

## First Sunday of Advent ~ November 29, 2020



### Family Advent Evening Prayer

*Gather your family on Saturday evening (Nov. 28) or Sunday evening for this Advent Evening prayer.*

*If you have made an Advent wreath with its four candles, then gather around the wreath. If you can lower the lighting in the room, do so, but make sure you can still read the prayer.*

All:           **Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come and fill our hearts with your light.** *(repeat)*

Parent:       We praise you, Lord, our God.  
Your made the moon to rule the night and the sun to rule the day.  
We thank you for light,  
the first gift of your Creation.  
We ask you:  
let the light of Jesus Christ shine in our hearts.  
In Jesus's name we pray.

All:           **Amen.**

*A parent lights the first purple candle of the Advent wreath. If candles are made from paper, then a child can place a paper "flame" on the first purple "candle".*

Reading:     *Read by a parent or a child.*

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

I, John, had a vision:  
The angel showed me the river of the water of life,  
bright as crystal,  
flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb  
through the middle of the street of the city.  
On either side of the river is the tree of life  
with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month;  
and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations....  
The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it,  
and his servants will worship him;  
they will see his face,  
and his name will be on their foreheads.

And there will be no more night;  
they need no light of lamp or sun,  
for the Lord God will be their light,  
and they will reign for ever and ever.

The word of the Lord.

All:           **Thanks be to God.**

*A parent shares the following reflection.*

Parent:       Have you ever had to walk around in the dark? What is that like? *(Let the children respond.)* We must walk slowly, hesitantly. We might be a bit afraid. But, what happens once we turn on a light or see a light shining from the place we want to go? *(Let the children respond.)* We feel relieved. We more confident. We move quickly to where we want to go.

St. John had a vision, sort of a dream, about what it will be like when Jesus comes again at the end of time. He says there will be a life-giving river running through heaven. It will sparkle as bright as a crystal. There will be the healing tree of life. God the Father will be on a throne, with Jesus, the Lamb of God, beside him. All God's friends from around the world will be together with the Father and with Jesus. And there will be no more night. God will be wonderfully bright; his glory will be beautiful and shine everywhere. What a comforting sight!

Sometimes our hearts feel like they are lost in the dark: we may be afraid or lonely or sad. As we prepare for Christmas, we remember God's promise that Jesus will come again at the end of time and remove our fear and sadness with his light. We can also remember that God has already placed some of his light within our hearts: the light of hope. If we look carefully, we can catch glimpses of God's light already shining in our lives.

*A child reads the Prayer Response:*

Child:       Jesus, you are light even in the darkest places.  
Help us to trust in you when we are lost or lonely or afraid.  
Shine hope into our hearts we pray. Amen.

All:           **Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come and fill our hearts with your light. *(repeat)***

Credits:     Scripture Reading, Revelation 22:1-7 from the NRSV  
Child's Prayer Response from: [lords-prayer-words.com](http://lords-prayer-words.com)  
Family Advent Evening Prayer by Gregory Beath, 2020