

# Bury St Edmunds Circuit. ADVENT LITURGY



## Advent 1 – The Advent hope Jesus said, 'Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.' Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus! The first candle is lit this response is used Jesus is the light of the world. A light no darkness can ever put out. and Reading: Mark 13: 24-27

We sing: StF 165 Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray, longing for the Day of Glory, 'Come, Lord, soon,' we say. Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness, changed for gladness on that Day.

## Let us Pray

Lord of light,

Alert us to the hope of banishing darkness So that we may be open to the coming of your Son. Let the energy of your mighty power dazzle us and refresh us, as you bring us your love, peace, hope, mercy and grace. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer. Amen.** 



### Advent 2—The prophets

Jesus said, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets: I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.' Amen.

#### Come soon, Lord Jesus!

The second candle is lit and this response is used Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

#### Reading: Mark 1: 1-8

We sing: StF 165

Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray, longing for the Day of Glory, 'Come, Lord, soon,' we say. Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness changed for gladness on that Day.

Prophet voices loudly crying, making pathways clear; glimpsing glory, self-denying, calling all to hear. Through their message - challenged, shaken - hearts awaken: God is near!

#### Let us pray

Lord of light, God in our midst, We thank you for the extraordinary in the ordinary, For the way you guide us to do the things we do. You ask us to be humble and persevere in our tasks. Encourage us listen afresh to your word and communicate clearly. Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer. Amen.



#### Advent 3—John the Baptist

Jesus said, 'No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.' Amen. **Come soon, Lord Jesus!** The third candle is lit and this response is used

Jesus is the light of the world. A light no darkness can ever put out.

#### Reading: John 1: 19-28

We sing: StF 165 Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray, longing for the Day of Glory, 'Come, Lord, soon,' we say. Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness changed for gladness on that Day. John the Baptist, by his preaching and by water poured, brought to those who heard his teaching news of hope restored: 'Keep your vision strong and steady, and be ready for the Lord.'

#### Let us Pray

Lord of light,

We pray for the capacity to wait, both purposefully and actively. We give thanks for the ministry if John the Baptist, we pray that we may respond to his call confident in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Prepare in us holiness and godliness for all that lies ahead. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.



Advent 4–Mary Jesus said, 'Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.' I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to his word. The fourth candle is lit and this response is used Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

Reading: Luke 1: 26-38

We sing StF 165 Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray, longing for the Day of Glory, 'Come, Lord, soon,' we say. Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness changed for gladness on that Day.

Mary's gift, beyond all telling, was to give Christ room. Timeless God as human dwelling in a mother's womb. Who could guess the final story? – cross and glory; empty tomb!

#### Let us pray

Lord of light, God of surprises, you have shown us that all things are possible. You gave to Elizabeth a child and trusted Mary with your own Son Jesus Christ. Inspire us today to as we remember anew the way we can be surprised by your mighty works. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer. Amen.** 



Christmas Day – Jesus Joy to the world!

#### The Lord has come!

The central candle is lit and this response is used Jesus is the light of the world. A light no darkness can ever put out.

### Reading: Luke 2: 1-20

We sing: StF 165

Advent candles tell their story on this Christmas Day. Those who waited for God's glory: they prepared the way. Christ is with us: loving, giving, in us living, here today!

#### Let us Pray

Lord of light,

Morning star of God, rising from the ashes of our night, encourage us to walk in your light. We celebrate Christmas when Word of God became flesh. We pray for the Church, the Body of Christ. May we all be filled with God's loving life, that our actions touch the world with hope which lasts far beyond the Christmas decorations. For this is a day of joy, peace and hope for all people here on earth. Jesus Light of the World, **Come scatter the darkness. Amen.** 

(Adapted from a Liturgy by Mark Earey. Prayers adapted from David Adams and Nick Fawcett)