

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 your 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 the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.**

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.**

### **HYMN**

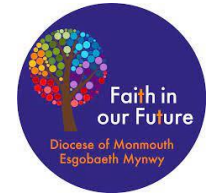
## **The Conclusion**

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us,  
and scatter the darkness from before us.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

# **Diocese of Monmouth**

## **Advent Morning Prayer**



### **HYMN**

## **The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*The appropriate number of candles are lit and a prayer is said.*

## **The Introduction**

### **Prayers of Penitence**

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence, to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his word, to bring before him the needs of the world and to seek his grace, that, through his Son, Jesus Christ, we may give ourselves to his service.

Jesus said: 'The first commandment is: "Listen Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

*Silence.*

Let us confess our sins to the Father  
and seek his pardon and peace.

**Almighty and merciful God,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with all our heart;  
and we have not loved others as Christ loves us.  
We are truly sorry.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Help us to amend our lives;  
that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

May God our Father,  
who by our Lord Jesus Christ  
has reconciled the world to himself  
and forgives the sins of all who truly repent,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
and grant us the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### ***Morning Acclamation of Christ***

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

### ***HYMN***

You are blessed, Sovereign God, Lord of all!  
In your tender compassion  
the dawn from on high breaks upon us,  
to dispel the lingering shadows of night.  
As we look for your coming among us,  
open our eyes to behold your presence  
and strengthen our hands to do your will,  
that the world may rejoice to give you praise.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### ***HYMN***

#### ***The Sermon, address or reflection***

*A Licensed Lay Minister may preach or an address or reflection may be read.*

### **The Prayers**

*Prayers are offered.*

*One of the following responses may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord, raise up your power,  
**and come among us.**

Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom as Jesus taught us:  
**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

### ***The New Testament Reading***

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### ***The Apostles' Creed***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Ministry of the Word**

### ***Psalm 80***

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you that led Joseph like a flock;  
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your mighty strength  
and come to our salvation.

**Turn us again, O God;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?  
You feed them with the bread of tears;  
you give them abundance of tears to drink.  
You have made us the derision of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

**Turn us again, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.  
You made room around it,  
and when it had taken root, it filled the land.  
The hills were covered with its shadow  
and the cedars of God by its boughs.

**Turn us again, O God;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

It stretched out its branches to the Sea  
and its tendrils to the River.  
Why then have you broken down its wall,  
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?  
The wild boar out of the wood tears it off,  
and all the insects of the field devour it.

**Turn us again, O God;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Cherish this vine which your right hand has planted,  
and the branch that you made so strong for yourself.  
Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it down,  
perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

**Turn us again, O God;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,  
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.  
And so will we not go back from you;  
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.

**Turn us again, O God;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**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 Old Testament Reading***

*At the end of the reading:*  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### ***The Gospel Canticle: Benedictus – Song of Zechariah***

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

- 1 **Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel :  
for he has come to his people and set them free.**
- 2 **The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour :  
born of the house of his servant David.**
- 3 **Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies :  
from the hands of all who hate us.**
- 4 **To show mercy to our forebears :  
and to remember his holy covenant.**
- 5 **This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham :  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**
- 6 **Free to worship him without fear :  
holy and righteous before him all the days of our life.**
- 7 **And you, child, shall be called  
the prophet of the Most High :  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**
- 8 **To give his people knowledge of salvation :  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**
- 9 **In the tender compassion of our God :  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**