

(3) Advent and Christmas prayers

As part of your MWA meeting, ask different people to read each part and light a candle after they read, to symbolise their faith in Christ as light of the world.

Advent God,
we journey with you,
to Bethlehem's stable
and a new-born King,
ears attuned
to the song of angels,
eyes alert
for Bethlehem's star.
Forgive us
if on our journey
if we are distracted
by the tempting offers
of this world.
Keep our hearts aflame
with the hope
of Christmas,
and the promise
of a Saviour.
Amen
John Birch

To you O Lord we bring our lives
Troubled, broken or at ease
A sacrificial offering
For you to use
Take away our selfishness
And teach us to love as you loved
Take away our sense of pride
And show us the meaning of humility
Take away our blindness
And show us the world through your eyes
Take away our greed
And teach us how to give as you gave
Show us your ways
Teach us your paths
That we might walk with you more
closely
Our hand in your hand
Our feet in your footsteps
From the baby in a stable
To eternity,
Amen
John Birch
www.faithandworship.com

To you O Lord, we bring our lives

In the centre of our waiting
the seeds of our salvation are announced in small signs,
in small kindnesses, in humble courage,
in lives of fragile hope, in faithfulness.

God is not defeated.
Life is more powerful than death.
This we believe.
From this we will live.
Amen
Dorothy McRae-McMahon,
Prayers for Life's Particular Moments (SPCK 2001)

Advent and Christmas intercessions

This Advent, as we wait for
the Hope of the World
we pray for God's hope to overcome
the despair of loss and loneliness.
God of light and hope,
Hear our prayer

This Advent, as we wait for
the Light of the World
we pray that the love of God would bring light
in the lives of our family and friends.
God of light and hope,
Hear our prayer

This Advent, as we wait for
the Hope of the World
we pray that the love of God would fill
us all with sure and certain hope.
God of light and hope,
Hear our prayer
Amen

This Christmas, as we remember
that there was no room at the inn,
we pray for all who are homeless,
and those who work to shelter them.
Wherever the world is in darkness Lord,
Let there be light

This Christmas, as we remember the birth
of Jesus in a stable,
we pray for all who are living in poverty,
and those who work to provide for them.
Wherever the world is in darkness Lord,
Let there be light

This Christmas, as we remember the violence
of the search for the Christ child,
we pray for all who are in danger,
and those who work to protect them.
Wherever the world is in darkness Lord,
Let there be light

This Christmas, as we remember those who
journeyed to the stable,

we pray for all who are seeking you,
and those who are leading the way.
Wherever the world is in darkness Lord,
Let there be light
Amen

A Christmas Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel
begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town;
and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world,
in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room,
and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude
Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could
never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome
came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God
to be invincible:

I believe in the one who by love brought sinners back to purity,
and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in
Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem that night,
for me and for the world.

From www.christmas-day.org

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.
John 1:9