

Prayers of the People

First Week of Advent, 2014
The Advocate Episcopal Church



First Sunday of Advent November 30

Creator of the stars of night,
Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
We pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse
Should doom to death a universe,
You came, O Savior, to set free
Your own in glorious liberty.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;

Daily Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray,
Redeem us for eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below,
From all assaults of our dread foe.

Evening Hymn for Advent, Eighth Century

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Monday of the First Week of Advent

December 1

Feast of St. Andrew

After Andrew had stayed with Jesus and had learned much from Him, Andrew did not keep this treasure to himself, but hastened to share it with his brother [Peter]. Notice what Andrew said to Peter: “We have found the Messiah, that is to say, the Christ.” Notice how his words reveal what he has learned in so

short a time. They show the power of the Master who has convinced them of this truth. They reveal the zeal and concern of people preoccupied with this question from the very beginning. Andrew’s words reveal a soul waiting with the utmost longing for the coming of the Messiah, looking forward to his appearing from heaven, rejoicing when He does appear, and hastening to announce so great an event to others. To support one another in the things of the spirit is the true sign of good will between brothers and sisters, of loving kinship and sincere affection.

Daily Scripture

Deuteronomy 30:11-14
Psalm 19:1-6
Romans 10:8b-18
Matthew 4:18-22

Notice, too, how, even from the beginning, Peter is docile and receptive in spirit. He hastens to Jesus without delay. Andrew brought him to Jesus, says the evangelist [Saint John]. But Peter must not be condemned for his readiness to accept Andrew's word without much weighing of it. It is probable that his brother had given him, and many others, a careful account of the event; the evangelists, in the interest of brevity, regularly summarize a lengthy narrative. Saint John does not say that Peter believed immediately, but that Andrew brought him to Jesus. Andrew was to hand him over to Jesus, to learn everything for himself. There was also another disciple present, and he hastened with them for the same purpose.

When John the Baptist said: "This is the Lamb, and he baptizes in the Spirit", he left the deeper understanding of these things to be received from Christ. All the more so would Andrew act in the same way, since he did not think himself able to give a complete explanation. He brought his brother to the very source of light, and Peter was so joyful and eager that Peter would not delay even for a moment.

From a sermon by St. John Chrysostom on the Gospel of John

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who gave such grace to your apostle Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ, and brought his brother with him: Give us, who are called by your Holy Word, grace to follow him without delay, and to bring those near to us into his gracious presence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Tuesday of the First Week of Advent December 2

I was just thinking
one morning
during meditation
how much alike
hope
and baking powder are:
quietly
getting what is

Daily Scripture

Isaiah 1:21-31
I Thessalonians 2:1-12
Luke 20:9-18

best in me
to rise,
awakening
the hint of eternity
within.

I always think of that
when I eat biscuits now
and wish
that I could be
more faithful
to the hint of eternity,
the baking powder
in me.

Macrina Wiederkehr, Seasons of Your Heart

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Wednesday of the First Week of Advent December 3

Love is most nearly itself
When here and now cease to matter.
Old men ought to be explorers
Here and there does not matter.
We must be still and still moving
into another intensity
For a further union, a deeper communion
Through the dark cloud and the empty desolation,

Daily Scripture

Isaiah 2:1-11
I Thessalonians 2:13-20
Luke 20:19-26

The wave cry, the wind cry, the vast waters
Of the petrel and the porpoise. In my end is my beginning.

T.S. Eliot

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Thursday of the First Week of Advent December 4

It is while waiting for the coming of the reign of God, Advent after Advent, that we come to realize that its coming depends on us. What we do will either hasten on slow, sharpen or dim our own commitment to do our part to bring it.

Joan Chittister, The Liturgical Year

O Lord, you have set before us the great hope that your kingdom shall come on earth, and have taught us to pray for its coming: Give us grace to discern the signs of its dawning, and to work for the perfect day when your will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Percy Dearmer

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives

Daily Scripture

Isaiah 2:12-22

I Thessalonians 3:1-13

Luke 20:27-40

and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Friday of the First Week of Advent December 5

Expectation—anxious, collective and operative expectation of the end of the world, that is to say, of an issue for the world—that is perhaps the supreme Christian function and the most distinctive characteristic of our religion

Daily Scripture

Isaiah 3:8-15
I Thessalonians 4:1-12
Luke 20:41-21:4

Historically speaking, that expectation has never ceased to guide the progress of our faith like a torch... We persist in saying that we keep vigil in expectation of the Master. But in reality we should have to admit, if we were sincere, *that we no longer expect anything*. The flame must be revived at all costs. At all costs must we renew in ourselves the desire and the hope for the great coming. But where are we to look for the source of this rejuvenation? From the perception of a *more intimate connection* between the victory of Christ and the outcome of the work which our human effort here below is seeking to construct.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

The Collect of the Day

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Amen.

Saturday of the First Week of Advent December 6

They watch for Christ
 who are sensitive, eager, apprehensive in mind,
 who are awake, alive, quick-sighted, zealous in honoring him,
 who look for him in all that happens, and
 who would not be surprised,
 who would not be over-agitated or
 overwhelmed,
 if they found that he was coming at
 once...

This then is to watch:
 to be detached from what is present,
 and
 to live in what is unseen;
 to live in the thought of Christ as he came once,
 and as he will come again;
 to desire his second coming, from our affectionate
 and grateful remembrance of his first.

John Henry Newman

Daily Scripture

Isaiah 4:2-6
 I Thessalonians 4:13-18
 Luke 21:5-19

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.