



O Come, Path of Love
Advent Reflections 2025
Lectionary Year A
By: Rev. Susanna M. Kawolics

As I journey towards this Advent season, I find myself being drawn more and more to labyrinth-walking. Labyrinths are prayer paths that invite us to pray in motion, to enter into a prayer journey towards center, and then back out into the world. St. Augustine once said, "It is solved by walking," and the walking of labyrinths offers opportunities for us to find our center, to connect with God, and to receive gifts from that holy encounter.

While there is no right or wrong way to walk a labyrinth prayerfully, some find it helpful to have a map to guide them. One such map begins with setting an intention for one's prayer journey before the walk. Perhaps there is something our heart yearns for, or maybe just a general longing for hope, peace, joy, or love, or deeper connection with God. After considering what our intention might be, our prayer time can then be guided by four "R" words.

The first “R” is **Remember**. Before beginning the actual walking, we are invited to remember that each one of us is God’s beloved child, held and accompanied by God on every step of our life journey. As we take in this wondrous truth, we enter the labyrinth and begin our journey with gratitude. Next is **Release**. As we walk the path that leads towards the center, we can imagine ourselves releasing all that would keep us from the intention that we have set for this prayer time. With each step, we let go and empty, making room for gifts that God will bestow upon us in this prayer time. Upon reaching the center, we open ourselves to **Receive** those blessings that come from our loving God. They may be glimpses of hope, glimmers of peace, flashes of joy, bits of love, maybe a sliver of wisdom or strength. We stay in the center as long as feels right before beginning the journey back out.

The last “R” is for **Resolve**. As we journey out of the labyrinth back into the world, we resolve to take whatever gifts this prayer walk has granted and go back into the world, sealing the blessing into our very being.

A person may or may not sense a difference in their life after a labyrinth prayer walk. But often an insight, a thought, or a feeling will bubble up during the walk, or some days afterwards. It is best to enter a labyrinth with no expectations, and let the prayer time be what it is.

I find labyrinth walks give me hope, expand my heart, and help guide me, especially when the world around me seems so full of despair, animosity, and chaos. While one can walk a labyrinth using any prayer, some of the prayers in this devotional will follow the pattern of “Remember, Release, Receive, Resolve.” They are marked with a labyrinth.



If you are so inclined, pray them while walking a labyrinth, or while tracing one with your finger. To find a labyrinth near you, go to <https://labyrinthlocator.org/>. A finger labyrinth is available in this booklet that can be traced with your finger, or an instrument like an uncapped pen or cotton swab.

All reflections offered seek to provide inspiration throughout our Advent journeys. As we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, to receive the gift of God’s love made flesh in our world, the reflections invite us to prayerfully come to a fuller understanding of who this child is, and as such, to come to a deeper understanding of God.

Because God is so much greater than our minds can even begin to comprehend, we can only know God through glimpses, or “reflections.” That is what these names for God and these prayers are: reflections. They are inspired by the traditional “O Antiphons,” different names and images for God used during the last week of Advent, December 17th through 23rd. They have been part of the Christian tradition since the 7th or 8th century, and are proclaimed in the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” I have included them in this booklet on their traditional days. The other images used are my creations inspired by scripture.

The Bible verses have been chosen based on the weekly Revised Common Lectionary readings for Advent and Christmas, Year A. The reflections for the Sunday readings begin on the Monday before so that we will have the opportunity to reflect on these Bible passages before hearing them in worship. There is also a prayer to guide each day.

By using the first person plural *we*, I imagine the community of people using this resource to be united in prayer. I would welcome any of your thoughts, comments, suggestions, or reflections as you journey through this Advent season. Please visit my Facebook page:

[facebook.com/AdventReflections](https://www.facebook.com/AdventReflections) to leave and view comments, or email reverendsusi@gmail.com.

As you take time with this booklet during the season of Advent, may your reflections deepen your relationship with God so that you may more fully experience the celebration of the coming of Christ. In Christ’s peace,

Suri Kawalik

Finger Labyrinth



Enter Here

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Translated: John Neale, 1818-66

() indicates date of traditional "O Antiphons"

(12/23) O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

(12/17) O come, our Wisdom from on
high,
And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

(12/18) O come, O come, our Lord of
might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

(12/19) O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
From ev'ry foe deliver them
That trust your mighty pow'r to save;
Bring them in vict'ry through the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

(12/20) O come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

12/21) O come, thou Dayspring, come and
cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

(12/22) O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

Hymn # 31 from **Lutheran Worship**

Author: French Processional

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, 1st Published in 1854

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Alternative verses by Susanna M. Kawolics ©2014

() indicates date of traditional "O Antiphons"

(12/17)

O come, O Wisdom who from dawning day
Creates and shapes a new world, a new
way.

You at the gateways of our choices stand
And guide us with your dancing, loving
hand.

Rejoice! Rejoice! O God amazing, wise,
May we each day be open to surprise.

(12/18)

O come, O God of Ancient Israel,
Who with your people faithfully do dwell.
You've shown yourself in tablets of law,
And burning bush, and cloud that wand'ers
saw.

Rejoice! Rejoice! O God of Ancient Days,
We trust and rest our hearts in you always.

(12/19)

O come, O come, O Flower of Jesse's
Tree.

No one believed a shepherd King would
be.

You chose the humblest of his sons to reign
To show your ways are not our ways,
again.

Rejoice! Rejoice! O Flower of Jesse's Tree,
Bring birth and newness from the smallest
seed.

(12/20)

O come, O Key of David, open wide
Our locked-down hearts so peace may
come inside.

Release the hold of grudges past
And tenderly toward hope lead us at last.

Rejoice! Rejoice! O Key of David, free
Our hearts from hatred that they healed
might be.

(12/21)

O come, O Dayspring, in our darkest night
With your bright stars and moon disperse our
fright.

Weave light through shadows, make all things
new

And bring a wholeness only found through you.

Rejoice! Rejoice! O God of Radiant Light
And put the darkness in our lives to flight.

(12/22)

O come, Uniter of the Nations, hold
All on this earth in your close, loving fold.
Heal wounds and mend together broken hearts.
Bring universal peace from varied parts.

Rejoice! Rejoice! O God of Unity,
Grant that your realm of love might come to be.

(12/23)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,

Be birthed again that all earth be made well.

Inspire us all to make your presence known
By tending seeds of justice you have sown.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall through and in us once more come and
dwell.

First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025
Begin reflections on
Monday, November 24
Readings:
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

The overall theme of this week~

Hope

The first **R** in walking a labyrinth is **Remember**. As we remember all the ways God's presence has been revealed in our lives, and how God's love has brought us through difficult as well as joyful times, let those memories fuel our **Hope** for this Advent journey, and our **Hope** for the world.

Monday, November 24

Antiphon: O Waker of the Sleeping, Come



Scripture

Romans 13:11 *Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.*

Prayerful Reflection

O Waker of the Sleeping, Come~
Fill us with gratitude that we have awakened
to the gift of a new day.
Release us from the ways we sleep-walk
through our days,
with comfortable routines,
predictable patterns, mindless diversions.
Rouse our bodies, our hearts, and our minds.
Grant us eyes to see beyond our sight-lines,
minds to imagine beyond boundaries,
hearts to love beyond measure.
Open us to your new ideas, images, visions
that will bring about your Kin-dom on earth.
Revive us, energize us, inspire us,
that your hopes and dreams for our world
may be birthed into life.
Amen.

Tuesday, November 25

Antiphon: O Purveyor of Peace, Come

Scripture

Psalm 122:6-8: *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem . . . "Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers." . . . I will say, "Peace be within you."*

Prayerful Reflection

O Purveyor of Peace, Come~
Attend to our longing for peace
within our world, and within ourselves.
Grant us peace in our hearts to ground us.
Summon us to pray for all those
who seek to survive in war-ravaged areas,
who seek safety in dangerous environments,
who seek calm in chaotic circumstances.
Then turn our prayers into action.
Guide us in ways to bring about peace.
Grant us courage to speak up,
passion to step up,
and willingness to offer up
our voices, our resources, our time
so that your hope for peace may be realized.
Amen.

Wednesday, November 26

Antiphon: O Unexpected Caller, Come

Scripture

Matthew 24:36,44 *But about that day and hour no one knows . . . Therefore you also must be ready, for the Human One is coming at an unexpected hour.*

Prayerful Reflection

O Unexpected Caller, Come~
Open us to recognize you in
the unexpected and surprising ways
you manifest your presence and call to us.
Open our eyes to see you
in the faces of those who despair.
Open our ears to hear you
in the pleas of those who seek help.
Open our hearts to recognize you
in the yearnings of those on the margins.
Grant us an awareness of your presence,
especially in those who are "the least of these,"
those for whom your heart breaks.
As we recognize you in
unexpected people and places,
may we glorify you by bringing love and hope.
Amen.

Thursday, November 27

Antiphon: O Evoker of Gladness, Come



Scripture

Psalm 122:1 *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of God!"*

Prayerful Reflection

O Evoker of Gladness, Come~
Imbue our souls with gladness,
for we find welcome in your house;
indeed we have a home in your heart.
Make us grateful for our home
on this earth as well.
On this Thanksgiving Day,
clear our hearts and minds of all bitterness,
resentment, unforgiveness,
that we may fully bask in our many blessings.
Fill us with gratitude
for the bountiful harvest of food, family,
and friends, both past and present.
With our hearts grounded in gratitude,
may we bring gladness to others.
Prepare us to become an embodiment
of your house, to be a sanctuary,
so we may be a place of welcome, healing,
and hope for your hurting world.
Amen.

Friday, November 28

Antiphon: O Holy Word, Come

Scripture

Isaiah 2:3b *For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of God from Jerusalem.*

Prayerful Reflection

O Holy Word, Come~
Recall to our minds
your word spoken through prophets
of your compassion for all people;
your word embodied by your child
of your love for us;
your word enfleshed by your visionaries
of your dream for our world today:
a Kin-dom of dignity and peace for all.
Instruct us in your vision,
teach us your truth,
and encourage us to go forth
proclaiming in speech and in action
your word of hope for the world.
Amen.

Saturday, November 29

Antiphon: O Dispeller of the Night, Come

Scripture

Romans 13:12 . . . *the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of the night, and put on the armor of the day.*

Prayerful Reflection

O Dispeller of the Night, Come~
Clothe us with the armor of the day.
Enkindle us to be a beacon of hope
to those living in the despair
of poverty, homelessness, hunger,
of war, danger, natural disaster,
of loneliness, grief, illness.
Fill our hearts with the burning love of Christ,
whose fiery compassion
brought new life to those who are hopeless.
Grant that, through our acts of mercy,
our prayers of petition,
and our words of care,
we may offer this light as hope
to the cold, bleak places in our world.
Amen.

First Sunday of Advent, November 30

Antiphon: O Path Guider, Come



Scripture

Isaiah 2:3 *"Come, let us go up to the mountain of God, to the house of the God of Jacob [Rachel and Leah]; that that we may be taught the ways of God and may walk in God's paths."*

Prayerful Reflection

O Path Guider, Come~
On this First Sunday of Advent, fill us with hope
as you remind us of the wisdom of your ways,
which have sustained and grounded our lives.
Empty us of our inflated egos,
our selfish goals, our greed-based desires.
Instruct us with your teachings,
which seek to establish a world
of peace, dignity, and justice for all.
Direct our steps to the rhythm of your ways,
and guide our feet along the course
of steadfast love and faithfulness.
Send us forth to work towards your dreams,
to walk in your paths of peace,
and to live into the hope of your realm of love.
Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025
Begin reflections on
Monday, December 1
Readings
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

The overall theme of this week~

Peace

The second “**R**” in the map of labyrinth-walking is **Release**. As we journey toward the 2nd Sunday of Advent, may we seek to release all that would keep us from a **Peace**-filled heart for ourselves, and a **Peace**-filled hope for our world.

Monday, December 1

Antiphon: O Refreshing Rain, Come

Scripture

Psalm 72:6 *May the ruler be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.*

Prayerful Reflection

O Refreshing Rain, Come~
Shower our lives with your love.
Our souls thirst for your refreshment,
our hearts long for your wellspring of love,
our bodies crave your soothing touch.
Like the rain that refreshes
the sun- and wind-parched earth,
soak us with your grace,
deep into the core of our being.
Rain your compassion upon us
until it permeates our very core.
Drench us with your expansive love
that embraces all people.
May we, thus refreshed and renewed,
saturate the world with your love and peace.
Amen.

Tuesday, December 2

Antiphon: O Spirit of Understanding, Come



Scripture

Isaiah 11:2 *And the Spirit of God shall rest upon this branch, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might . . .*

Prayerful Reflection

O Spirit of Understanding, Come~
Remind us of your deep and unconditional love
for all your children.
Take hold of our hearts as we seek to release
what we simply cannot understand:
the thoughts, the actions,
the motivations of another.
Give us your spirit of understanding
to be patient, to truly listen deeply,
to hear beyond the spoken word
into the longings of the heart.
Reveal to us some connection,
that we may come to accept all people,
erasing the line between "us" and "them."
Make us wonder at the amazing uniqueness
of each and every person
as we seek to bring your peace
and understanding into the world.
Amen.

Wednesday, December 3

Antiphon: O Deliverer of the Oppressed, Come

Scripture

Psalm 72:4 *May the ruler defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to those who are needy . . .*

Prayerful Reflection

O Deliverer of the Oppressed, Come~
Attend to the cries of those who are poor,
in need, oppressed.
Make their anguish echo
throughout the earth
so all our ears may hear.
Open our hearts to compassion,
to solidarity, to generosity
that we may align ourselves with
their hopes, their dreams, their longing
for basic human rights and dignity.
Move us to advocacy and action,
that they may know justice,
and that the world may know peace.
Amen.

Thursday, December 4

Antiphon: O Welcoming Host, Come

Scripture

Romans 15:7 *Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

Prayerful Reflection

O Welcoming Host, Come~
Open the doors of our hearts
to receive strangers in peace,
be they person, idea, or belief.
May we invite in with curiosity
that which brings us discomfort,
that which jars us from our certitude.
Open our eyes, ears and minds,
to recognize your presence in all.
Enable us to embrace
the core of each and every person,
their holiness, which runs deeper
than any differences between us.
For your glory, move us to become
peace-filled, Christ-like, welcoming hosts.
Amen.

Friday, December 5

Antiphon: O Voice in the Wilderness, Come



Scripture

Matthew 3:3 . . . *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths of the Lord straight.’”*

Prayerful Reflection

O Voice in the Wilderness, Come~
Reassure us that you speak to us everywhere,
including unexpected places.
Call us to let go of
our relentless, rugged routines,
our hectic, harried schedules,
our bustling, busy surroundings.
Lead us into a barren wilderness
devoid of distractions and noise.
Bring us to a simple, serene site
and fill us with peaceful solitude,
serenity, and calm.
Thus quieted, fill our imaginations
with dreams of peace and justice,
for our own lives, and for the world.
Give us the courage to prepare that path
which leads straight to your heart of love.
Amen.

Saturday, December 6

Antiphon: O Herald of Harmony, Come

Scripture

Romans 15:5 *May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus . . .*

Prayerful Reflection

O Herald of Harmony Come~
Call us to embody
your gospel message of compassion.
Root us in your steadfast love and faithfulness,
that we may rejoice in this world of diversity.
Help us to embrace differences
as varying voices and instruments
which come together to create
a beautiful, rich hymn of praise to you.
Encourage us all to sing words of peace,
melodies of love,
accompanied by notes of justice for those
who have been silenced.
Make every voice heard,
every life-song honored,
and every life a channel of your peace.
Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent, December 7

Antiphon: O Abounding Peace, Come



Scripture

Psalms 72:7 *In those days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.*

Prayerful Reflection

O Abounding Peace, Come~
On this Second Sunday of Advent,
fill us with peace.
Lead us to remembrance and gratitude
for the gift of your child, the "Prince of Peace."
Rid us of our ego-driven certitude,
our impulse to speak without listening,
our desire to always have the last word.
Grant us humility, openness, and curiosity
toward the points of views of others.
Align our hearts with yours,
that the love you have for all your children
may guide all of our relationships as well.
Labor alongside us to pave a way
for righteousness to flourish
and peace to abound.
Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025
Begin reflections on
Monday, December 8

Readings
Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

The overall theme of this week~
Joy

The third “**R**” in the map of labyrinth-walking is **Receive**. As we enter the center of the labyrinth and journey toward the third Sunday of Advent, may we open our hearts with **Joy** to **receive** the gifts waiting for us from the God of Love.

Monday, December 8

Antiphon: O Compassionate Healer, Come

Scripture

Matthew 11:5 . . . *those who are blind receive their sight, those who are lame walk, the people with leprosy are cleansed, those who are deaf hear . . .*

Prayerful Reflection

O Compassionate Healer, Come~
Mend our hurting world.
You came in the person of Jesus,
offering healing to broken and bruised
bodies, hearts, and souls.
You call us to be the compassionate
Body of Christ in the world.
May we offer
a glimpse of your love
to eyes that seek your presence;
a word of hope
to ears that listen for your loving call;
a way of wholeness and meaning
to feet that search for your direction.
Make us instruments of your healing and joy.
Amen.

Tuesday, December 9

Antiphon: O Allayer of Fears, Come



Scripture

Isaiah 35:4 *Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come . . ."*

Prayerful Reflection

O Allayer of Fears, Come~
Recall to our minds how you have upheld us
when we have been
afraid, anxious, hopeless.
Release us from our paralyzing fear,
our unproductive worry,
our debilitating anxiety.
Fill us with courage, with purpose, with hope.
Assure us of your unconditional love,
and remind us that you walk
each step of life's journey with us,
that you uphold us with your abiding love.
Believing in that promise,
grant us joy of heart and peace of mind,
that we may be strong and secure,
with courage to face our fears.
Amen.

Wednesday, December 10

Antiphon: O Lifter of Burdens, Come

Scripture

Psalms 146:8 *God opens the eyes of those who cannot see, lifts up those who are bowed down, and loves the righteous.*

Prayerful Reflection

O Lifter of Burdens, Come~
Ease the weight of our suffering.
Support us in our hardships,
surround us with your comfort,
strengthen us through your care.
Summon us to lift others
bowed down with the weight
of hardship and trouble,
of heartache and fear,
of injustice and discrimination.
Give us hearts to walk in solidarity
with our brothers, siblings, and sisters,
sharing their burdens,
so we may all walk
with eyes, hearts, and souls up-lifted,
and know the joy you intend for us all.
Amen.

Thursday, December 11

Antiphon:

O Rewarder of Patience, Come

Scripture

James 5:8 *You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Sovereign is at hand.*

Prayerful Reflection

O Rewarder of Patience, Come~

Teach us to live in patient hope.

Too often we seek the immediate answer,
the quick fix, the spontaneous response.

We are unwilling to wait for the wisdom
that comes from the pause, from the quiet,
from the listening for your voice.

Too often we give up hope
when the answers do not come swiftly,
when relationships are not mended instantly,
when our plans move backward,
or stand still.

Help us to trust as Rev. Dr. M.L. King affirmed:

“The arc of the moral universe is long,
but it bends towards justice.”

Grant us patience as we help to bend it,
and establish our hearts to wait in joyful hope.

Amen.

Friday, December 12

Antiphon: **O Prophetic Voice, Come**



Scripture

Matthew 11:10 *This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’*

Prayerful Reflection

O Prophetic Voice, Come~

Open our hearts in gratitude

for all the messengers of your word
throughout the ages.

As we seek to walk in your ways,
relinquish rigidity from our minds,
remove blinders from our eyes,
rid apathy and numbness
from our hearts.

Open our ears to hear
those who speak your truth,
your vision, your summons.

Fill us with courage, passion, commitment,
and send us forth

to use our voices, our hands, our feet
to prepare a way of peace and joy for all.

Amen.

Saturday, December 13

Antiphon: O Reviver of Deserts, Come

Scripture

Isaiah 35:1 *The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.*

Prayerful Reflection

O Reviver of Deserts, Come~
Refresh our bone-dry world in all the places
where gladness is absent,
where compassion is scarce,
where dreams have died.
Enter in with your transforming love,
and nurture seeds of hope.
Revive our souls, encourage our hearts,
gladden our spirits.
Remind us of the power
of courageous words spoken,
of compassionate acts shared,
of consoling gestures given.
Make us sowers of your love, justice, and mercy,
that seeds of joy may blossom and grow
in the desolate deserts of our world.
Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent, December 14

Antiphon: O Wondrous Creator, Come



Scripture

Psalms 146:5-6 *Happy is the one whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in God . . . who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them . . .*

Prayerful Reflection

O Wondrous Creator, Come~
On this Third Sunday of Advent, fill us with your joy.
Evoke in us wonder as we praise you
for bringing into being the cosmos:
the unfathomable heavens above,
and the amazing world below.
Release us from the insatiable desire for more
from the abuse of our resources,
from arrogance of thinking we own this earth.
Fill us with a compassion for this planet,
with a desire to heal and restore,
with a commitment to creation care.
As we walk upon this precious planet,
may each step evoke within us awe, gratitude,
and mindful awareness of the gift that is creation.
May our actions bring joy to the earth,
and glory to you, Creator of all that is.
Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025
Begin reflections on
Monday, December 15
Readings
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

The overall theme of this week~

Love

The fourth “**R**” in the map of labyrinth-walking is **Resolve**. As we walk back out into the world from the center, may we carry with us the gifts we have received, and **resolve** to use them to bring **Love** into the world.

Monday, December 15

Antiphon: Shepherd of Israel, Come

Scripture

Psalm 80:1 *Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!*

Prayerful Reflection

O Shepherd of Israel, Come~
Be a gentle shepherd for us,
as you were to your people in ancient days.
Lead us beside still waters in this time
of busyness, of chaos, of noise.
Restore our weary souls.
Find us in our wanderings,
and guide us back to the arms
of your tender embrace.
Bless us with your goodness and mercy
which follow and accompany us
every step of our way.
Bring us to know peace and rest,
that we may dwell in your heart of love,
now and forevermore.
Amen.

Tuesday, December 16

Antiphon: O Bestower of Grace, Come

Scripture

Romans 1:7 *To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God . . .*

Prayerful Reflection

O Bestower of Grace, Come~
Fill us with your spirit,
your passion, your love for your people
as you have filled your saints
throughout the ages.
Through your grace,
open us to generous service,
to abundant sharing, to selfless caring,
that we may imitate your Child.
As Jesus came to minister
to those around him,
so fill us with grace
and lead us to be like him,
that the love he enfleshed
may once again be born into our world
through our love and service to others.
Amen.

Wednesday, December 17

Antiphon: O Wisdom of God, Come



Scripture

Matthew 1:20 *But as Joseph considered this, behold, an angel of God appeared to him in a dream . . .*

Prayerful Reflection

O Wisdom of God, Come~
Remind us that you have been present
since the dawn of creation,
that your wisdom ordered all things,
and that it still speaks in our world today.
Take away the busyness, the noise,
the distractions
that keep us from knowing your wisdom.
Grant us the desire to listen for your voice
and to recognize it however it comes to us:
through scripture, through prayer,
through people, through dreams.
Guide us with your wisdom,
that our thoughts, words, and deeds
may reveal and make real
your love for the world.
Amen.

Thursday, December 18

Antiphon: O Lord of Ancient Israel, Come

Scripture

Romans 1:1-2 . . . *the gospel of God, which was promised by God beforehand through the prophets in the holy scriptures . . .*

Prayerful Reflection

O Lord of Ancient Israel, Come~
Give us hope as we remember
the fulfillment of your promises to ancient Israel:
How you made your presence known to Moses
in the burning bush,
in a guiding cloud across the desert,
in commandments revealed on a mountain;
How you spoke through prophets
who announced your coming
from the line of David;
How you fulfilled their hopes and ours.
Grant us the commitment
to fulfill our promises, as well:
to love you, worship you, and serve you
by loving you and others
as we love ourselves.
May we trust in your love now and forevermore.
Amen.

Friday, December 19

Antiphon:

O Flower of Jesses's Stem, Come

Scripture

Isaiah 7:13-14 *"Hear then, O house of David! . . . God will give you a sign: a young woman shall conceive and bear a child, whom she shall call Immanuel."*

Prayerful Reflection

O Flower of Jesse's Stem, Come~
Summon us to become
all that you have created us to be.
Just as you anointed David,
youngest, weakest, smallest son of Jesse,
to become the King of Israel,
so you surprised your people again
by choosing a young, poor, unknown virgin
to bear your King of Salvation.
You see beyond our lives as they are
to the possibilities that can be,
further than the future of our imagining.
Inspire us to live into our potential,
to trust in your guidance and love
as we blossom into becoming
all that you created us to be.
Amen.

Saturday, December 20

Antiphon: O Key of David, Come



Scripture

Psalm 80:17 *But let your hand be upon the one at your side, the one whom you made strong for yourself.*

Prayerful Reflection

O Key of David, Come~
Remind us that just as you made David strong,
you give us strength as well.
Your hand upon us protects us
as we unlock the vulnerable places within.
Set us free
from unforgiveness of ourselves and others,
from aimlessness and sin,
from hatred and ill-will.
Unbind us from fear and selfishness.
Fill us with the gift of your mercy,
closing and locking the doors
on a past we cannot change.
Guide us as we begin anew,
unburdened by our past
that we may serve all people with love.
Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21

Antiphon: O Radiant Dawn, Come

Scripture

Psalm 80:3 *Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Prayerful Reflection

O Radiant Dawn, Come~
On this Fourth Sunday of Advent,
fill us with your Love.
Our hearts long for light on this,
the shortest, darkest day of the year.
The night looms long and difficult.
Our fears overrun us,
our worries overwhelm us,
our anxieties overtake us.
Restore us, save us, calm us.
Enable us to trust in your abiding presence,
your tender mercy, your abounding love.
Make your face shine upon us
and your light shine within us,
that we may serve you with gladness and love
this day and forever more.
Amen.

Christmas Week
December 25, 2025
Begin reflections on
Monday, December 22
Readings– Christmas Day - 2nd Proper
Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

As we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus, God's love made flesh, we come to the end of our Advent journey.

May our reflections and prayers inspire us to walk in the light of Christ, resolving to give birth to and embody God's hope, peace, joy, and love for the world through our very lives.

Monday, December 22

Antiphon: O Ruler of All Nations, Come

Scripture

Psalm 97:1 *God reigns! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!*

Prayerful Reflection

O Ruler of All Nations, Come~
Fill our hearts with gladness,
that we may rejoice with the earth:
You reign! Your love reigns over us all!
Remind us again that in your Kin-dom,
every one of your children
is deeply, unconditionally, and forever
loved by you.
Open our eyes to see your image
shining in all your people.
Open our hearts to care for each other,
as you do.
Reign in our lives, and shape us
into a worldwide family
united in kindness and compassion.
May we rejoice to live under
your love-filled, all-inclusive rule.
Amen.

Tuesday, December 23

Antiphon: O Emmanuel, Come

Scripture

Titus 3:4-6 *When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, we were saved . . . in virtue of God's mercy . . . which God poured out richly upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.*

Prayerful Reflection

O Emmanuel, Come~
Save us again through
your goodness and loving kindness.
You have made yourself known through
your abundant mercy,
your steadfast compassion,
your saving grace.
Fill us full of your spirit,
shine through our thoughts,
words, and deeds,
that you may appear always and everywhere.
May all people know "God with us, Emmanuel"
as you are made flesh again and again
through our words and actions of
love, peace, and justice.
Amen.

Wednesday, December 24

Antiphon: O Deliverer of Salvation, Come

Scripture

Isaiah 62:11 *Behold, God has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the children of Zion, "Behold, your Salvation comes."*

Prayerful Reflection

O Deliverer of Salvation, Come~
Save us from aimlessness and sin.
Grant us mercy and forgiveness
for those times we have not followed your ways,
have not loved you, ourselves, or others,
have ignored the plight of those in despair.
Give us purpose, direct our thoughts,
and guide our words and actions.
May we embrace your child's coming
not only as balm for our souls,
as healing for our brokenness,
but as one who is teacher, role-model,
companion, friend, and guide on this journey.
Make us to follow in his ways,
to make real the Kin-dom of Heaven on earth
a dream for which he lived and died.
Amen.

Thursday, December 25

Antiphon: O Bringer of Joy, Come



Scripture

Luke 2:10 *And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all people . . ."*

Prayerful Reflection

O Bringer of Joy, Come~
Create glad hearts within us as we give thanks
for your wondrous gift,
your love made flesh in our world
through your child.
Empty us of our fears, our despair,
of resentments, hatred, unforgiveness.
Pour into us your blessed hope,
your eternal peace,
your great joy, and your deep love.
Send us forth to live in courage,
as we seek to en flesh your compassion
and justice,
gifting the world with a glimpse
of your presence
on this Christmas day and always.
Amen.

Author's note:

I would welcome any of your thoughts, comments, suggestions, or reflections as you journey through this Advent season. Please share—

On this website: fedchurch.org/adventreflections
on my Facebook page: facebook.com/AdventReflections
or email to: reverendsusi@gmail.com

The images of God are my own responses to the scripture verses, except for the traditional "O Antiphons" from December 17 through December 23.
All prayerful reflections have been created by me.

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May you and your loved ones experience the fullness of Christ's presence this Advent and Christmas season, and always. May your life journeys be filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Susi Kowalick

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