



# LORETO PRAYER FOR ADVENT WEEK 2

Advent is a time of longing.

As we move through this liturgical season we invite members of the Loreto network to yearn with our God for a land made whole and holy.

Each week you are invited to find some space to ponder the justice priorities of the Province. Across Week 2 we **connect our hearts and minds** with the whole of creation.

**Action** To honour the land on which we gather and pray, live or work we re-refresh our Advent wreath with native greenery and plants.  
A Christmas tree or its substitute can join the Advent wreath in the prayer focus.

**Loreto Justice Network focus** Integral Ecology | Climate Change  
Environmental Sustainability

*We make a simple acknowledgment of the land on which we gather.*

## Blessing of Christmas Tree

Leader: Let us praise God, who enlightens every heart, now and for ever.  
All: *Amen*

Leader: Today/this week we move into the second week of Advent.  
We open our hearts to God's love as we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives, our homes, our workplace, our world. The candles of this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness and lead us into the light of his kingdom. Our tree reminds us of the roots, trunk, branches and leaves of our living faith.

As members of the Loreto network we light two Advent candles in solidarity with every living thing; from tiniest organism to largest animal to whole eco-systems to constellations of stars and galaxies.

## First Reading

Second Sunday in Advent - Isaiah 11:1-10

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.  
Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbours, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord, as water covers the sea.

**Response** Using Sunday's psalm response we pray with quotes from Pope Francis' text - *Laudato Si*

**R/-** *Justice shall flourish in God's time, and fullness of peace forever.*

Everything is interconnected and this invites us to a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity.

**R/-**

Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.

**R/-**

Each Christian man and woman, every member of the human family, can act as a thin yet unique and indispensable thread in weaving a network of life that embraces everyone. May we feel challenged to assume, with prayer and commitment, our responsibility for the care of creation. May God, "the lover of life"

(Wis 11:26), grant us the courage to do good without waiting for someone else to begin, or until it is too late.

R/-

A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

R/-

Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.

R/-

Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations.

R/-

## Reflection

Quietly, we ponder Isaiah's reading in light of *Laudato Si*:

### **There shall be no harm or ruin on my holy mountain...**

How can my/our action repair the damage already wrought on our fragile planet ... God's holy mountain?

### **The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord...**

What has God taught me this year through the beauty and fragility of all creation?

### **The cow and the bear shall be neighbours...**

How can we live in harmony in our homes, communities, workplaces, neighbourhoods, nations, region, wider world, cosmos...?

## Prayers

For our Church throughout the world, that we might be 'a shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse' - bringing life, justice and beauty to our world, we pray

All: *Come Lord Jesus*

For the Loreto network, that we might live sustainably, discerning what is enough, we pray

All: *Come Lord Jesus*

For the success of the COP25 UN Climate Summit currently underway in Spain, that we might bring pressure to bear on our leaders for urgent recognition of our climate emergency, we pray

All: *Come Lord Jesus*

For all members of our ministries, that we may continue to use our intelligence and passion to make significant changes in our policies and practices around sustainability, we pray

All: *Come Lord Jesus*

For the graces of this Advent season, that our deep longing and desires might guide our words and deeds at this hectic time. May our creativity influence our Christmas responses in 2019, we pray

All: *Come Lord Jesus*

## Blessing

Leader: May our God, 'our Friend of all friends',  
edge out the clutter and chaos of these days to find a home in us.

All: *Amen*

Leader: May Jesus, who is born anew in our hearts and world,  
lead us through our own vulnerability to those dispossessed.

All: *Amen*

Leader: May the Holy Spirit, that swirls like falling jacaranda flowers,  
dance and delight in us across these days of lengthening light.

All: *Amen*

## In the week ahead ...

... you may like to: follow the COP25 Climate Conference in Madrid; ponder the many resources related to Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*; reflect on our individual and corporate consumer practice in the lead-up to Christmas; make Christmas decorations and gifts; give time and energy instead of things this Christmas.

**Artist:** Sally Morgan

