



WAITING
✦ IN THE
LIGHT

Daily Prayers *for* Advent

STEVE GIVENS

Introduction

As we enter Advent, this time of waiting, our thoughts most naturally turn toward that historical event near the end of the month for which we are waiting—the birth of Jesus in a Bethlehem stable. The Holy Family is surrounded by farm animals, shepherds and wise men as a bright star is shining overhead. Since childhood, we have seen and clung to this “manger scene” as a sign of hope and joy. And it’s right that we continue to do so.

But we should never let the historical facts of that long ago story get in the way of the truth of the here and now: Jesus continues to be present to us, continues to be “Emmanuel.” He is our “bright morning star” that continues to guide our way and lead us toward his “perfect light,” a closer relationship with himself and the Father, through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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Sample Pages

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.

ROMANS 13:11

JESUS, BRIGHT MORNING STAR, it's time for me to wake from the slumber of my ordinary life and find you in the holiness of this season. I pray today that the next four weeks will be a special time of returning for me—of rising each morning with a prayer and a desire to look for and find you in the details of my life. December is a month that requires so much of my time, treasure and talent. I will be pulled in many directions. Help me to focus on you, on that pinpoint of light that is sometimes hard to see unless I pause to seek and find it. Guide me to thy perfect light. AMEN.

MONDAY, FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

*May peace be within your ramparts,
prosperity within your towers.*

PSALM 122:7

JESUS, BRIGHT MORNING STAR, my home has neither ramparts nor towers, but within its walls, I still need the peace that only you can give. The message of this season is “peace and joy,” but the reality of the world is often anything but those things. I cannot change the anger and confusion of the world on my own, but I can begin to make a difference as long as I place you at the center of my life, home and family. Come, Lord Jesus, guide me to thy perfect light. AMEN.

TUESDAY, FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

*May his name be forever; as long as the sun,
may his name endure.*

PSALM 72:17

JESUS, BRIGHT MORNING STAR, as the sun rises each day, may your name be the first word on my lips. May your name, Jesus, the name above all names, be in my thoughts throughout my day, even as my time is taken up by problems and responsibilities, even as my attention is turned to both the challenges and joys of living in this time and place. May your holy name be the one constant in my ever-changing and busy life. Hear me whisper your name in the silence of each new morning and guide me to thy perfect light. AMEN.

WEDNESDAY, FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

*This is the LORD to whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!*

ISAIAH 25:9

JESUS, BRIGHT MORNING STAR, it seems I have been looking for something all of my life. However, I don't always know what I need or even what is best for me. So sometimes I wander. In all my searching, I have sometimes found you. But I am just as often distracted by some bright shining star of my own making, some glittering ball of nothingness that my mind thinks must be important. So today I turn to you, Jesus, you for whom I have looked, for I know somewhere deep in my soul that only in you is found the salvation and peace that I need. Guide me to thy perfect light. AMEN.

THURSDAY, FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

MATTHEW 7:24

JESUS, BRIGHT MORNING STAR, I yearn for the kind of wisdom that comes from a life immersed in you and your sacred words. I know I don't always listen for you. In fact, I don't always listen to you. I am so often distracted by other words that entice and promise what they cannot possibly give. The wisdom I seek is the wisdom to know the difference, to hear the gentle whisper of your voice in the midst of the cacophony of my life and know for certain that truth and a life built on a solid foundation come only from you. Guide me to thy perfect light. AMEN.

FRIDAY, FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

*Then he touched their eyes and said,
“Let it be done for you according to your faith.”
And their eyes were opened.*

MATTHEW 9:29-30

JESUS, BRIGHT MORNING STAR, as I walk through this holy season toward the celebration of your Incarnation and your life among us, I am so often blinded by the glittering lights and the distractions of “the holidays.” I know that I need this time in quiet with you. You have blessed me with the desire to feed on your divine presence and feel your healing fingers on my closed eyes, a touch that opens them to see you in everything around me, a touch that gives me a new kind of sight—a sight that is anchored in faith. Guide me to thy perfect light. AMEN.

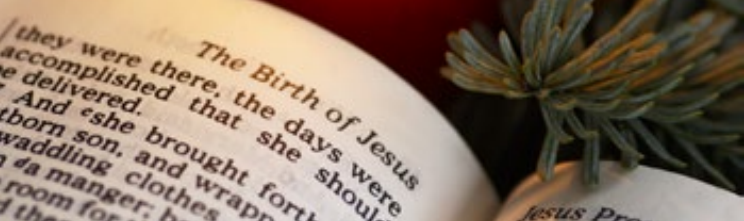
SATURDAY, FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

And your ears shall hear a word behind you:

“This is the way; walk in it” ...

ISAIAH 30:21

JESUS, BRIGHT MORNING STAR, this journey of life and faith never seems to run straight. Just when I think I have it all figured out, I make a wrong turn. Or sometimes, a detour forces me off the course I had set for myself. I think I need a map that will show me the way with one quick glance when, all the time, I have something better—your voice. Your voice is at my back at all times, directing me where to go, if I will only quiet myself enough to listen. Your paths are always straight, Lord, so guide me to thy perfect light.
AMEN.



Sometimes Advent can seem like a dark and dreary time of year. We may have less daylight or become more stressed by the hustle and bustle that is all around us. And without Jesus, we are a people in darkness. But, when we look to the Advent wreath in hope, we become a people of light. In *Waiting in the Light*, author Steve Givens provides an inspiring prayer, accompanied by Scripture, for each day of the season. Being attentive to prayer and God's word allows us to see the light shining through the darkness. Through prayer and reflection, we will more clearly see Jesus, the Light of the World, this Christmas.

This book, along with many other *Creative Communications for the Parish* products, is available on [amazonkindle](#) and [nook](#) by Barnes & Noble

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