



## Sharing the Feast of Life in Advent

*Please have ready:  
a candle, a Bible, bread  
and wine/juice.*

**Colours**  
president: black  
worship leader: blue  
cantor: green  
readers and others: violet



*We light the appropriate number of candles.*

*We light these Advent candles:*

*lights that dispel the deepest darkness.*

**Loving God,**

**Let these candles speak to us**

**of the flames of hope within us;**

**of the passing of darkness and suffering.**

of the sureness of dawn,  
and the promise  
of an eternal sunrise still to come,  
though we may yet be in that darkest hour  
before the dawn.

*Kindle a flame*

*to lighten the dark  
and take all fear away*

*Within our darkest night  
you kindle the fire  
that never dies away*

## **Reconciliation**

We recognize the darkness and pain of our  
world, and our part in that pain:

We seek to know God's forgiveness and healing:

We have wounded your love:

**O God, forgive and heal us.**

We stumble in the darkness:

**Light of the world, transfigure us.**

We forget that we are your home:

**Spirit of God, dwell in us.**

*Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me.*

Sisters, brothers, siblings,

hear the word of the Lord:

we are forgiven; Christ sets us free –

let us journey on with hope.

**Let us forgive and love ourselves:**

**Let us forgive and love others.  
In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Kids' Church departs.*

## **Waiting**

*Attends le Seigneur,  
son jour est proche.  
Sois fort  
et prends courage.*

*Wait for the Lord,  
whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord:  
keep watch, take heart!*

O God, our hope and our desire,  
**we wait for your coming**  
**as the starving long for bread,**  
**the refugees for safety,**  
**the lonely for comfort,**  
**and the humble poor for justice.**

## **Reading(s) and reflection**

*Alleluia! Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.  
Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.*

*After the reading(s):*

*Hear what the Spirit is  
saying to the church.  
**Thanks be to God.***

*The reflection or  
sermon follows.*

## **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God,**  
**who creates and gives**  
**life to the world,**  
**whose generous love is beyond our imagining.**



yet closer than our breathing.

We believe in Jesus,  
the living Word of God,  
inviting us to new beginnings,  
calling us to follow him at any cost.

We believe in the Spirit,  
breathing into us renewing power,  
enabling our longing for justice,  
opening to us the depths of God's Wisdom.  
We believe in the company of God's people,  
called to follow the Way of Christ,  
heirs to the promises of God,  
travelling on in hope and peace. Amen.

## Prayers

*Please write prayer requests into the comments  
(remembering that this is a public space).*

## The Peace

*The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:  
in God I trust, in God I trust.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you:  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Everything is yours, Lord,  
everything comes from you:  
all we have we offer to you.  
Accept our love, Lord, we pray;  
receive our gifts, Lord, today.*

God who is endless self-giving love,

we give you our gratitude, our praise,  
our hearts lifted high, our voices full and joyful.  
For when we were nothing,  
you made us something.  
When we had no name, 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 worthy of all our heartfelt praise:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of heaven and earth adored,  
ceasing never, God for ever,  
holy, holy Lord.***

Among friends, gathered round a table,  
Jesus took bread, broke it and said,  
'This is my body, broken for you.'  
And later he took the cup of wine and said,  
'This wine is God's new covenant,  
sealed by my death.  
Take this – all of you – to remember me.'  
Spirit of God, come afresh on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine  
**that they may make us one body in Christ.**

Open our eyes

**that we may recognise you walking with us;**

Open our ears and our minds

**that we may hear your word;**

Open our hearts

**that your love may flow through us**

**and bring the blessing of new life to all we meet;**

For you are the God who makes all things new,  
and surprises us into understanding.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

O God in heaven,

**Mother and Father of us all,**

**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 for ever. Amen.**

***Jesus, Lamb of God:***

***have mercy on us.***

***Jesus, bearer of our sins:***

*have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, redeemer of the world:*

*give us your peace.*

## **Breaking the Bread**

This bread we break

is a sharing in the body of Christ.

Gathered in different places,

we are connected in one Spirit:

**We who are many are one body,**

**for we all share the one bread.**

## **The Communion**

*Please share some bread and juice/wine at home.*

*Eat this bread, drink this cup,*

*come to him and never be hungry.*

*Eat this bread, drink this cup,*

*trust in him and you will not thirst.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

**Bright star-maker God,**

**travel with us through Advent,**

**shine into our dark corners,**

**lead us into ways of justice,**

**warm us with joy and wonder,**

**bring us to new birth.**

**Amen.**

## **News and Notices**

### **Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,

scatter the darkness from before your path,

and make you ready to meet him  
when he comes in glory:  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,  
be upon you and remain among you,  
this day and always. **Amen.**

***Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho:  
Your will be done on earth, O Lord.***

Let us go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**