

# Stories on the Way: Prayers for Advent

## **Week One – Expectation**

“The day is surely coming”, says God, “when I will fulfill the promise I made to my people.” *Jeremiah 33:14*

In this first week of Advent, we wait with great excitement for the day when God will free the whole world from war and hunger and sadness and loneliness. We know it is coming, even if we don't know when, and we know it will be more wonderful than anything we can imagine!

While we wait, let's notice the ways in which the world is already filled with peace and joy and beauty and let's pray for people who live in places where it is hard to find those good things.

*Conversation may be appropriate before moving into the prayer.*

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

*Take a moment of silence here, as your family can handle it.*

Holy God,

You promise that love is stronger than hate, happiness is stronger than sadness, life is stronger than death.

Bring justice to your world.

The day is coming

**We are waiting.**

Bring joy to your world.

The day is coming

**We are waiting.**

Bring peace to your world.

The day is coming

**We are waiting.**

*At the lighting of the candle*

Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

**Come, Lord Jesus, Come.**

**Amen.**

# Stories on the Way: Prayers for Advent

## **Week Two – Preparation**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. *Malachi 3:1*

In the second week of Advent, we get ourselves and our world ready to be completely changed by God, transformed from a place with suffering and injustice into a place of freedom and peace. We want to be ready so we begin now by practicing how to live in a way that is fair for everyone and takes care of all God's creation – the earth and the sky and the seas and the plants and the animals and the people.

What are some ways we can get ourselves and our world ready? What are ways we can take care of the earth? Or one another? Or even people and places far away?

*Conversation may be appropriate before moving into the prayer..*

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

*Take a moment of silence here, as your family can handle it.*

Holy God,

You promise that love is stronger than hate, happiness is stronger than sadness, life is stronger than death.

Bring justice to your world.

The day is coming

**We are getting ready.**

Bring joy to your world.

The day is coming

**We are getting ready.**

Bring peace to your world.

The day is coming

**We are getting ready.**

*At the lighting of the candle*

Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

**Come, Lord Jesus, Come.**

**Amen.**

## Stories on the Way: Prayers for Advent

### **Week Three – Repentance**

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.  
*Zephaniah 3:15*

In the third week of Advent, we remember that we sometimes act without peace, love, or fairness. We remember that we have made many mistakes – we have been selfish, mean, impatient, and careless. We also remember that God forgives us and loves us, no matter what.

Let's confess our sins to God and promise to keep trying to live in God's way. And let's forgive one another and anyone else who has treated us unfairly or without love.

*Conversation or silence may be appropriate before moving into the prayer..*

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

*Take a moment of silence here, as your family can handle it.*

Holy God,

You promise that love is stronger than hate, happiness is stronger than sadness, life is stronger than death.

Bring justice to your world.

The day is coming

**We are trying.**

Bring joy to your world.

The day is coming

**We are trying.**

Bring peace to your world.

The day is coming

**We are trying.**

*At the lighting of the candle*

Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

**Come, Lord Jesus, Come.**

**Amen.**

## Stories on the Way: Prayers for Advent

### **Week Four – Rejoicing**

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| My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. <i>Luke 1:46-47</i> |
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In the fourth week of Advent, we rejoice in the great love God has for the whole world. We rejoice in the gift of Jesus, coming to us as a baby on Christmas day and as the one who will save the world from sin and sadness and death when he comes to fulfill God's promises of peace and justice and joy.

How can we share our joy with the world?

*Conversation may be appropriate before moving into the prayer.*

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

*Take a moment of silence here, as your family can handle it.*

Holy God,

You promise that love is stronger than hate, happiness is stronger than sadness, life is stronger than death.

Bring justice to your world.

The day is coming

**We are rejoicing.**

Bring joy to your world.

The day is coming

**We are rejoicing.**

Bring peace to your world.

The day is coming

**We are rejoicing.**

*At the lighting of the candle*

Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

**Come, Lord Jesus, Come.**

**Amen.**

## Stories on the Way: Prayers for Advent

### **Christmas Day**

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. *Luke 2:10-11*

The day is finally here, Jesus is born and Christmas has come. As we celebrate this wonderful day, we continue to wait for the fulfillment of God's promises when Jesus comes again and the world is transformed in justice, joy, and peace.

As we celebrate, and as we wait, let's ask God to help us live as Jesus showed us, to love the world as God loves the world, and to rejoice in the good things of our life.

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

Holy God, on this day, long ago, you came into our human world as a baby named Jesus. You showed us that it is good to be human, good to be in this world. You showed us that you want to be with us – and want us to be with you. In your birth and life and death and resurrection, you showed us that love is stronger than hate, happiness is stronger than sadness, life is stronger than death.

Justice is here.  
**We will share it.**

Joy is here.  
**We will share it.**

Peace is here.  
**We will share it.**

*At the lighting of the candle*  
God is with us.  
**God is with us.**  
**Amen.**