

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

NOVEMBER

Week 4 – Looking towards Advent

Leader: As we approach Advent we prepare to watch and pray for the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness – selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression – shall be no more.

Opening Prayer

**LORD, BY YOUR PRESENCE, LIGHT UP THE PAST THAT WE MIGHT LEARN FROM IT WITH THANKFULNESS.
LIGHT UP THE PRESENT THAT WE MIGHT LIVE IN IT WITH LOVE.
LIGHT UP THE FUTURE THAT WE MIGHT PREPARE FOR IT IN HOPE.
AS WE WATCH AND WAIT AND PRAY, MAY WE BE ALWAYS READY TO ENCOUNTER THE LORD WHO IS ALREADY AND ALWAYS WITH US.**

Read: Psalm 25

Prayer

Loving God, we gather in this season of promise to worship you and give you our praise and thanks. We praise you for your love and your faithfulness, for you are the source of all hope and from you all joy springs.

You are the one we expect, but your coming is always unexpected. You are the one who turns everything upside down and you make all things new.

Advent God of surprises, we worship you and we wait for you to awaken our wonder and astound us with your arrival.

Loving God, in this season of excitement and weariness open our hearts to your presence, for we know you meet us and hold us:

in and beyond the busyness

in and beyond the glitter

in and beyond the rush.

When we are tired and frayed, when we lose sight of what it's all about, when we put ourselves first and forget that you come to bring love, come close and forgive us and restore us we pray.

Loving God, mend our broken hearts and help us to know that we are forgiven and loved.

In our thankfulness help us to wait and to watch for you, faithfully and truly all our days.

Amen.

And now hear us as we pray further in Jesus' words, saying:

OUR FATHER

Read: Matthew 24 verses 36 - 44

Reflection

This might be about your experience of watching and waiting, or of preparing, or perhaps about what the season of Advent means to you.

This should take the form of an introduction from the leader of 5 – 7 minutes **maximum**, and designed to stimulate discussion on the subject.

This part of the service might involve music or something visual; it might involve silence.

Prayer

This a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for the Church and in particular the situation in which we find ourselves as a result of coronavirus; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING PRAYER

**WE ARE PILGRIMS ALWAYS JOURNEYING
HOMEWARDS.**

MAY GOD WALK WITH US ALONG THE ROADS.

WE LOOK FOR PEACE AND WE CRY FOR JUSTICE.

MAY GOD MAKE US PEACEMAKERS ALL OUR DAYS.

**WE WAIT AND LONG FOR THE COMING OF JESUS.
MAY GOD FILL US WITH WONDER AND GREAT HOPE
MAY THE BRIGHT GOD OF PEACE BLESS US, CREATOR,
REDEEMER AND HOLY SPIRIT.
AMEN.**

This material has been adapted from “Candles and Conifers” and “Winter”, both Wild Goose Publications. The Prayer in the Social Care Week is adapted from a prayer by Very Rev. Colin Sinclair, former Moderator of the General Assembly.