

## Advent Prayers for a Household *by PJ Hobbs*

### Why is this faith practice important?

The richness of a intentionally observed Advent helps us to wait, anticipate, and prepare for the many ways Christ comes into the world, including at Christmas.

These prayers are intended for use in homes, regardless of the size and form of the household (e.g. singles, friends, couples, children, teens and parents).

*Advent Prayers* may be used once or several times a week. They are designed to be used as is – simple for the household on the go – or expanded with other resources or improvisation. Folks are encouraged to add readings, activities, discussion topics that are meaningful to those in their household.



### What materials are needed for this practice?

An Advent wreath with candles can serve as a focal point for the household, but it is not completely necessary.

### How to do it

**A Time to Come Together:** Gather the household using the opening sentences on the following page, then read a passage from the Bible. Suggestions are offered, or choose your own.

**A Time to Be Together:** Following the Bible reading, the household will be together in its own way. Consider the following suggestions:

- Share a meal at a table.
- Enter into silence, for as little as one minute, or as much 30 minutes. (Silence may be marked by stillness, pondering the Bible passage, or gazing on the Advent candles or an icon. Alternatively, silence may be combined with an activity like a household task or Christmas preparation.) Bring the household back together, perhaps with a bell.
- Have a discussion, either during the meal or in a different setting. Consider the questions on the following page.

**A Time to Pray Together:** Pray silently or aloud, and/or use the litany on the following page.

**A Time to Go into the World Together:** It is important that the household acknowledges its vocation within the wider world. Use the final lines of the liturgy to close your time together.

## Resources for this practice

**Come Together** *If using a wreath and/or candles:*

*Leader* We light these candles in hope and expectation.

*All* Jesus is the light of the World.

*Leader* We wait joyfully for the coming of Jesus.

*All* Into the world, into the Church, into our home Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!

## Bible Verses for Each Week

Week of Advent I Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. (Matthew 24:44)

Week of Advent II May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Week of Advent III You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. (James 5:8)

Week of Advent IV Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

**Be Together** *Meal, activity, silence, or discussion: Consider the following discussion questions:*

- What happened today that reminded you how much God loves the world?
- Was there a time today when you felt particularly close to Jesus?
- What might we do this Advent and Christmas as an act of loving service?

**Pray Together** *Offer prayers, silently or aloud. The following litany may be used.*

*Leader* That the Church will be a place of hope and a sign of the goodness of God.

*All* Hear us, Lord of Glory, for you we wait.

*Leader* That all people will serve the needs of others and care for creation.

*All* Hear us, Lord of Glory, for you we wait.

*Leader* That this home will be a place of welcome, patience, truth, safety, and love.

*All* Hear us, Lord of Glory, for you we wait.

*All say the Lord's Prayer.*

## Go into the world together

*Leader* Peace be upon us and within this house,

*All* And in all the world

*Leader* Let us live Good News wherever we may be.

*All* Amen, Amen!

## About the author

*Peter John Hobbs (PJ) is the Director of Mission for the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa (Canada) and an Instructor in D.Min Studies at Virginia Theological Seminary. PJ and Diane are raising and/or launching three daughters: Hannah, Mary Grace, and Rachel.*

Building Faith is a ministry of the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary