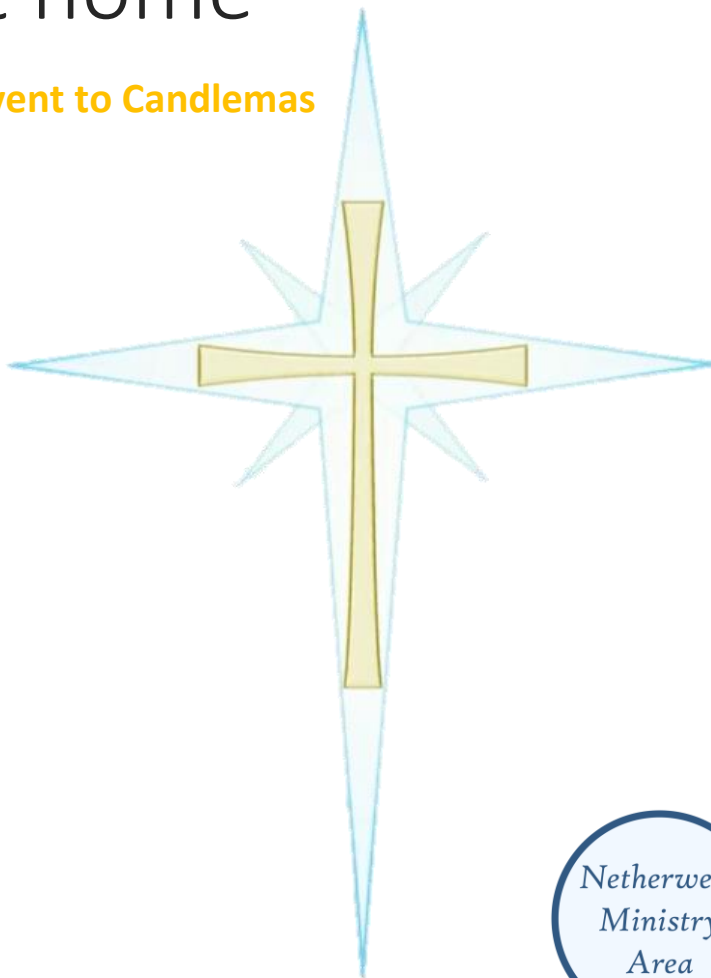


# Services for use at home

**Advent to Candlemas**



*Netherwent  
Ministry  
Area*

## Introduction

As the nights draw in the church begins a new year and with it a new season: Advent. Advent begins the Incarnation cycle where we think about Christ being born among us and his revealing to the nations, looking ahead to when he will return and 'every eye will see him'. At Christmas we celebrate God's coming among us to share our life here on earth and then during Epiphany we think about how Jesus is revealed for who he is to the wider world in signs and wonders.

The whole Advent to Epiphany cycle takes light as its motif, celebrating Christ the light of the world shining in the darkness, and as such we pray particularly in these seasons for all whose lives are darkened by sin, fear, sickness or any other adversity.

Advent properly begins 4 Sundays before Christmas (but you could start Dec 1<sup>st</sup>), and then the Christmas services are used from Dec 25<sup>th</sup> until Jan 6<sup>th</sup> when they are replaced with the Epiphany services which are used until Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, at which point we enter Ordinary Time.

A note about readings for Morning Prayer can be found at the back of this booklet.

As always if we can be praying for you or supporting you in any way please get in touch.

With our love and prayers, *The Ministry Team*

## **A prayer for Advent & Christmas**

Heavenly Father, in the midst of a troubled world, you are light and life.

Send us your healing for those who are ill,  
your strength for those who are suffering,  
your compassion for those who grieve,  
and your courage for those who work for the  
healing and service of others.

Bless our nation of Wales with the life-giving  
spirit of your love,  
and grant us your mercy,  
revealed in the person of Christ your Son.

Amen.

*From the Bench of Bishops*

## **A Simple Order of Morning Prayer in Advent**

O Lord open our lips,  
**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Silent prayer/reflection on the coming day.*

Lord Jesus, you came as our Redeemer to  
announce glad tidings of salvation.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you come as shepherd to gather and  
feed us.

Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you will come as Judge to establish a  
new heaven and a new earth.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

## ***A Song of the Wilderness***

**All the ends of the earth  
shall see the salvation of our God.**

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice:  
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.

They will see the glory of the Lord:  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weary hands make firm the  
feeble knees:  
say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not!

Your God is coming with judgement:  
coming with judgement to save you.'

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened:  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

Then shall the lame leap like a hart:  
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness:  
and streams in the desert.

The ransomed of the Lord shall return with  
singing: with everlasting joy upon their heads.

Joy and gladness shall be theirs:  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All the ends of the earth  
shall see the salvation of our God.**

*A Bible Reading is read*

***The Benedictus***

**The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice,  
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel  
for he has come to his people and set them free.

The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies  
from the hands of all who hate us.

To show mercy to our forebears  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father  
Abraham  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear  
holy and righteous before him all the days of  
our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the  
Most High  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his  
way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice,  
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.

### ***Prayers***

*Various prayers are offered for:*

*The Church, the World, the Local Community,  
those in particular need*

*The Lord's Prayer is said.*

*The Collect for the Day is said or*

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

and to put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which you Son Jesus Christ came to us in

great humility; that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,

we may rise to life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



*The second collect, for peace.*

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord,  
to know you is eternal life,  
to serve you is perfect freedom:  
defend us in all assaults of our enemies,  
that we, surely trusting in your protection,  
may not fear the power of any adversaries;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The third collect, for grace.*

Eternal God and Father,  
by your power we are created  
and by your love we are redeemed:  
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,  
that we may give ourselves to you  
in love and service of one another;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord says, 'Surely I am coming soon.'  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching  
and waiting. **Amen.**

## **A Simple Order of Morning Prayer in Christmastide**

O Lord open our lips,  
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Silent prayer/reflection on the coming day.*

### ***A Song of the Messiah***

**Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

The people that walked in darkness have seen a  
great light:  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness  
upon them the light has dawned.

You have increased their joy and given them  
great gladness:  
they rejoiced before you as with joy at the  
harvest.

For you have shattered the yoke that burdened  
them:

the collar that lay heavy on their shoulders.

For to us a child is born and to us a son is given:  
and the government will be upon his shoulder.

And his name will be called: Wonderful  
Counsellor the Mighty God:  
the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace:  
there will be no end,

Upon the throne of David and over his kingdom:  
to establish and uphold it with justice and  
righteousness.

From this time forth and for evermore:  
the zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

Glory to God in highest heaven,  
and peace on the earth to which he came.  
Like the shepherds, encouraged by angels,  
may we still seek and find you,  
born of Mary in crowded Bethlehem,  
and glorify and praise you  
for all we have heard and seen.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*A Bible Reading is read*

### ***The Benedictus***

**Glory to God in highest heaven,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel  
for he has come to his people and set them free.

The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies  
from the hands of all who hate us.

To show mercy to our forebears  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father  
Abraham  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear  
holy and righteous before him all the days of  
our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the  
Most High, for you will go before the Lord to  
prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Glory to God in highest heaven,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

***Prayers***

*Various prayers are offered for:*

*The Church, the World, the Local Community,  
those in particular need*

*The Lord's Prayer is said.*

***The Collect for the Day***

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit:  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The second collect, for peace.*

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord,  
to know you is eternal life,  
to serve you is perfect freedom:  
defend us in all assaults of our enemies,  
that we, surely trusting in your protection,  
may not fear the power of any adversaries;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The third collect, for grace.*

Eternal God and Father,  
by your power we are created  
and by your love we are redeemed:  
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,  
that we may give ourselves to you  
in love and service of one another;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **A Simple Order of Morning Prayer in Epiphanytide**

O Lord open our lips,  
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Silent prayer/reflection on the coming day.*

### ***Your Light has Come***

**Lead us, God, with joy,  
to walk in the light of your glory.**

Arise, shine, for your light has come:  
the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Though night still covers the earth:  
and darkness covers the nations,

Over you will the Lord arise:  
over you will his glory appear.



Nations will stream to your light:  
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Your gates will always be open:  
day and night they will never be shut.

Violence will no more be heard in your land:  
ruin or destruction within your borders.

You will name your walls Salvation:  
you will call your gates Praise.

No longer will the sun be your light by day:  
no longer the moon give you light by night.

The Lord will be your eternal light:  
your God will be your glory.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Lead us, God, with joy,  
to walk in the light of your glory.**

Glorious God,  
you reveal yourself to the world  
and call us to be a royal priesthood,  
to show forth the praises of Christ  
who has called us out of darkness  
into his marvellous light.

May we present ourselves as a living sacrifice,  
holy and acceptable to you,  
King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*A Bible Reading is read*

### ***The Benedictus***

**Nations will stream to your light,  
and kings to your dawning brightness.**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel  
for he has come to his people and set them free.

The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies  
from the hands of all who hate us.

To show mercy to our forebears  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father  
Abraham  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear  
holy and righteous before him all the days of  
our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the  
Most High, for you will go before the Lord to  
prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Nations will stream to your light,  
and kings to your dawning brightness.

### ***Prayers***

*Various prayers are offered for:*

*The Church, the World, the Local Community,  
those in particular need*

*The Lord's Prayer is said.*

*The Collect for the Day is said or*

Creator God,  
who in the beginning  
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:  
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of  
Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and  
unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people  
and reveal the knowledge of your glory  
in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The second collect, for peace.*

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord,  
to know you is eternal life,  
to serve you is perfect freedom:  
defend us in all assaults of our enemies,  
that we, surely trusting in your protection,  
may not fear the power of any adversaries;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The third collect, for grace.*

Eternal God and Father,  
by your power we are created  
and by your love we are redeemed:  
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,  
that we may give ourselves to you  
in love and service of one another;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)**

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night  
and a perfect end. **Amen.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Silent prayer/reflection on the past day.*

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have  
done what is wrong in your sight. We are sorry  
and repent. In your love, have mercy on us;  
cleanse us from our sin, renew a right spirit  
within us and grant us the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The following hymn may be said or sung.*

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That you, with steadfast love, would keep  
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,  
From fears and terrors of the night;  
Tread underfoot our deadly foe  
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done  
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;  
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath  
Our souls are raised to life from death.

### ***Psalm 139***

*or another suitable Psalm, is read.*

O Lord, you have searched me out and known  
me;  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You mark out my journeys and my resting place;  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

For there is not a word on my tongue;  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

You encompass me behind and before;  
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go then from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning;  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
Even there your hand shall lead me;  
your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me;  
and the light around me turn to night,'

Even darkness is no darkness with you;  
the night is as clear as the day;  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

For you yourself created my inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully  
made;  
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.



My frame was not hidden from you;  
when I was made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;  
already in your book were all my members  
written,

As day by day they were fashioned;  
when as yet there was none of them.

How deep are your counsels to me, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!

If I count them, they are more in number than  
the sand;  
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*One of the following short passages of Scripture  
are read.*

### *In Advent*

Keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

### *Mark 13. 35-37*

### *In Christmastide*

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

### *John 1. 14, 16-17*

### *In Epiphanytide*

For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light

shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

*2 Corinthians 4. 5,6*

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.  
**I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

***The Nunc Dimittis.***

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every  
people;

A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep may rest in peace.**

### ***Prayers***

*Various prayers are offered, which may include  
this short litany.*

That you will give us a quiet night and a perfect  
end: **we pray to you, O Lord.**

That you will have mercy upon us and grant us  
your salvation: **we pray to you, O Lord.**

That you will keep us this night without sin:  
**we pray to you, O Lord.**

That you will guard us and give us your blessing:  
**we pray to you, O Lord.**

That you will bring us with all your saints to  
glory everlasting: **we pray to you, O Lord.**

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we  
pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

Our Father, who art in heaven...

*The appropriate Collect is said.*

*Advent*

Stir up your power, O God,  
and come among us.  
Heal our wounds,  
calm our fears  
and give us peace;  
through Jesus our Redeemer. **Amen.**

*Christmastide*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for the gift to the world of our Redeemer;  
as we sing your glory at the close of this day,  
so may we know his presence in our hearts,  
who is our Saviour and our Lord,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Epiphanytide*

King of kings and Lord of lords,  
making the true light to shine:  
lighten our darkness now and evermore  
that with our lips and in our lives  
we may praise you;  
for you are our God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

In peace we will lie down and sleep,  
**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,  
**for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,  
**so do we look for you, O Christ.**

The Lord bless us and watch over us;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon us  
and be gracious to us;  
the Lord look kindly on us  
and all for whom we pray  
and give us his peace.  
**Amen.**

## Readings

As always readings for Sundays can be found on our website however if you'd like to use this order daily (which we'd encourage) then we'd commend reading a chapter a day of Luke's Gospel during Advent. Doing this would mean that during this season you'd have re-read the whole of Jesus' life and be better prepared to celebrate his coming amongst us.

For Christmas and Epiphany do get in touch, we'd be happy to give some pointers of what you could read.

## Copyright Notice

### **Simple Orders for Morning Prayer**

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### **Order for Night Prayer**

The material for the Order of Compline in this booklet is taken from The Daily Office SSF, revised edition 2010.

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