

Catholic Education Week: Advent 2018

“Rooted in Prayer”



Adapted for use in RCCDSB Schools

SUGGESTED OPENING SONGS

- *People Look East* ~ © 2000, Kevin Mayhew Limited. Reproduced by Permission of Kevin Mayhew Limited (www.kevinmayhew.com). License no. KM600006/1.
- *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry* ~ Jordanis oras praevia Charles Coffin (1676-1749). Translated by John Chandler (1806-1876). Adapted by Michael Perry (Word & Music) (1942-1996). © Word & Music/Jubilate Hymns Ltd. 8 8 8 8
- *Jesus Come to Us* ~ David Haas, Journeysongs Third Edition: Volume 21, © 2012 OCP. All rights reserved. All selections BMI. Released on 2012-05-01. Music Publisher: OCP.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Loving God,

We come before you in this season of Advent.

Grant us the gift of patience as we wait for you to come to us anew.

Fill our hearts with steadfast knowledge of your readiness to meet us in our need, that all when we call upon you, you will be there.

Make us witnesses to your faithful love for everyone we encounter this day;

give us the grace to “bear with one another” in love, (Colossians 3:13)

as we wait for Jesus to be made visible in our hearts and in our lives.

We make this prayer to you in His name.

Amen. +

And now, let us listen to God's word.

READING: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 3:1-6)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Prepare the word of the Lord, make his path

straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Our Advent journey prepares us to enter the mystery of Jesus’ birth at Bethlehem. We are called to make his way straight and his journey simple.

During Advent, God calls us to search our hearts for whatever stands in the way of Jesus being more present in our lives. What are my habits? What are my priorities? What am I striving for in these things? Do I help the poor or visit the sick? How much time do I give to my work? To my family? To my relationship with Jesus in prayer?

In short, Advent is the time to examine our conscience and consider making some small personal promises to the Lord; for example, setting aside time for prayer, volunteering or making time for family.

Now is the time to consider how we can better allow Christ to work in our lives.

“Jesus, help me to welcome you into my life.”

(Adapted from: Johnson, Gabriel. *Word Made Flesh: Daily Reflections for Advent*. Editions Novalis, 2018)

GUIDED REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What causes us to lack joy in our lives? How do we find it?

How do we become disconnected from prayer? How do we become re-connected?

How can we become more grateful and appreciative disciples of Christ?

CLOSING PRAYER

Remind us, O God, that what you have in store for us will be more than what we have dreamed of.

Help us to surrender ourselves to your timetable, for we know that your ways are not our ways.

Increase our ability to be patient with ourselves, Lord;

Increase our readiness for you to work through us;

Increase our trust in your plan

to bring us closer to you.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus your Son,

who is Lord, now and forever.

Amen.

(Adapted from: Macke, Sally. *Let’s Begin With a Prayer: 101 Prayers for Meetings*. Liguori 2014)

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SUGGESTED CLOSING SONGS

- *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ~ Latin antiphons, 12 century, Latin Hymn, 1710, Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961. VENIE EMMANUEL. L. M. ref .Plainsong. 13th century, Arr. by Thomas Helmore, 1856.
- *O Come, Divine Messiah* ~ Venez, Divin Messie. M. l’Abbé Pellegrin, Sister Mary of St. Philip (1877), 7.8.7.6 with refrain, English.