: come and shape our hearts anew;  
come and make oppression cease: bring us all to life in you.  
Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you!  
Raise your joyful cries! Dance to the life around you!*

Readings for next Sunday – December 13, 2020

Advent 3

The Book of Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

Psalm 126

Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8,19-28