



Church at Home

Second Sunday in Advent

6th December 2020

Further resources for
worship and reflection

On the Second Sunday in Advent we light the First and Second Candle. Below is a Prayer that can be used prior to the lighting of the second candle.

Heavenly Father,

You are the God who gives peace. This second week of Advent, cause us to remember that because of Jesus we can experience a Christmas free from turmoil and chaos. Regardless of our circumstances or our situations, you offer us peace that passes understanding.

That first Christmas, when you sent your Son, you sent the one who is called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Even the angels cried out, 'Glory to God in the Highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' The angels knew your purpose. They know the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that Christmas held. They recognized the fullness of God was wrapped in the tiny flesh of an infant as you humbled yourself and dwelt among us. Emmanuel. God with us as the baby Jesus.

That baby would grow to be the same God-man, Jesus, who would again humble himself to face death on a cruel cross as payment for our sin. He would triumphantly defeat sin and death.

That is why you sent your Son, Jesus. Because you loved us, you sent Jesus, that we might believe on him and receive eternal life. He was the first Christmas gift and still remains the only gift worth truly having.

We are able to have the fullness of peace in our hearts on Christmas day, and every day, because that same Jesus sits at your right hand in heaven and makes intercession for us. Not only that, but he paid our sin debt. He loves us with a love that is unfathomable. Nothing can separate us from His love. He is good and his plans for us are good.

Father, this second week of Advent, keep us in perfect peace as our mind is stayed on the truth of your powerful love. Thank you for your mighty, sovereign hand. Help us to trust fully in you and rest in the peace that you offer.

It's in the precious name of Jesus we pray. **Amen**

The Reflection: Second Sunday of Advent; Mark 1:1-8



On the second Sunday of Advent we reflect on how John the Baptist fulfilled with humility the prophecy of the prophet Isaiah.

As it is written in Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

He preached repentance and forgiveness of sins; he prepared the way for Jesus with humility when he said: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." John perfectly knew that his role was to be a herald for the coming of our saviour Jesus Christ.

As Christians, this is also our role; to be messengers for Jesus with humility. To help spread the good news. To preach about repentance, forgiveness and love which Jesus so generously gave us.

We should not keep to ourselves this beautiful call for repentance we must echo this call to our friends and most specially our family members. However, this is easier said than done, for the simple reason that it's not easy to encourage them to humbly submit themselves to the Sacrament of Confession. But if we would be like John who embraced his discipleship with humility, I think we would be effective heralds of Jesus.

On this second Sunday of Advent we are therefore being challenged by the gospel to help prepare the way of the Lord and to respond to John's call for repentance.

Have you done something to prepare the way and are you prepared to respond?

An Advent Prayer

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity, that our praise and worship might echo in these walls and also through our lives.

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in mission, that the hope within might be the song we sing, and the melody of our lives.

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in service, that the path we follow might lead us from a stable to a glimpse of eternity. **Amen**