

ADVENT PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The following form for intercessory prayers at the Sunday Eucharist during an expanded Advent season is adapted from an original source provided through the United Church of Christ, and used in previous years at St Luke's Church, Fairport, NY. In a further edited form, it is offered to parishes/congregations participating in experimental use of the expanded season for 2009. Its chief feature is to use the Great "O" Antiphon messianic titles to address God as well as provide the responses of the people. Given this year's participants, the prayers are set in a form for either the Episcopal Church in the United States or the Anglican Church of Canada.

[The Deacon or other person appointed as Intercessor leads the prayers; the people respond as indicated.]

Brothers and sisters, as we joyfully await the full manifestation of God's reign in Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church and the world.

O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High and reach from beginning to end, mightily and sweetly ordering all things. Behold and bless your church, remembering especially [*Name*] our presiding bishop/primate, [*Name(s)*] our priest(s), [*Names*] our wardens, our vestry and delegates, and the people and clergy of the Church in [Anglican Cycle of Prayer for the day] and [Diocesan Cycle of Prayer and/or partner churches]. Be present in ordering the life of this and every congregation.

Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai, God of the Covenant, ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and on Mount Sinai gave your law. Forgive us when we stray from your guidance and will.

Come and redeem us for our life together.

O Root of Jesse, you stand as an ensign to humankind; before you rulers will shut their mouths, and nations bow in worship: We pray for your peace and justice in every nation and throughout the world; be present to all whose lives are ravaged by war and strife; especially we hold before you those from among us who serve their country abroad: [*Name(s)*]. Guide the leaders of this and every land into the paths of peace and goodwill.

Come save us and do not delay.

O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can shut, you shut and no one can open: Guide us in opening the doors of opportunity for the unemployed, for the

homeless, for prisoners, and for all who are oppressed; and lead us in closing the doors that lead to poverty, bigotry, and injustice.

Come and bring the captives out of the prison house.

O King of the Nations and their Desire, you are the cornerstone that makes us one: We lift up all who are suffering and in need, especially.... Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous and help us minister to them in your love.

Come and save us whom you have fashioned out of clay.

O Dayspring, radiance of the Light Eternal and Sun of Righteousness: Shine your light on those who have died; remember especially those we now name..., and bring comfort to all those who mourn.

Come and enlighten all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Emmanuel, God with us, Expected One and Saviour, We give thanks for all the blessings of this life; for all those who today celebrate birthdays [*Name(s)*] and anniversaries [*Name(s)*]; and for the other blessings we now name silently or aloud [*pause*]. Make each of us ready to receive you into our hearts, to serve you in all whom we meet, and to greet you in the fullness of your glory in the day of your appearing.

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

[The Presider concludes with an appropriate collect.]