



—Mary Consoles Eve, *Sr. Grace Remington*

## Scattered Prayers

~ November 28, 2021 ~  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

*You are invited to light a candle as a sign that God is present with you in Spirit.  
You can print off the image on the last page for you or your children to use and/or colour.*

*Please read the **bold print**.*

WELCOME

*(some thoughts expressed are shaped by Joel Littlepage's "Letter from the Director" in The Daily Prayer Project: Advent 2021)*

The hope of the Light Eternal,  
the love of the King Emmanuel,  
the faithfulness of the Wisdom from on high,  
and the joy of saints and angels who abide under heaven's mercy  
be with you all.

SINGING ~ *Come Light Our Hearts*

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in You.  
Truly our hope is in You.

O Lord of life, our only hope,  
Your radiance shines  
On all who look to You in the dark.  
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

O Joy above all other loves,  
In you we find more than enough.  
We come as we are, O heal and restore,  
Come light our hearts.

—Sandra McCracken

GREETING PRAYER

*(adapted from A Guide to Prayer for All God's People [1990] p. 23 and Canyon Road: A Book of Prayer [pp. 334-335] by Kari Kristina Reeves)*

You are invited to greet God by praying the following words:

**Heavenly Father, Lord in heaven, Spirit who dwells within:**

**in this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation,  
we come to prepare a way for you in our lives.**

**As we worship,**

**open our eyes that we may see your promise fulfilled;**

**open our ears that we may hear your Word;**

**open our minds that we may discern your once-and-future coming;**

**open our hearts that we may anticipate and desire**

**the day when you will right all wrongs;**

**open our hands that we may love our neighbours as we love ourselves.**

**Maranatha—O Lord, come!—**

**and fill us afresh with your Holy Indwelling;**

**In the Name of the One who is our Hope, we pray.**

**Amen.**

SINGING ~ *Creator of the Stars of Night*

Creator of the stars of night,

Thy people's everlasting light,

O Christ, Redeemer of us all,

We pray you hear us when we call:

Come, oh, come,

Come, oh, come,

Come, oh, come,

To us.

When this old world drew on toward night

You came, but not in splendour bright,

Not as a monarch, but the child

Of Mary, blameless mother, mild.

—Alex Mejias / *High Street Hymns*

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE ~ REVELATION 12

A great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of childbirth.

And another sign was seen in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven diadems on its heads. With its tail, it dragged a third of the stars from the sky and threw them down to the earth. The dragon crouched before the woman in childbirth, poised to devour her child the moment it was born. The woman gave birth to a Son who will shepherd all nations with an iron rod. Her child was snatched away, taken up to God and to the Throne. And the woman escaped into the wilderness—to a place of safety prepared for her by God—so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred sixty days.

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, but they were not strong enough, and they were cleared out of Heaven, not a sign of them left. So the great dragon was thrown down—the ancient serpent that is called devil and the satan, the one who leads the whole world astray—he was thrown down, and all his angels thrown down with him, thrown down to earth.

And I heard a strong voice in heaven, proclaiming,  
“Established now at last are the salvation and the power:  
the kingdom of our God, and the authority of the Messiah.  
The prosecutor of our brothers and sisters,  
the one who accuses them before God day and night has been thrown down!  
They triumphed over him by the blood of the lamb  
and by the word of their testimony,  
for they were willing to give up their lives and die.  
So rejoice, O heavens and all who live there!  
But woe to the earth and the sea,  
for the Devil has come down on you with both feet;  
he’s had a great fall;  
he is filled with fury,  
because he knows that his time is short.”

When the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he set off in pursuit of the woman who had borne the baby boy. The woman, however, was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she could fly away to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach. And from his mouth the serpent vomited forth water like a river after the woman, to sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman, swallowing the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. Enraged at the woman, the dragon went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring, those who keep God’s commands and hold to the witness of Jesus.

*Word of God, Word of Life.*

SINGING ~ *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Saviour,  
When half spent was the night.

O Saviour, Child of Mary, Who felt our human woe,  
O Savior, King of glory, Who dost our weakness know;  
Bring us at length we pray, to the bright courts of Heaven,  
And to the endless day!

—*Ordinary Time*

REFLECTION\*

SINGING ~ *O Day of Peace*

O day of peace that dimly shines  
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
Guide us to justice, truth, and love,  
Delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands,  
Our hearts from envy find release,  
'Til by God's grace our warring world  
Shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
Nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
A little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love,  
All creatures find their true accord;  
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
For all the earth shall know the Lord.

—*Josh Garrels*

CONFESSION *(adapted from a prayer in The New Mozarabic Collects)*

Let us do what God's prophets call us to do and confess our fears, our failures, our infidelities to Yahweh, the One who keeps watch for us, and offers forgiveness.

**Prince of Peace, always with us,**

**We confess:**

**at your first coming you humbled yourself to save us from the dragon—  
the sin and evil and death that would devour us;  
at your second coming the powers that wage war against us  
will be done away with by your mercy,  
and we will be numbered with your saints in glory everlasting.**

**But we confess:**

**confronted with the serpent—its venom, its constricting coils—  
we are enthralled;  
our minds fail us,  
our strength fades,  
our resolve falters.**

**Maranatha—O Lord, come:**

**Rescue us!**

**Forgive us!**

**Restore us!—**

**that we may live and labour in the hope that will one day fully blossom:  
the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.**

*Listening Silence*

OFFERINGS OF RECONCILIATION *(based on Jeremiah 33:14-16 and the Threefold Hope of Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen)*

Thanks be to the Advent God!

You are a people blessed!

The Branch of David came with love to Bethlehem;

He comes with grace into our souls;

He will come to bring justice and righteousness into full bloom at the end of the world.

Go forth refreshed and renewed with the words of the prophet:

In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

SINGING ~ *Magnificat*

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
My spirit rejoices in God.  
My soul magnifies the Lord,  
My spirit rejoices in God.

For He who is mighty  
Has done great things for me.  
Holy, holy,  
Holy, holy,  
Holy, holy  
Is His name!

—Sandra McCracken

PRAYERS FOR THE ADVENT OF HOPE IN THE WORLD

As God's people who are to give birth to the hopes of the kingdom in the world, one of the best things we can do is offer up to God the praises and problems of the world in prayer.

Pause your playback device.

Take some time to consider the following questions:

*Where do you see hopes satisfied?*

*Where do we need to see unmet or misplaced hopes healed? Misguided hopes crushed?*

*What circumstances need Hope fulfilled?*

Quietly or out loud, name the people, places and situations the Spirit brings to the attention of your heart and mind.

Offer each individual or circumstance to God with this phrase:

*For your Hope, Lord, hear our prayer.*



Offer up all that has been said or unspoken with the following song:

SINGING ~ *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a Child, and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

We are waiting,  
We are waiting,  
We are waiting for You.  
(Hallelujah, what a Savior!)

—Sandra McCracken

BLESSING *(based on the Threefold Hope of Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen and Philippians 1:6-11)*

Brothers and sisters:  
our world is oversupplied with theories and technology,  
but drastically undersupplied with hope.  
You, however, are tomorrow's people,  
those who know the future is pregnant with this promise:  
He came with love to Bethlehem;  
He comes with grace into our souls;  
He will come with justice at the end of the world.  
Go and live out your hope graciously and courageously.

And as we go into the world anticipating the once-and-future coming of the King,  
may the One who began a good work among you bring it to fulfillment,  
filling you with all love, depth of insight, and sound judgment,  
bountiful in fruits from the soul,  
making Jesus Christ attractive to all,  
getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.

Amen.

SINGING ~ *Come to Us, Immanuel*

Come to us, Immanuel.  
We wait for thee with bated breath,  
And hope filled hearts,  
And anxious minds,  
Longing to see your face  
And worship at your feet.

Isaiah's vision didst unfold  
When you descended into this world  
To bring good news  
And set the prisoners free.  
You set aside eternity  
So that we might live.

So come to us, Immanuel,  
We live in hope of your return  
To bring new life  
To this old world,  
To end all wars and heal all hearts,  
And to reign forevermore,  
And to reign forevermore.

—*Ordinary Time*



\* Some ideas are shaped and lines borrowed from the following sources:

*Discipleship on the Edge: An Expository Journey Through the Book of Revelation*, Darrell Johnson

*Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John & the Praying Imagination*, Eugene Peterson

*Revelation for Everyone*, N.T. Wright

*Revelation* (Believer's Church Bible Commentary), John Yeatts

<https://laurajeantuman.com/2017/12/11/mary-consoles-eve-two-voices-advent/>

Scriptures referenced include:

Genesis 3:15, 37:9

Isaiah 7:14, 26:16-18, 54:1, 65:23, 66:7-13

Micah 4:9-10, 5:3



## Body Prayer: Hope

Repeat the following prayer, using the actions to inspire movement as you are able:



**Holy One**

*(reach up and look out)*



**Grow within me**

*(hands on heart)*



**May your hope**

*(widen arms)*



**May your hope**

*(widen arms)*



**Encircle me**

*(circle both arms from one side, over head, to the other side)*



**Reach beyond me**

*(stretch arms in from of body)*



**May your hope**

*(widen arms)*



**AMEN**

*(head down, hands at prayer with palms together)*

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS.

