

Christmas Day 2022 (Zoom)

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Christmas Greetings

Opening words - Reading of Luke 2:1-7

Advent candle

You are with us, Emmanuel,
our hearts beat within your presence,
until, in the fullness of our humanity, our hearts beat as one.
Here in this place we wait,
an advent people,
visual signs all around,
eternity effervescing in each moment, each heartbeat, and each star.
Come we cry, yet you are here.
Open our eyes we cry, yet we fail to see.
Messengers come and messengers go and still we wait,
engaged with the world we miss the creator.

Today we celebrate with gifts, to remember the gift of Jesus, and the giving of gifts by the wise men.

Light the fifth candle saying,

'We light this candle for the hope, peace, joy and love that the birth of Jesus brought to the world,
and the promise of life eternal in God's presence.'

Prayer

Eternal God,

You hold creation in your hands and breathe life into the world.

As you hold us within your being we celebrate your incarnation in Jesus and remember all that he
taught about your love.

(silence)

Kindle the flame of love in our hearts that we may build your kingdom now.

Hymn It came upon the midnight clear

[Listen here](#)

Prayer

Eternal God, source of all being, as we worship together we bring our thanksgiving for the wonder of
the Christmas story. As we celebrate, remembering the birth of Jesus, we reflect on the message of
love that this child would bring to the world and the challenge to live simply and generously. In
thanksgiving as we reflect upon the abundance in our lives we pray that we will accept the challenge
and be generous in our response.

We thank you for the gifts of creation, the diversity and beauty which surrounds us, and wonder of
nature. As we look out on our gardens, we see the effects of winter, but we also see the first hints
of new life, small shoots of green appearing through damp and sometimes hard soil and we
remember that even though the world is often hard and many cry in sorrow there are shoots of
hope, for you are always creating and your love holds us even in the darkest of times. We thank you
for your presence with us.

We thank you for the gift of family and friends, good neighbours, and the unexpected help of strangers. We are all one in your love and we pray that we may celebrate that oneness through generosity in our words and actions.

At the end of another year the reason for our celebration remains the same, the birth of a child who would change the way we see the world, see ourselves and understand you. We thank you for the gift of Jesus.

As we worship together and yet apart, we are united in the words that Jesus taught the disciples and we say together,

Our Father....

Reflect on the journey and gifts

Story The Christmas department store by Maudie Powell Tuck
Listen [here](#)

Meditate – In his book ‘Some small heaven’ Ian Adam for Christmas Day invites you to imagine to imagine the holy child being born again in you. Imagine the transforming experience and how you might glow as we imagine the angels glowing and Mary glowing. Imagine the glow setting off a ripple of light around the world as more and more people are touched and transformed by the recognition of God within them.

Hymn Come and join the celebration
Listen [here](#)

Prayer Offer your own prayer for this Christmas Day.

Hymn Once in Royal David’s City
Listen [here](#)

Blessing

May the joy of knowing God, source of all being, overflow from our lives, the light that is the Christ shine in our lives and the peace of oneness, our connection in the Spirit, bring us hope this Christmas. Amen