

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.*

*For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.*

Blessing



The following can be taught as an action prayer. Make a cross with two pointer fingers at the word 'Christ'. Then point to the body part indicated, and make a motion which signifies looking, listening, making etc.

Christ be in our eyes and in our looking,
Christ be in our ears and in our listening,
Christ be in our hands and in our making,
Christ be in our minds and in our understanding,
Christ be in hearts and in our loving.

Advent Prayers with Children

These prayers can be said at the breakfast table each morning during Advent with your children.



Lighting of the Candles

A white candle ringed by four blue or purple candles are placed on the breakfast table. Blue is a royal colour indicating that the world awaits a King. White is for the glory of Christ's arrival. In the first week of Advent, one blue candle is lit. Each week another candle is added until, finally, the white candle is lit on the Feast of the Nativity. The following song may be sung to accompany the lighting of the candles. One verse is added successively each week, until the full song is sung at Christmas.

'Christ - mas is com - ing' the church is glad to sing and
let the Ad - vent can - dles bright - ly burn in a ring. / Fine

The first is for God's pro - mise to put the wrong things right, and
bring to earth's dark - ness the hope of love and light. / D.C.

1. The first is for God's promise to put the wrong things right,
And bring to earth's darkness the hope of love and light.
Christmas is coming . . .
2. The second is for the prophets who said that Christ would come
With good news for many and angry words for some.
Christmas is coming . . .
3. The third is for the Baptist who cried 'Prepare the Way.'
Be ready for Jesus, both this and every day.'
Christmas is coming . . .
4. The fourth is for the Virgin who mothered God's own son,
And sang how God's justice was meant for everyone.
Christmas is coming . . .
5. At last we light the candle kept new for Christmas Day.
This shines bright for Jesus, new-born and here to stay.
Christmas is coming . . .

Prayer of Invocation

Lord Jesus, in this Advent season we wait eagerly for your arrival.
Come fill us with your hope, your peace, your love, and your joy.
Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

The world isn't like you wanted it to be. We don't love each other as you love us. So come and help us change. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

The world is full of fighting and wars. We even find it difficult to get on with our friends and family sometimes. We need you, Jesus. Come show us how to live in peace. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Gospel Story

Each day a story about something Jesus said or did is told, either orally or from a children's bible. In the final week of Advent, concentrate upon Luke's story about the birth of Jesus (Lk 1.26 – 2.20).

Prayers for Others

God our Father
you loved the world so much that you sent your very own Son
to be our friend and to heal our wounds.
Hear our prayers, that the world may be healed.

Hear our prayers, that the world may be healed.

Each person is invited to say a prayer, which concludes with the following:

Hear our prayers, that the world may be healed.

Hear our prayers, that the world may be healed.

Jesus Christ, saviour of the world,
We look to you to help and heal us.
We pray now the prayer you taught us: