2015 Advent Prayer Guide
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Resources used in the guide:


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We’re Still Waiting
Zechariah and Elizabeth

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2015

“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that he is near, at the every gate. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come.

And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Sunday Morning Prayer
Isaiah 64:1-9
Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Make your name known in all the earth. Do not forget us or be angry with us forever. We are your people and you are our God. Come quickly, Lord! Amen.

Read the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth found in Luke 1:5-25.

Zechariah and Elizabeth had perfected the art of waiting. They had waited all their lives for a child that never arrived. They waited for a word from God who seemed to have lost his voice. They waited for the day when their prayers would finally be answered and God would rend the heavens and come down, but no such thing had happened. So they kept waiting, they kept praying and their lives went on. But on an ordinary day, in an ordinary act, God spoke and their wait was finally over.

The season of Advent is all about waiting and Christians are a people who wait. We wait in collective anticipation in late November for the familiar hymns of our childhood to remind us of a miraculous birth. We wait, some days more patiently than others, for the Son of Man to return with great power and glory. We all wait for something. Whether it is a blessing from God, a new job opportunity, a good medical report or something else entirely, we are a people who have learned to wait. As you wait this Advent season remember Zechariah, a priest seemingly chosen at random to fulfill an ordinary task. If God can remember this man God can remember you. If God answered the prayers of Elizabeth, a righteous yet barren woman, then God can answer your prayers too. What prayers are waiting to be answered this Advent season?

Sunday Evening Prayer
Another day has come to an end and I am still waiting with hopeful anticipation for your return. I know you have not forgotten me and that you hear my prayers, but Lord, come quickly to establish your kingdom and reign in peace. We’re still waiting for peace. We’re still waiting for justice. We’re still waiting for you. Amen.
Monday

Morning Prayer
Abba, Father, your mercy is new each day and your love is unending. So often I take your presence in my life for granted, however, today as I should every day, I praise you for who you are – merciful, gracious, kind, just, and loving. May my life reflect the love that you have for me, as I strive to radiate that love to all people. Amen.

Evening Prayer
Another day has come to an end and I am still waiting with hopeful anticipation for your return. I know you have not forgotten me and that you hear my prayers, but Lord, come quickly to establish your kingdom and reign in peace. We’re still waiting for peace. We’re still waiting for justice. We’re still waiting for you. Amen.

Tuesday

Morning Prayer
O God, like the people of Israel long ago, we are a broken, lost, and lonely people longing for your presence now. I cry out with my sisters and brothers asking you to come into our lives as you have before. Give me ears to hear and eyes to watch so that I can recognize those who need your presence most this time of year. Amen.

Evening Prayer
Another day has come to an end and I am still waiting with hopeful anticipation for your return. I know you have not forgotten me and that you hear my prayers, but Lord, come quickly to establish your kingdom and reign in peace. We’re still waiting for peace. We’re still waiting for justice. We’re still waiting for you. Amen.

Wednesday

Morning Prayer
Great God, just as you spoke your truth when Zechariah listened, help my spirit to hear and know your voice. Allow me to hear your words and be overcome by your presence today. Still my tongue when I need to listen and prepare my heart for the coming of Jesus. Amen.

Evening Prayer
Another day has come to an end and I am still waiting with hopeful anticipation for your return. I know you have not forgotten me and that you hear my prayers, but Lord, come quickly to establish your kingdom and reign in peace. We’re still waiting for peace. We’re still waiting for justice. We’re still waiting for you. Amen.

Thursday

Morning Prayer
Loving God, there is much to do for Christmas… but really there is just as much to do in life in general. Life is so hurried and frantic that I struggle to even think about preparing for your coming again—the fulfillment of your promise. Just as early Christians were not afraid of the second coming of Christ, help me pray with confidence, “Come, Lord, Jesus come!” Even though I may not know the day or hour, you know and you have promised you will come and complete the work of your creation. Prepare me for that joyous consummation of your promise through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Evening Prayer
Another day has come to an end and I am still waiting with hopeful anticipation for your return. I know you have not forgotten me and that you hear my prayers, but Lord, come quickly to establish your kingdom and reign in peace. We’re still waiting for peace. We’re still waiting for justice. We’re still waiting for you. Amen.

Friday
December 4

Morning Prayer
Glory to God in the highest! We are blessed by your presence among us and to be found favored by Jesus. We rejoice and celebrate that you understand all the details of our lives. I give thanks for your son who lived for us and continues to live for us still. Amen.

Evening Prayer
Another day has come to an end and I am still waiting with hopeful anticipation for your return. I know you have not forgotten me and that you hear my prayers, but Lord, come quickly to establish your kingdom and reign in peace. We’re still waiting for peace. We’re still waiting for justice. We’re still waiting for you. Amen.

Saturday
December 5

Morning Prayer
God, it is with gratitude in my heart and praise on my lips that I come to you with great joy; celebrating the gift of life you have given me. Lord, I am grateful to be a part of a lineage that grants unlimited grace, mercy and love. As I live, allow me to extend that same grace, mercy, and love to my neighbors as I serve them as you have served me. Help me to remain in your presence and be faithful to your will for my life. In Jesus name, Amen!

Evening Prayer
Another day has come to an end and I am still waiting with hopeful anticipation for your return. I know you have not forgotten me and that you hear my prayers, but Lord, come quickly to establish your kingdom and reign in peace. We’re still waiting for peace. We’re still waiting for justice. We’re still waiting for you. Amen.