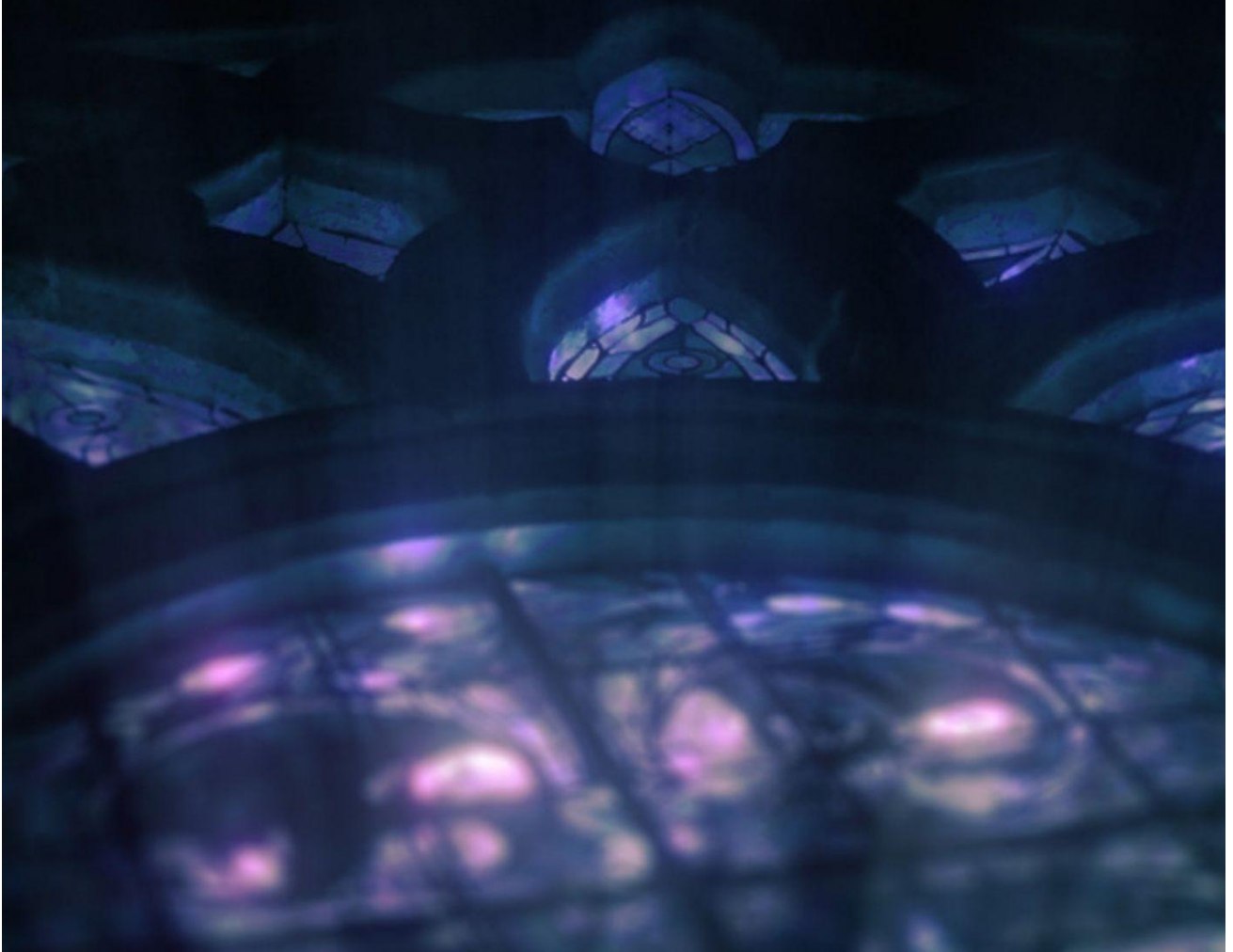


# Advent

THE COMING SAVIOUR



*“The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah”*

(Jeremiah 33:14)

## The Coming Saviour

Advent marks the start of a season for the church, but it also starts a new year within the church's calendar. As for the next 12 months we will journey through the gospel of Luke. Now the seasons of the Church year, such as Advent, Lent and Easter, to name a few, are meant to teach us something that we need to learn about the spiritual life and our relationship with God. These seasons go beyond mere information, and offer us the opportunity to "live into" aspects of our relationship with God, that we might not otherwise choose or even know how to choose.

The seasons of the church year give us a chance to practice some of the key disciplines of the Christian life as a community of faith together. As well, we join with Christians around the world by allowing ourselves to be guided and shaped by common themes. When it comes to Advent, this season gives us the opportunity to practice something that is hard for most of us to do - And that is to be present to the moment, to the now, and to the presence of God right here and now in our daily life.

Now for some of us after years in the Church, we can get used to the noise of Advent, so much so that we no longer notice it. Or if we do, it has ceased to jolt us awake and has become instead a low dull rumble. Like someone who has lived by the train tracks for years, and no longer hears the sound of the train. But you see, Advent is meant to jolt us awake. Advent teaches us to be watchful, to be awake, and to be present to the coming of Christ into our world. Not just seeing it as an event that happened way back in biblical times, but now – in the places where we long for, and need his presence in our lives.

This Advent I invite us all to start a new chapter in our journey with God and take a moment each day to see Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love in our lives. Now this could be while you have a cup of tea or coffee in the morning, getting the house ready for Christmas, or just before bed, to simply take a couple of minutes to stop, breathe, read God's word and be present to the now, to the coming of Christ in our lives.

Every Blessing as you journey through Advent.

Rev'd Christopher Bate

# Advent

## THE COMING SAVIOUR

### WEEK 1: HOPE

#### Warm Up Question:

What is the difference between the biblical idea of hoping for something, compared to wishing for something? What impact does hope have on your life?

#### Questions

1. Read Jeremiah 33:14-16. Where do you see hope in this passage?

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2. Read Psalm 25:1-10. Where do you see hope in this passage?

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3. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13. Where do you see hope in this passage?

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4. Read Luke 21:25-38. Where do you see hope in this passage?

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**Rubber hits the road:**

Walking around today, where do you see hope in the world around you?

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## **FAMILY TIME**

**Watch:** Hope by the Bible Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WYNBjJSYvE>

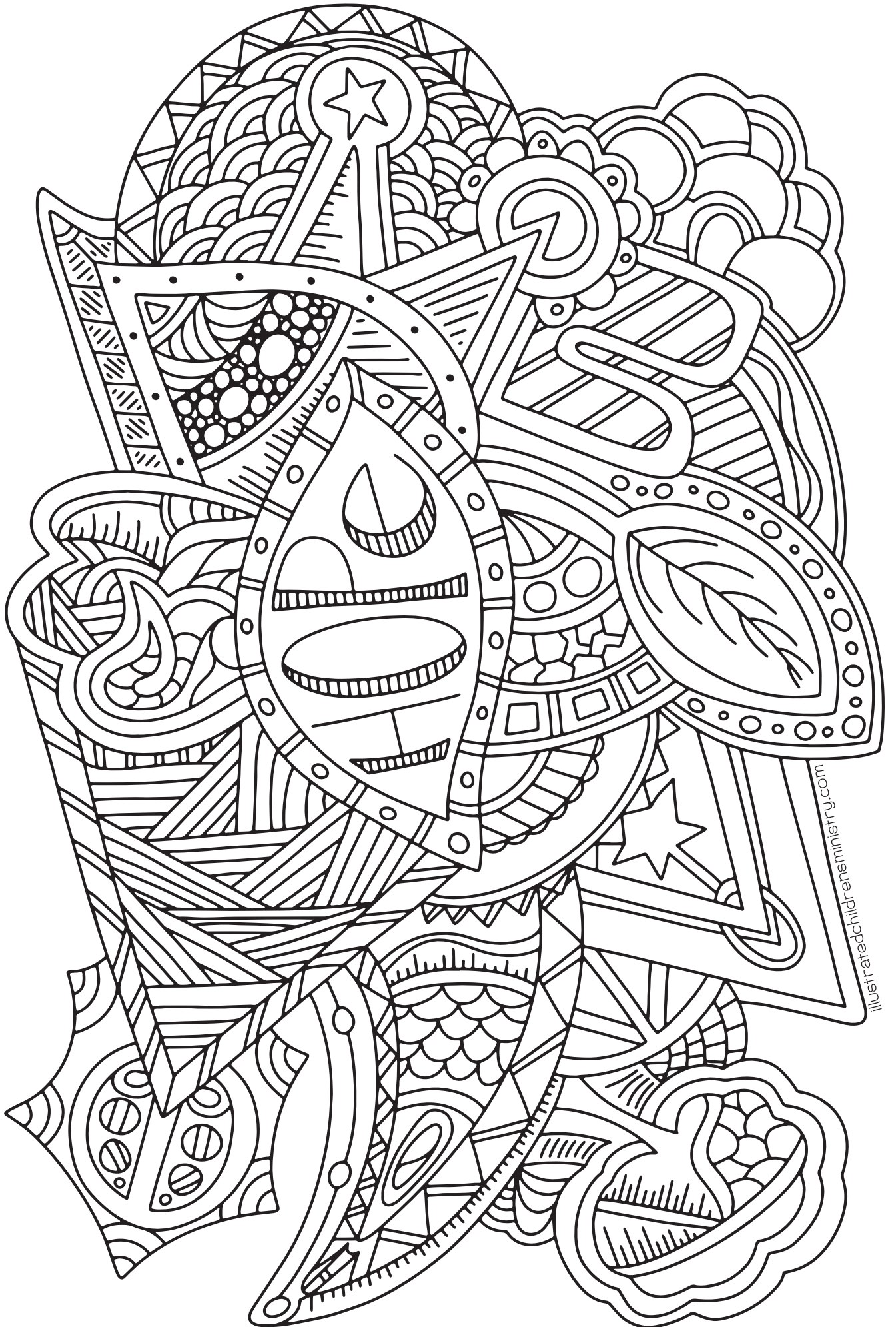
**Talk:** What are you hoping for at Christmas? What do you hope for from God? How did some of the people in the Bible show their hope? How does God's faithfulness in the past, help us to put our hope for him in the future?

**Do: Write a letter to God.**

On a piece of paper, write a letter to God about the things you're hoping for this Christmas and into the future. Write down the things you like about God, the things you're struggling with at the moment, and the things you want for yourself and for the world at Christmas. Share your letters to each other. For extra points put the letter in an envelope and address it to God, then send it.

**Hope Prayer:** Dear God, we pray for the hope that is in Christ to come into our lives in a new way. May we become hope that is alive in our world.

**Amen.**



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# Advent

## THE COMING SAVIOUR

### WEEK 2: PEACE

#### Warm Up Question:

What is the most peaceful place you've ever been to? It might be a farm, a valley, a garden, or a room. When did you last go there and how did it bring you peace?

#### Questions

1. Read Malachi 3:1-4. Where do you see peace in this passage?

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2. Read Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79). Where do you see peace in this passage?

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3. Read Philippians 1:1-11. Where do you see peace in this passage?

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4. Read Luke 3:1-6. Where do you see peace in this passage?

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**Rubber hits the road:**

Walking around today, where do you see peace in the world around you?

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## **FAMILY TIME**

**Watch:** Peace by the Bible Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLYORLZOaZE>

**Talk:** Tell me about a time when you felt at peace? How does Jesus give us peace? Where do you find peace? Why did Jesus first coming as a baby bring peace? How will Jesus second coming bring us peace?

### **Do: Peace Pudding**

Find some things around your house that bring you peace. They may be a heat pack that makes you feel better, or a pillow that helps you sleep, or a toy that makes you happy. Put all the items on the floor.

Get on members of your family to close their eyes and count to ten. While their eyes are closed take one item from your 'Peace pudding'. When the person opens their eyes, challenge them to guess which part of your pudding is missing. If they get it right, celebrate them. If they get it wrong, tell them what the missing piece is.

**Peace Prayer:** Dear God, we pray that our hearts will be ready for your coming through your Son, Jesus the Christ. Help us to rest in your peace.

**Amen.**



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# Advent

## THE COMING SAVIOUR

### WEEK 3: JOY

#### Warm Up Question:

What brings you joy in your life, and why does it? Do you feel like you have enough joy in your life? If not, what stops you and why?

#### Questions

1. Read Zephaniah 3:14-20. Where do you see joy in this passage?

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2. Read Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 12:2-6). Where do you see joy in this passage?

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3. Read Philippians 4:4-7. Where do you see joy in this passage?

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4. Read Luke 3:7-18. Where do you see joy in this passage?

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**Rubber hits the road:**

Walking around today, where do you see joy in the world around you?

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## **FAMILY TIME**

**Watch: Joy by the Bible project**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvOhQTuD2e0>**

**Talk:** What makes you happy? What brings you joy? Why does the reality of Jesus' birth bring us joy? Why does his death and resurrection give us joy? Why does the reality that Jesus is coming back on day give us joy?

**Do: Musical statues.**

Put on a song about joy (e.g. "The joy joy joy joy Down in my heart! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imK7pAMf61E> or "Joy" by Rend Collective <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDiETOLBvxA>)

Play the song but have one person pause the song at unexpected points in the song. When the music stops, dancers have to freeze and stop themselves from moving. You can play with rule that people move are out of the game or you can just enjoy celebrating the people who stay still like a statue.

**Joy Prayer:** Dear God, we pray for the joy that is found in Jesus, that those who seek it may truly find it. May we celebrate the joy we find in You. **Amen.**



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# Advent

## THE COMING SAVIOUR

### WEEK 4: LOVE

#### Warm Up Question:

It has been said that “Love is a verb”, which means that love is something that we do rather than just being something that we receive. Do you think this is true? Why?

#### Questions

1. Read Micah 5:2-5a. Where do you see love in this passage?

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2. Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55). Where do you see love in this passage?

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3. Read Hebrews 10:5-10. Where do you see love in this passage?

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4. Read Luke 1:39-55. Where do you see love in this passage?

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**Rubber hits the road:**

Walking around today, where do you see love in the world around you?

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## **FAMILY TIME**

**Watch:** 'Love' by the Bible Project

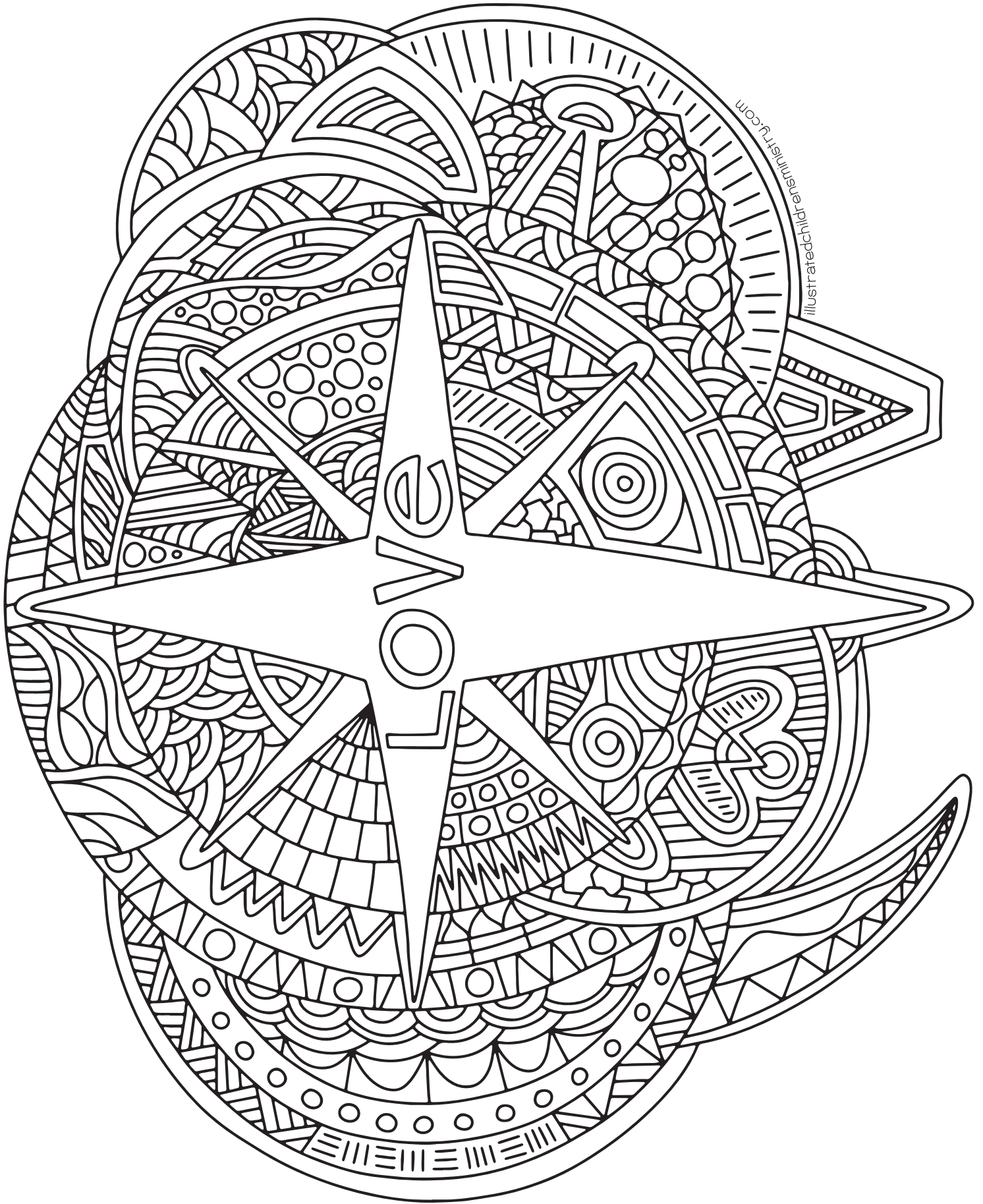
**Talk:** What are some of the things in your life that you love? How does God show us love? How can we show love to God? How can we show love to others?

**Do: Love heart Christmas ornaments.**

Using thick pieces of card, cut out small love hearts. Write the words 'God is love' on either side. Colour it in (whatever colour you like). Then make a small hole in the top of the heart and thread some string through it. You now have a Love heart Christmas ornament to share with your friends.

If you have extra time you might like to write the word 'love' in another language on an ornament (eg. ἀγάπη in Greek, or אהבה in Hebrew).

**Love Prayer:** Dear God, we pray that our faith may be renewed once again, and that we may enjoy the wonder of your love in our lives. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. **Amen.**



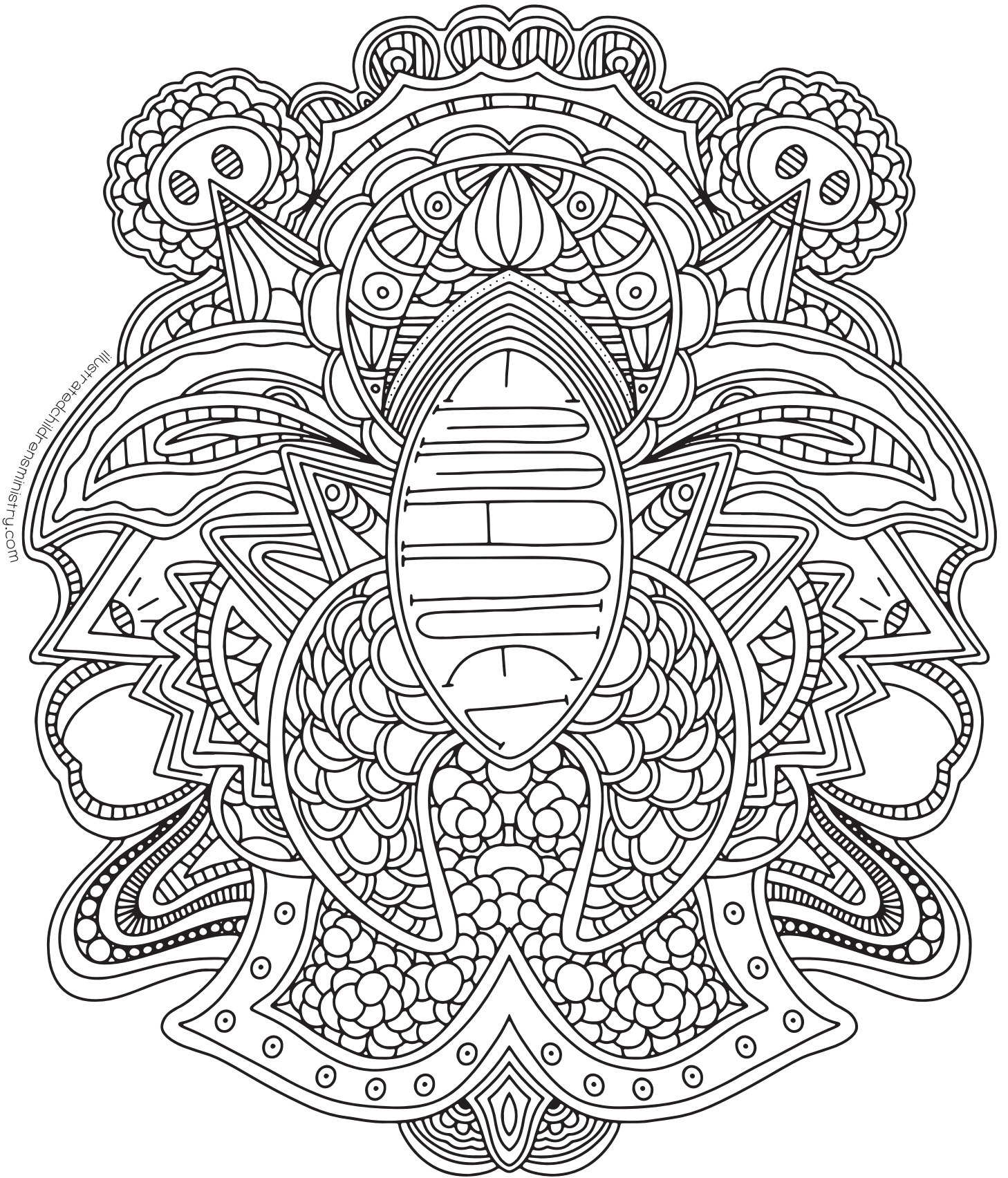


Illustration  
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## **DAILY PRAYER**

*Just as we eat, sleep and work every day,  
prayer has a place in our daily routine.  
Find a place in your home – inside or outside –  
that you can make your ‘prayer space’.  
Include all the members of your family in this space.  
Feel free to also include music in this time.*

# SUNDAY EVENING

Grace, mercy and peace,  
from God the Father, and Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Timothy 1:2

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

## *The Opening Canticle, The Praise of God's Servants*

Come now, praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord:  
you that stand by night in the house of the Lord.  
Lift up your hands in the holy place and praise the Lord:  
May the Lord bless you from Zion,  
the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 134

## *The Opening Prayer*

The day is now past and the night is at hand.  
Let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Take some time in silence to ready and open your heart.*

Father of lights, receive the prayer and praise we offer you as our evening sacrifice; make us a light for all the world, delivered by your goodness from all the works of darkness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

## *Readings from the Bible (personal choice)*

*At the end of your final reading.*

May your word live in us and bear much fruit to your glory.

### *The Canticle, The Song of Mary (Magnificat)*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:  
from this day all generations will call me blessed;  
The Almighty has done great things for me:  
and holy is his name.  
God has mercy on those who fear him:  
from generation to generation.  
The Lord has shown strength with his arm:  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:  
and lifting up the lowly.  
God has filled the hungry with good things:  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
The promise made to our forebears:  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.47–55

### *Prayers (take some time for personal prayer)*

#### *The Evening Collect*

Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night: that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may rest on your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip us with everything good that we may do his will, to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

see Hebrews 13.20, 21

## MONDAY EVENING

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope.

Romans 15.13

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

### *The Opening Canticle, A Song of Hope*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me:  
because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the  
afflicted.

The Lord has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted:  
to proclaim liberty for the captives, and release for those in prison,

To comfort all who mourn:

to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,

The oil of gladness instead of mourning:

a garment of splendour for the heavy heart.

They shall be called trees of righteousness:

planted for the glory of the Lord.

Isaiah 61.1–3

### *The Opening Prayer*

The day is now past and the night is at hand.

Let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Take some time in silence to ready and open your heart.*

Father of lights, receive the prayer and praise we offer you as our  
evening sacrifice; make us a light for all the world, delivered by your  
goodness from all the works of darkness; through Jesus Christ your Son  
our Lord. Amen.



*Readings from the Bible (personal choice)*

*At the end of your final reading.*

May your word live in us and bear much fruit to your glory.

*The Canticle, A Song of God's Children*

In Christ Jesus, the life-giving law of the Spirit:

has set us free from the law of sin and death.

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God:

it is the Spirit that enables us to cry, 'Abba!' Father.

The Spirit bears witness that we are God's children:

and if God's children, then heirs of God.

We are heirs of God and fellow-heirs with Christ:

If we share his sufferings now we shall be glorified with him hereafter.

These sufferings that we now endure:

are not worth comparing with the glory that shall be revealed.

For the creation waits with eager longing:

for the revealing of the children of God.

Romans 8.2, 14, 15b-19

*Prayers (take some time for personal prayer)*

*The Evening Collect*

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray: and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Amen.

Hebrews 12.1

## TUESDAY EVENING

O sing to the Lord a new song:  
sing to the Lord all the earth.

Psalm 96.1

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

### *The Opening Canticle, The Song of the Three*

Blessed are you, the God of our forebears:  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.  
Blessed is your holy and glorious name:  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.  
Blessed are you, glorious in your holy temple:  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.  
Blessed are you who behold the depths:  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.  
Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom:  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.  
Blessed are you in the heights of heaven:  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Song of the Three 29–34

### *The Opening Prayer*

The day is now past and the night is at hand.  
Let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Take some time in silence to ready and open your heart.*

Father of lights, receive the prayer and praise we offer you as our evening sacrifice; make us a light for all the world, delivered by your goodness from all the works of darkness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

*Readings from the Bible (personal choice)*

*At the end of your final reading.*

May your word live in us and bear much fruit to your glory.

*The Canticle, The Song of Simeon (Nunc dimittis)*

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation:  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:  
A light to reveal you to the nations:  
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29–32

*Prayers (take some time for personal prayer)*

*The Evening Collect*

Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night: that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may rest on your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May Jesus, the Lord of peace, give us peace at all times and in all ways. Amen.

2 Thessalonians 3.16

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed;  
and all people shall see it together.

Isaiah 40.5

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

### *The Opening Canticle, A Song of Praise*

God be gracious to us and bless us:  
and make your face to shine upon us,  
That your way may be known upon earth:  
your salvation among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God:  
let all the peoples praise you.  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy:  
for you judge the peoples with equity and govern the nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God:  
let all the peoples praise you.  
Then the earth will bring forth its increase:  
and God, our own God, will bless us.  
You, O God, will bless us:  
and all the ends of the earth will fear you.

Psalms 67

### *The Opening Prayer*

The day is now past and the night is at hand.  
Let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Take some time in silence to ready and open your heart.*

Father of lights, receive the prayer and praise we offer you as our evening sacrifice; make us a light for all the world, delivered by your goodness from all the works of darkness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

*Readings from the Bible (personal choice)*

*At the end of your final reading.*

May your word live in us and bear much fruit to your glory.

*The Canticle, The Song of Mary (Magnificat)*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:  
from this day all generations will call me blessed;  
The Almighty has done great things for me:  
and holy is his name.

God has mercy on those who fear him:  
from generation to generation.

The Lord has shown strength with his arm:  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:  
and lifting up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things:  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
The promise made to our forebears:  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.47–55

*Prayers (take some time for personal prayer)*

*The Evening Collect*

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray: and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, and God our Father, comfort our hearts and establish them in every good work and word. Amen.

2 Thessalonians 2.16–17

## THURSDAY EVENING

The Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory.

Revelation 19.6–7

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

### *The Opening Canticle, A Song of Joy*

Be joyful in the Lord, all the earth:

serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God:

it is he who has made us, and we are his; for we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise:

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good; his loving-kindness is everlasting:

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Psalm 100

### *The Opening Prayer*

The day is now past and the night is at hand.

Let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Take some time in silence to ready and open your heart.*

Father of lights, receive the prayer and praise we offer you as our evening sacrifice; make us a light for all the world, delivered by your goodness from all the works of darkness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

### *Readings from the Bible (personal choice)*

*At the end of your final reading.*

May your word live in us and bear much fruit to your glory.

*The Canticle, The Song of Christ's Glory*

Christ Jesus was in the form of God:

but he did not cling to equality with God.

He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant:

and was born in our human likeness.

Being found in human form, he humbled himself:

and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him:

and bestowed on him the name above every name,

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow:

in heaven and on earth and under the earth;

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord:

to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2.5b–11

*Prayers (take some time for personal prayer)*

*The Evening Collect*

Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night: that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may rest on your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

2 Corinthians 13.14

## FRIDAY EVENING

Peace to those who are far off.

Peace to those who are near.

Ephesians 2.17

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

### *The Opening Canticle, The Lord's Servant*

He was despised; he was rejected:

a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.

As one from whom people hide their faces:

he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Ours were the sufferings he bore:

ours the torments he endured,

While we thought he was being punished:

struck by God and brought low.

He was pierced for our sins:

bruised for no fault but ours.

His punishment has won our peace:

and by his wounds we are healed.

We had all strayed like sheep:

all taking our own way;

But the Lord laid on him:

the guilt of us all.

Isaiah 53.3–6

### *The Opening Prayer*

The day is now past and the night is at hand.

Let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Take some time in silence to ready and open your heart.*

Father of lights, receive the prayer and praise we offer you as our evening sacrifice; make us a light for all the world, delivered by your



goodness from all the works of darkness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

### *Readings from the Bible (personal choice)*

*At the end of your final reading.*

May your word live in us and bear much fruit to your glory.

### *The Canticle, A Song to the Lamb*

You are worthy, our Lord and God:

to receive glory and honour and power.

For you have created all things:

and by your will they have their being.

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain:

and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and nation.

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God:

and they will reign with you on earth.

To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb:

be blessing and honour and glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 4.11; 5.9b–10

### *Prayers (take some time for personal prayer)*

#### *The Evening Collect*

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray: and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

May the God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, restore, establish, strengthen us. To him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5.10–11

# SATURDAY EVENING

Grace to you and peace  
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1.2

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

## *The Opening Canticle, A Song of the Shepherd*

The Lord is my shepherd:  
therefore can I lack nothing.  
He shall make me lie down in green pastures:  
and lead me beside still waters.  
He shall refresh my soul:  
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no  
evil:  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me.  
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me:  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.  
Surely your goodness and loving-kindness shall follow me all the days of  
my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalms 23

## *The Opening Prayer*

The day is now past and the night is at hand.  
Let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Take some time in silence to ready and open your heart.*

Father of lights, receive the prayer and praise we offer you as our  
evening sacrifice; make us a light for all the world, delivered by your  
goodness from all the works of darkness; through Jesus Christ your Son  
our Lord. Amen.

## *Readings from the Bible (personal choice)*

*At the end of your final reading.*

May your word live in us and bear much fruit to your glory.

## *The Canticle, the Easter Anthems*

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:

so let us celebrate the feast,

Not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:

death has no more dominion over him.

In dying, he died to sin once for all:

in living, he lives to God.

See yourselves, therefore, as dead to sin:

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ has been raised from the dead:

the first fruits of those who sleep.

For since by one man came death:

by another has come also the resurrection of the dead,

For as in Adam all die:

even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

## *Prayers (take some time for personal prayer)*

### *The Evening Collect*

Come to visit us, Lord, this night, so that by your strength we may rise at daybreak to rejoice in the resurrection of Christ your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen.

see Revelation 22.13



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