

Advent Prayer Week Three



The Light

Loreto Prayer for Advent Week 3 | The Light

The 2021 Loreto Justice Network's Advent prayers attempt to link the Sunday readings, the symbolic richness of the Advent wreath and the Province's justice priorities. On this Gaudate Sunday, we pray with the light of joy!

Gathering Acclamations

We gather on the land of the (Wurundjeri) people,
listening to all creation with hearts and souls,
imaginations and intelligence.

We gather during this summery Advent season,
lengthening days to linger in love,
savouring time to pause, ponder and pray,

We gather as friends of Jesus, Mary Ward and Teresa Ball,
opening our bodies to the beauty and brokenness of our world,
and to one another, our circle of friends.

We gather as one Institute, many parts of one body,
desiring freedom, justice and integrity,
fostering felicity across these days of endings and festivity.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

As two purple and a pink candle are lit, we pray ...

O God of infinite mystery,
your presence casts light on our shadows.
May these lights shine brightly for all to see,
and open our hearts to the possibility of this season.

Scripture

Use all or part of Sunday's Liturgy of the Word:

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

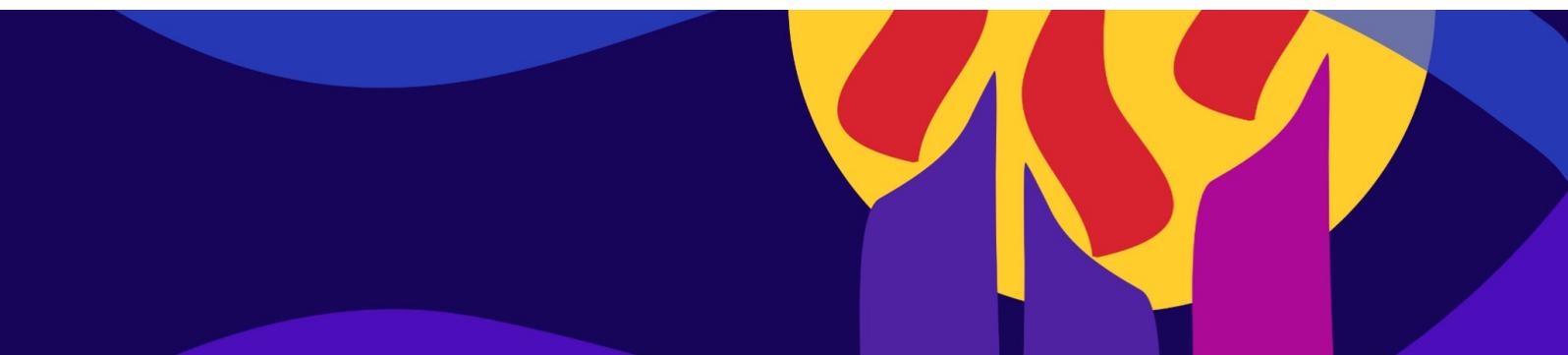
Isaiah 12

Philemon 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

Suggested Reading First reading from Zephaniah

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!
Sing joyfully, O Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has removed the judgment against you
he has turned away your enemies;
the King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.
On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a mighty saviour;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
and renew you in his love,
he will sing joyfully because of you,
as one sings at festivals.



Visual Meditation

[View Susan Daily's visual meditation](#) exploring the power of the symbol of the light.

Here is the text used in the visual meditation for further pondering:

The Light

Candles light our way!

Offering solace in sanctuaries, tingling our celebrations!
As we welcome Gaudate Sunday with joy and gladness,
we focus on the flame of Christ among us.

Light is our divine love that will not let itself be shut up.
Illumination and inspiration,
Brilliance and brightness, shade and shadow,
God; light and darkness, bonfire and flickering flame.

*Do we ever quench the light of others?
How do we seek out and honour the most fragile flames?
How can our light be share with humility and hope, justice and joy?*

Our desire is to cast light on the shadows of our world:
listening to indigenous sisters and brothers,
amplifying the voice of women and children,
welcoming strangers to our land,
healing our fragile earth,
setting captives free.

Candles light our way and melt to mark our journey!
Light the path ahead for all to see!

*The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty saviour;
God will rejoice over you with gladness,
and renew you in God's love ...*

Advent 3

1st Reading from Zephaniah



Space

A period of silence and/or an opportunity to pray or share an insight.

Prayers of the People

(based on the Province's justice priorities)

For our church, that we might reclaim the freshness of the Gospel and be Christ's light for our world,

Let us pray to the Lord: All: Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For our indigenous sisters and brothers,
that respect, reconciliation and reparation be poured out by our nation.
May our network accept the invitation from Aunty Sherry Balcombe to move from awareness-raising to action.

Let us pray to the Lord: All: Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For a deepening of our commitment to our global anti-trafficking stance.
May our Christmas giving be marked by conscious choices that respect the rights of our earth, children and those trafficked for labour.

Let us pray to the Lord: All: Gracious God, hear our prayer.

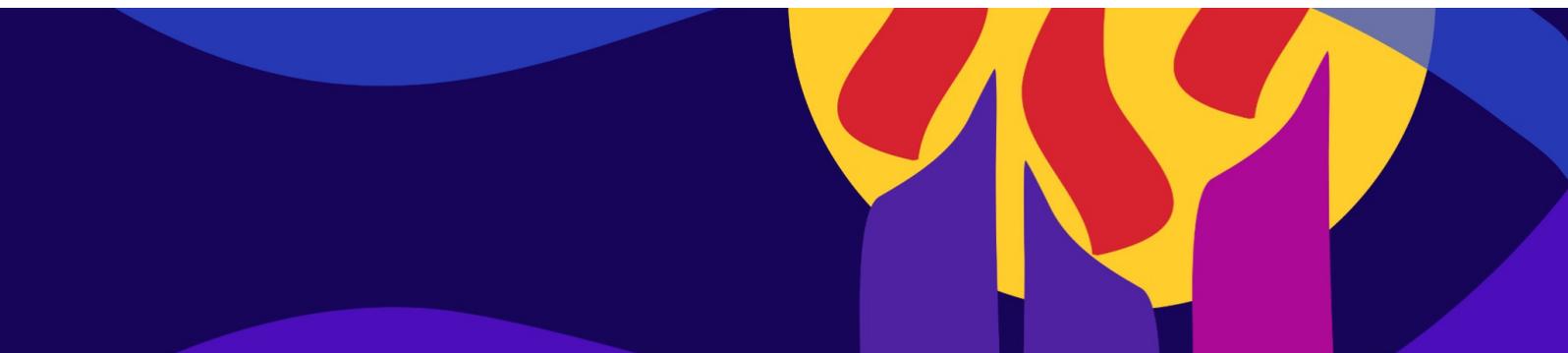
For our MWIA partners as they 'create just and sustainable change with women, children and communities'. This week we pray with our friends in Peru.

Let us pray to the Lord: All: Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For our entire cosmos, that the interconnection of all created things be honoured and celebrated.

Let us pray to the Lord: All: Gracious God, hear our prayer.

Other prayers may be offered ...



Blessing

(Adapted from a text by Henri Nouwen)

Lord Jesus,
you are both the light and the darkness.

Send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We, who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your
voice each day.

We, who are anxious over many things, look forward to your
coming among us.

We, who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy
of your kingdom.

We, whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We, who feel the pain of injustice, long for harmony across
all creation.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say,

Come Lord Jesus! ... Mai Nai Jesus ... Chúa jesus đến

Halika panginoong hesus

Amen.