

## **WE ARE PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS**

### **Introduction for all four Sundays of Advent**

1. & 2. Reader: We are preparing to celebrate Christmas  
1. Reader : In the middle of our living  
All : We are preparing for Christmas  
2. Reader : In the middle of our struggles  
All : We are preparing for Christmas  
1. Reader : In the middle of our ecstasies and agonies  
All : We are preparing for Christmas  
2. Reader : In the middle of our ordinaries - rythms and ruts and routines  
All : We are preparing for Christmas  
1. Reader : In the middle of of our crises - identity, family, vocational  
All : We are preparing for Christmas

### **1. Sunday of Advent**

1. reader : Among us are those who are feeling some darkness  
2. reader : Among us are those who are feeling the darkness of fear  
Men : Fear of the future  
Women : Fear of the present  
Men : Fear of the past  
Women : Fear of rejection  
Men : Fear of failure  
Women : Fear of success  
Men : Fear of hate  
Women : Fear of love  
Men : Fear of aloneness  
Women : Fear of closeness  
Men : Fears we can name  
Women : Fears we cannot name  
1. reader : And the darkness of fear envelops the soul;  
the darkness of fear makes heavy the heart  
2. reader : And into our fear comes the word of Isaiah;  
into our fear comes the word of the Lord  
1. & 2. reader : The people who walk in the darkness have seen a great light.  
The light shines in the darkness - and the darkness has never put it out.  
1. reader : And those words gently pierce through the darkness  
2. reader : Those words softly lighten the heart

1. & 2. reader : And the ones who are feeling the darkness of fear say:  
All : Yes, I am seeing the light  
Women : I am seeing the light of love which frees from all fear  
Men : I am seeing the light of love which can accept the past and present and future  
Women : I am seeing the light of love which knows no limits

1. reader : And that love gently pierces the darkness  
2. reader : And that love softly lightens the heart.

## 2. Sunday of Advent

1. reader : Among us are those who are feeling some darkness  
2. reader : Among us are those who are feeling the darkness of guilt  
Women : The guilt of doing  
Men : The guilt of not doing  
Women : The guilt of being  
Men : The guilt of not being  
Women : The guilt of having  
Men : The guilt of not having  
Women : The guilt of sharing  
Men : The guilt of not sharing  
Women : The guilt of loving  
Men : The guilt of not loving

1. reader : And the darkness of guilt envelops the soul;  
the darkness of guilt makes heavy the heart

2. reader : And into our guilt comes the word of Isaiah;  
into our guilt comes the word of the Lord

1. & 2. reader : The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness - and the darkness has never put it out.

1. reader : And those words gently pierce through the darkness

2. reader : Those words softly lighten the heart

1. & 2. reader : And the ones who are feeling the darkness of guilt say:

All : Yes, I am seeing the light

Women : I am seeing the light of profound forgiveness

Men : I am seeing the light of infinite acceptance

Women : I am seeing the dazzling light of the grace of God

1. reader : And that grace gently pierces the darkness

2. reader : And that grace softly lightens the heart.



### 3. Sunday of Advent

1. reader : Among us are those who are feeling some darkness  
2. reader : Among us are those who are feeling the darkness of cynicism  
Men : The cynicism of 'nothing really matters'  
Women : The cynicism of 'no one really cares'  
Men : The cynicism of 'it's everyone for him or herself'  
Women : The cynicism of 'you can't trust anybody'
1. reader : And the darkness of cynicism envelops the soul;  
the darkness of cynicism makes heavy the heart  
2. reader : And into our cynicism comes the word of Isaiah;  
into our cynicism comes the word of the Lord  
1. & 2. reader : The people who walk in the darkness have seen a great light.  
The light shines in the darkness - and the darkness has  
never put it out.
1. reader : And those words gently pierce through the darkness  
2. reader : Those words softly lighten the heart  
1. & 2. reader : And the ones who are feeling the darkness of cynicism say:  
All : I am seeing the light  
Men : I am seeing the light of a life with compassion  
Women : I am seeing the light of trust for another  
Men : I am seeing the light of a faith
1. reader : And that faith gently pierces the darkness  
2. reader : And that faith softly lightens the heart.

#### **4. Sunday of Advent**

1. reader : Around and beyond us are those who are feeling darkness  
2. reader : Around and beyond us are those who are feeling the darkness  
of oppression  
Women : The oppression of being unseen, unheard, unpeople  
Men : The oppression of being jobless  
Women : The oppression of being foodless  
Men : The oppression of being friendless  
Women : The oppression of being hopeless  
Men : The oppression of systems which thrive at the top and deprive  
at the bottom  
Women : The oppression of professionals enlarging their profits while  
promising help to the people
1. reader : And the darkness of oppression envelops the soul;  
the darkness of oppression makes heavy the heart  
2. reader : And into our oppression comes the word of Isaiah;  
into our oppression comes the word of the Lord  
1. & 2. reader : The people who walk in the darkness have seen a great light.  
The light shines in the darkness - and the darkness has  
never put it out.  
1. reader : And those words gently pierce through the darkness  
2. reader : Those words softly lighten the heart  
1. & 2. reader : And the ones who are feeling the darkness of oppression say:  
All : Yes, I am seeing the light  
Women : I am seeing the light of a new society  
Men : I am seeing the light of a people striving for justice  
Women : I am seeing the light of a people living by human values  
Men : I am seeing the light of the dream of a new world
1. reader : And that dream gently pierces the darkness  
2. reader : And that dream softly lightens the heart.



#### **4. Sunday of Advent**

1. reader : Around and beyond us are those who are feeling darkness  
2. reader : Around and beyond us are those who are feeling the darkness of oppression
- Women : The oppression of being unseen, unheard, unpeople  
Men : The oppression of being jobless  
Women : The oppression of being foodless  
Men : The oppression of being friendless  
Women : The oppression of being hopeless  
Men : The oppression of systems which thrive at the top and deprive at the bottom
- Women : The oppression of professionals enlarging their profits while promising help to the people
1. reader : And the darkness of oppression envelops the soul;  
the darkness of oppression makes heavy the heart  
2. reader : And into our oppression comes the word of Isaiah;  
into our oppression comes the word of the Lord  
1. & 2. reader : The people who walk in the darkness have seen a great light.  
The light shines in the darkness - and the darkness has never put it out.
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1. reader : And that dream gently pierces the darkness  
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