

ADVENT LITANY

Among the poor, **among the proud,**
among the persecuted, ... **among the privileged,**
Christ is coming, .. **He is coming to make all things new.**
In the private house, **in the market place,**
in the wedding feast, ... **in the judgement hall,**
Christ is coming, **He is coming to make all things new.**
with a gentle touch, ... **with an angry word,**
with a clear conscience, ... **with burning love,**
Christ is coming, ... **He is coming to make all things new.**
That the kingdom might come, ... **that the world might believe,**
that the powerful might stumble, **that the humble might be raised,**
Christ is coming ... **He is coming to make all things new.**
Within us, .. **without us,**
among us, ... **before us,**
in this place, ... **in every place,**
for this time, ... **for all time,**
Christ is coming, ... **He is coming to make all things new.**

We now light the outside candles as follows

Advent 1 One Candle

Advent 2 Two Candles

Advent 3 Three Candles

Advent 4 Four Candles

Christmas Day all four outside candles plus centre candle

Song 1

Peace to you

We bless you now in the name of the Lord
Peace to you
We bless you now
in the name of the Prince of Peace
Peace to you

Song 2

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Announces that the Lord is nigh
Awake and hearken, for He brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings

Then cleansed be every Christian breast
And furnished for so great a guest
yea let us each our heart prepare
For Christ to come and enter there

For Thou art our salvation Lord
Our refuge and our great reward
Without Thy grace our souls must fade
and wither like a flower decayed

Stretch forth Thine hand to heal our sore
And make us rise to fall no more
Once more upon Thy people shine
and fill the world with love divine

All praise eternal Son to Thee
Whose Advent sets Thy people free
Whom with the Father we adore
And Spirit blessed for evermore
Amen

Song 3

Jesus - the name high over all

In hell or earth or sky
Angels and men before it fall
And devils fear and fly - And devils fear and fly

Jesus - the name to sinners dear
The name to sinners given
It scatters all their guilty fear
It turns their hell to heaven
It turns their hell to heaven

Jesus - the prisoner's fetters breaks
And bruises Satan's head
Power into strengthless souls it speaks
And life into the dead - And life into the dead

O that the world might taste and see
The riches of his grace
The arms of love that comfort me
Would all mankind embrace
Would all mankind embrace

His righteousness alone I show
His saving grace proclaim
This my business here below
To cry Behold the Lamb
To cry Behold the Lamb

Happy if with my final breath
I might but grasp his name
Preach him to all and cry in death
Behold behold the Lamb
Behold behold the Lamb

Song 4

It came upon a midnight clear

That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heaven's all-gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring
O hush the noise, ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing

For lo, the days are hastening on
By prophet-bards foretold
When, with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
It's ancient splendours fling
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing

Song 5

The race that long in darkness pined

Has seen a glorious light
The people dwell in day who dwelt
In death's surrounding night

To hail Thy rise thou better sun
The gathering nations come
Joyous as when the reapers bear
The harvest treasures home

To us a child of hope is born
To us a Son is given
Him shall the tribes of earth obey
Him all the hosts of heaven

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His name shall be the Prince of Peace
For evermore adored
The Wonderful the Counsellor
The great and mighty Lord
His power increasing still shall spread
His reign no end shall know
Justice shall guard His throne above
And peace abound below

Song 6

In the bleak mid-winter

Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone
Snow had fallen snow on snow
Snow on snow
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago

Heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
God the Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air
But only His mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped her beloved
with a kiss

What can I give Him Poor as I am
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb
If I were a wise man
I would do my part
Yet what I can I give Him
Give my heart

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone
Snow had fallen snow on snow
Snow on snow
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago

Song 7 (*Tell out, tell out the news*)

Now dawns the sun of righteousness
And the darkness will never
His brightness dim
True light that lights the hearts of men
Only Son of the Father - Jesus Christ

*Tell out, tell out the news
On every street proclaim
A child is born, a Son is given
And Jesus is His name
Tell out, tell out the news
Our Saviour Christ has come
In every tribe and nation
Let songs of praise be sung
Let songs of praise be sung!*

Laughter and joy
He will increase
All our burdens be lifted
Oppression cease
The blood-stained battle-dress be burned
And the art of our warfare
Never more be learned

Tell out, tell out the news ...

So let us go, His witnesses
Spreading news of His kingdom
Of righteousness
Till the whole world has heard the song
Till the harvest is gathered
Then the end shall come

Tell out, tell out the news ...

Apostle's Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and He is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Leader: So now, following Jesus' example and command, we take this bread and this wine, the ordinary things of the world which Christ will make special. And as he said a prayer before sharing, let us do so too.

Prayers of Gratitude

Leader: Gratitude, praise, hearts lifted high, voices full and joyful. These you deserve. For when we were nothing, you made us something; when we had no name and no faith and no future, you called us your children; When we lost our way or turned away, you did not abandon us; when we came back to you, your arms opened wide in welcome. And look, you prepare a table for us offering not just bread, not just wine, but your very self, so that we may be filled, forgiven, healed, blessed, and made new again. You are worth all our pain and all our praise.

Prayer of Consecration

All: Lord Jesus Christ, present with us now, for all that you have done and all that you have promised; what have we to offer? Our hands are empty, our hearts are sometimes full of wrong things. We are not fit to gather up the crumbs from under your table. But with you is mercy and the power to change us. So as we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room, send down your Holy Spirit on us that these gifts of bread and wine may become for us your body and blood, healing, forgiving and making us whole; and that we may become, for you, your body, loving and caring in the world until your kingdom comes. Amen

Leader: The Lord Jesus, among friends, gathered round a table on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Look, here is your Lord coming to you in bread and wine. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Draw near with faith and receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for you and his blood which was shed for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Lord's Prayer

The bread and wine are shared

Prayer after Communion

All: Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life in our hands, now we put our lives in yours. Take us, shake us, remake us. No longer is what we have been important. It is what, with you, we can be, starting now. Amen