



Advent Staff Prayer Service *Come, Lord Jesus!*

Opening Hymn: Come, Lord Jesus (vs. 1, 2)

This holy season of Advent reminds us that “for us life is Christ.” Advent helps us to recognize anew that the deepest longing of our souls is for our loving God – the One who has come, the One who will come again, the One who comes each day to those who seek Him.

Our longing for God pales in comparison to God’s infinite and unending longing for us. That longing has existed from all eternity and reached new heights in the person of Jesus Christ. We need to get in touch with the Advent longing inside of our hearts and allow God to do His work within us, so that He may continue to reach young hearts through us. As we wait for His coming, let us remember that He has been quietly waiting for us all along.

Psalm 63 Antiphon: Come, Lord Jesus, for You are our life.

Right Side: O God, You are my God, for You I long;
for You my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for You
like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on You in the sanctuary
to see Your strength and Your glory.

Both Sides: For Your love is better than life,
my lips will speak Your praise.
So I will bless You all my life,
in Your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise You with joy.

Left Side: On my bed I remember You.
On You I muse through the night.
For You have been my help;
In the shadow of Your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to You;
Your right hand holds me fast.

Both Sides: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

Reading: Is.26: 7-9

The way of the smooth is just; the path of the just You make level.
 Yes, for Your way and Your judgments, O Lord, we look to You;
 Your name and Your title are the desire of our souls.
 My soul yearns for You in the night; yes, my spirit within me keeps vigil for You.
 When Your judgment dawns upon the earth, the world's inhabitants learn justice.

Word of the Lord...

Silent Reflection...**Sung Response: "Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."**

God our Father, strengthen us as we strive to sow and nurture the seeds of faith
 that you so graciously provide for us. (Response)

In our efforts, draw us closer to you,
 that we may continue to lead others closer to you. (Response)

Strengthen us so that we may give faithful witness to you always. (Response)

Enkindle in us the fire of your love,
 so that we may share your light and warmth with those we teach. (Response)

May we live lives of Christian witness, being for others beacons in the darkness,
 shining as mirrors who reflect your light and love to all we meet. (Response)

Let us more perfectly reflect in all that we say and do that "for us, life is Christ!" (Response)
(Spontaneous Intercessions)

Our Father...**Closing Prayer:**

Lord, we give You thanks for this holy and beautiful season of Advent.
 As we go about preparing in these days before Christmas,
 help us to keep in mind this longing for You in our hearts.
 As we busy ourselves in making our homes ready,
 help us to make our hearts a worthy home for You.
 How wonderful to know that You long for us, Lord!
 Come, Lord Jesus, for you are our life! Amen.

**Closing Hymn: Come, Lord Jesus (vs. 3, 4)**