



Prayers for Advent 2016

Anticipating the Light

The world was a mess and yet it was wonderful when Jesus arrived on the scene. He entered a world of economic, political and religious turmoil and oppression. He still comes into our world as it is and as we are.

He doesn't wait till everything is perfect because the "right time" is now - when we are most needy.

We find it hard to pray, we are distracted at every turn by all the chaos of life. Jesus thinks this is the perfect time to come to us and offer his light and his peace.

Grab a moment or two and see that there is deep eternal light behind the glitter of the season. There is tenderness and compassion in our God who comes to be with us – not as we wish we were but as we are.

Take a few moments this Advent season, as you are and where you are to pray with the rest of us who want to see the light that gives hope to the world.

Zechariah's Hopeful Prayer

Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace." (Luke 1:76-79 NLT)

Some Prayers to get Started

Jesus, you are the glory of eternity shining among us, the tenderness of God here with us now.

Jesus, you are the Healing person, the pattern of goodness, fulfilling among us the highest human hopes.

Jesus, you are the champion of the weak, the counsellor of the despairing, the brother of us all who knows our needs.

Jesus you are the splendour of the Father, the Son of Mary, our Bridge between earth and the world beyond. (Ray Simpson, *Celtic Prayers for Life Today*)

Lord, I admit that I often feel inadequate, in spite of your promises. Often I hold back. Help me to take the risks of faith, to be aware of your affirming presence in my life. Now, in Advent, sharpen my spirit and my senses, and enable me to pay attention to the moments of God-radiance when you ask me to look and listen. (Lucy Shaw in *God With Us*, Greg Pennoyer)

O God, who we call Father, you must grieve at how we misuse our power and abilities for selfish and destructive ends. Help us this Advent season to emulate Joseph – using our position to advocate for the weak, our resources to serve the kingdom and our love to protect the powerless. For Jesus' sake