

# Worship in Advent 2020

All say together the sections in **bold** print.

## Opening

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

*Isaiah 60:1-3*

## Prayer

**God, who said**  
**"Let there be light",**  
**we come to you.**  
**Jesus, Light of the World,**  
**we come to you.**  
**Spirit who illumines our hearts,**  
**we come to you.**  
**May we truly meet with you today,**  
**and may that meeting**  
**change our lives.**  
**Amen.**

## Lighting the Advent Candle

**Advent 1** - We think about the women and men of faith from the past - Abraham and Ruth, Rahab and Joshua, Queen Esther and King David. They trusted you and looked forward to your promise, of renewal, of joy, of a new world, a new life.  
Come, Lord Jesus.

**Advent 2** - We think about the prophets, Elijah, Isaiah, Ezekiel - who spoke your truth in their situation, whatever it cost them, and looked forward to the ultimate fulfilment of your promises.  
Come, Lord Jesus.

**Advent 3** - We think about John the Baptist, who prepared his nation for the coming of the Christ.

He saw the fulfilment of your promise and paid the ultimate price for speaking the truth.  
Come, Lord Jesus.

**Advent 4** - We think about the Virgin Mary, who was obedient to your will. She saw your promise and gave herself to it. She foresaw the justice and equality that your kingdom ushers in. May we be like her.  
Come, Lord Jesus.

## *The candle /s are lit.*

Light in our darkness,  
Hope when we're hope-less,  
Courage in the Valley,  
Comfort in pain,  
Lord Jesus Christ  
We turn to you,  
As you open to us  
Your arms  
Of love.

*John Laurensen*

## Confession

Dear God,  
Where are you now?  
And what are you going to do  
About the mess I've made?

If there was ever a soul to save  
It must be me,  
It must be me.

*Annie Lennox*

**Father God**  
**forgive my sins**  
**and bring this prodigal**  
**back home.**  
**Amen.**

## *Assurance of forgiveness*

Because we acknowledge our sins  
and turn from them,  
because Jesus has paid the price,  
and put to death our estrangement  
from God, on the cross;  
God completely forgives us,  
we are "washed, forgiven,  
loved, saved".     *'Every River'*, Runrig

## *Ministry of the Word*

*Scripture reading*  
*Advent Message*

## *Responding*

*in song or quiet reflection*

## *Prayers of intercession*

*'The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with  
healing in his wings.'*     *Malachi 4:2*

Father God, you said "Let there be light", and  
there was light. We pray for our dark,  
troubled world. We pray for your healing  
for the nations in this time of pandemic...

We pray for good governance. We pray for  
world leaders.

We pray for peace in areas of conflict.

We pray for the power to change the way we  
care for the planet.

Come, Lord Jesus

**Come, Lord Jesus**

Lord Jesus, Light of the world, you said the  
church was a light to be placed on a lamp  
stand. We pray for healing for your  
church. Forgive the wrongs we have done  
and make us a better reflection of your love  
and care for the world. Help us at Mitford  
and Hebron to serve our community, to be  
Christ to them. Give us the vision and  
direction and energy and creativity to do  
that.

Come, Lord Jesus

**Come, Lord Jesus**

Holy Spirit, who illumines our hearts, heal  
our tired, troubled hearts. Encourage the  
lonely, give us the resilience we need.

Help us to endure.

Bring us joy and peace again.

Come, Lord Jesus

**Come, Lord Jesus**

## *The Lord's Prayer*

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## *Ending and Blessing*

Lighten our darkness,

we beseech Thee, O Lord;

and by Thy great mercies

defend us from all perils and dangers  
of this night.

For the love of Thine only Son

our Saviour, Jesus Christ

**Amen.**

*The Book of Common Prayer*

**The Lord bless us and keep us;**

**the Lord make his face shine**

**upon us**

**and be gracious to us;**

**the Lord turn his face towards us**

**and give us peace.**

*Numbers 6:24-26*