

Week 4

Sunday Isaiah 11:1-10

What a beautiful image Lord, of the peaceful kingdom. How we long for such peace in our lives. But Advent is not a passive waiting time; we must be actively waiting by doing what we can to help bring about the kingdom. Remind us that we too must not judge just by what we see and hear, but with justice and compassion. Amen.

Monday Zephaniah 3:14-17

We can hear the joy in this reading O God, as Jerusalem rejoiced in your favour. We too should sing and shout that you love us and care for us, and do not hold judgement against us. We can almost see the Christ child coming, the Saviour who renews us with love. Help us this day to take the time to rejoice in all the subtle ways we can see your glory around us, even as we rush to prepare for Jesus' coming into the world again. Amen.

Tuesday Matthew 1:18-25

We understand Joseph's fear to make a commitment he wasn't ready for. We too can get fearful when we have to make hard decisions. May we trust in your guidance in all our big decisions and our daily living because we know Christ's name, Emmanuel, means "God is with us" and we can have faith that you always will be. Amen.

Wednesday Luke 2:8-20

Well God, it is the day before Christmas Eve. We have made it through the long journey of Advent and tomorrow we will recall the wonderful story of Jesus' birth. May we rejoice like the angels and have the faith and commitment of the shepherds as they left the fields and went to Bethlehem to see for themselves. They heard, they saw, and then they proclaimed – Give us the faith and commitment too, that we may proclaim the good news to all we meet. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!