

**Pray together for the Needs of Your Loved Ones, Community and World *(in a way that suits your group)*.**

**Leader concludes shared prayer with:**

We offer all these prayers and the deep quiet prayers of our heart, in union with Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds and Holy Angels and all the waiting People of God today.

**ALL:**

**Come Lord Jesus Come**

**Today, O God, open our eyes and ears.**

**Fill us with Advent expectation.**

**Help us always find your footprints on our paths,  
and your presence even in unexpected places in our lives.**

**Help us God of compassion and mercy**

**to always share in simplicity  
the power of your love among us. AMEN**

**Leader:** May the Lord God bless us and those we hold in our hearts with his peace, his love and his joy; to embrace and to share throughout this Advent and Christmas season.

**ALL: In the name  
of the Father,  
the Son  
and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen**



**PRAYER WHILE LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLE**

O God, as light comes from this candle, may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us, warming our hearts and brightening our way.

May Christ our Saviour bring light into the darkness of this world, and to us, as we wait for his coming.



**Someone read: A Reading from *Philippians 1:4-11***

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

**Response: Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord we watch for you, wait for you and long for you with all our hearts, our minds and our strength this Advent. Come Lord Jesus, Alleluia.**

**Advent Hymn-Listen, sing or read**

**Watching, Waiting Longing,**

Heaven sent a child to save us, light for all to see  
Helpless baby, mighty savior, holy mystery.  
Unto us a son is given, born in Bethlehem  
Lamb of God the light of nations, God in flesh became

**Chorus**

***Watching, waiting, longing for the day  
When His people would glorify the Name above all names***

For the joy that lay before Him, chose our agony  
Jesus bore the wrath of Calvary, washing sinners clean.  
Our Messiah, Christ our brother, word of God in flesh  
Loosed the chains that held us captive, broke the bonds of death

**Chorus**

So we wait with expectation for His Advent here.  
Bride of Christ, His word proclaimed for all the world to hear.  
He will come in clouds descending at the trumpet sound  
In the light of Christ our Savior every knee will bow.

**Final Chorus**

Born in a manger, dying on a tree  
Rising Easter morning to set His people free  
(We're) Watching, waiting, longing for the day  
When all nations will glorify the Name above all names

*Written by Rick Lee James and Ted Rastatter*

Go to <https://youtu.be/V3npWKTxE8I> to view and hear song with Lyrics  
From Hymns, Prayers, and Invitations, March 17, 2016



**Take turns reading verse 1—7**

**V.1.** No room for you in the city, Jesus.  
So many doors were tried and closed to you. So many places did not warm you with welcome.

**Response all: Come Lord Jesus, Come.**

**V.2.** There is still a coming.  
There is still a Bethlehem.  
It is the city of my heart  
With no room to give you welcome.

**ALL: Come Lord ...**

**V.3.** It is the manger of my inner self  
Where your request is made,  
Searching for an entrance,  
To the poor and empty dwelling.

**ALL: Come Lord ...**

**V.4.** Advent is a time for waiting. I will wait faithfully,  
For slow recognition of the closed doors in my Bethlehem.

**ALL: Come Lord ...**

**V.5.** Advent is a time of yearning. I will keep on longing for you.  
I will try to do so patiently. **ALL: Come Lord ...**

**V.6.** Advent is a time of hoping. I will seek the strong stirring sureness,  
that it is possible to open doors. **ALL: Come Lord ...**

**V.7.** Advent is a time of coming. I will pray with all the church;  
Come. Come. Come, Lord Jesus. Welcome into my home of love.  
**ALL: Come Lord Jesus, Come.**

**ALL Together:**

**And Lord, when it is time to say — This is Christmas day, —  
I will pray that you will be warmly welcome, in the Bethlehem of  
my heart. Giving birth in my newly opened places.**