

Advent Prayers and Reflections 2024.

An Advent Prayer for the Family.

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

Advent Prayer by Henri Nouwen.

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and 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 are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

Prayers Around the Advent Wreath for the Four Weeks of Advent.

Advent Wreath Prayer Week 1:

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what is really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.

Advent Wreath Prayer Week 2:

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

Advent Wreath Prayer Week 3:

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

Advent Wreath Prayer-Week 4:

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.

Advent Prayer for Hope.

Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent season, we look forward to the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ. Fill our hearts with hope and anticipation. Help us to prepare our lives for His coming and to share this hope with those around us. Amen.

Advent Prayer for Joy.

Lord Jesus, you bring joy to the world. As we light the Advent candles, may their light remind us of the joy you bring into our lives. Help us to spread this joy to others, especially those who are struggling. Amen.

Advent Prayer for Love.

Gracious God, during this Advent season, we remember the great love you have for us. Help us to reflect that love in our interactions with others. May our hearts be open to loving and serving those in need. Amen.

Advent Prayer for Peace.

Prince of Peace, as we prepare for your coming, fill our hearts with your peace. Help us to be peacemakers in our homes, communities, and the world. May your peace reign in our hearts and minds. Amen.

ADVENT

We have tested and tasted too much, lover -
Through a chink too wide there comes in no wonder.
But here in the Advent-darkened room
Where the dry black bread and the sugarless tea
Of penance will charm back the luxury
Of a child's soul, we'll return to Doom
The knowledge we stole but could not use.

And the newness that was in every stale thing
When we looked at it as children: the spirit-shocking
Wonder in a black slanting Ulster hill
Or the prophetic astonishment in the tedious talking
Of an old fool will awake for us and bring
You and me to the yard gate to watch the whins
And the bog-holes, cart-tracks, old stables where Time begins.

O after Christmas we'll have no need to go searching
For the difference that sets an old phrase burning -
We'll hear it in the whispered argument of a churning
Or in the streets where the village boys are lurching.
And we'll hear it among decent men too
Who barrow dung in gardens under trees,
Wherever life pours ordinary plenty.
Won't we be rich, my love and I, and please
God we shall not ask for reason's payment,
The why of heart-breaking strangeness in dreeping hedges
Nor analyse God's breath in common statement.
We have thrown into the dust-bin the clay-minted wages
Of pleasure, knowledge and the conscious hour -
And Christ comes with a January flower.

Patrick Kavanagh

*Reference: Collected Poems by Patrick Kavanagh,
W. W. Norton Company, 1973.*

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/advent-wreath-prayers.html>