

Come Lord, come again

Come Lord, your wounded world is yearning
for you to come again.

Come Lord, your weary world is crying out
for you to lift us up
out of our despair, our hunger,
our thirst for something better,
our need for the food that will last.

Come Lord, come again,
we need to begin again.

Sue Allerton/CAFOD

God of hope

God of hope,
we cling to you,
for your renew the face of the earth.

Through the gift
of your Son, our Lord Jesus,
we follow you on the path of dawn.

Enlightened by your love and wisdom,
help us to lead each other
and all creatures
back to your open arms.

Amen.

Rachel McCarthy/CAFOD

We cry to you

Lord Jesus, you promised that,
with you, we would never be thirsty;
with you, we would never be hungry again.
You promised us living water.
O Lord, we wait impatiently for this time.
In our great need, we cry to you:
Come, Lord Jesus.

Sue Allerton/CAFOD

Wake us up Lord!

God of Salvation,
Wake us up Lord!
The night is nearly over.
Let us begin our Advent journey.
Move us from our lives
Of greed and selfishness,
From our globalised world
Of inequality and exploitation,
To your kingdom
Of righteousness and mercy.
To a transformed world,
Where peace is built on understanding not weapons,
The poor are empowered to live their lives to the full,
Businesses are built on need not greed
And your Creation is nurtured not abused.
Wake us up Lord!

Let us live as people of the light.

Amen.

Sue Cooper/CAFOD

Maranatha!

Maranatha!

Open our eyes to the dignity of all people

And our ears to the cries of the earth.

Maranatha!

Let us walk in solidarity with the poor

And cleanse our world from oppression.

Maranatha!

Let us shout out for justice for all

And renew our hope for change.

Maranatha!

The Lord is coming

Let us share the Good News!

Amen.

Sue Cooper/CAFOD

Adventus

With expectant waiting
we anticipate your coming.
Come close to us, Lord,
come very close.

Come, Alpha and Omega,
who is from before the ages.
Come, Son of Joseph and Son of Mary,
who went down to Nazareth to be obedient to them.

Come, Morning Star,
who named the stars.
Come, carpenter from Nazareth.
who knows the smell of planed wood.

Come, Beloved Son of God,
who knows the heart of God.
Come, Son of Man,
who knows the hearts of God's people.

Come, Lord of Life and Prince of Peace.
Come, Dayspring and Rising Sun.
Come, Wonderful Counsellor.
Come Emmanuel, God with us;
God very close to us.

Amen.

Ged Johnson/CAFOD

Incarnation

God, ever Ancient, ever New,
you are a spiral of joy,
dancing over a dark earth, and
entering it with strength in your arm.

But tenderly you come to us:
like unnoticed dew,
refreshing and giving life;
like silent dawn,
scattering any darkness;
like gentle rain,
cleansing and renewing;
like whispering breeze,
stirring our inaction;
as sleeping baby,
demonstrating your love for the world.

God, though you are God,
took nine months like everyone else.

It is the Lord's Day;
the Day of our God.
And our day too;
the day for all peoples!

Come to us, now,
find us ready and waiting,
with strength in our arms.

Amen.

Ged Johnson/CAFOD

Sing of the one who is coming

Sing of the one who is coming,
whose advent cannot be expressed in words,
only in "silent music". (*John of the Cross*)

Sing of the one who is coming,
whose greatness cannot be grasped by words,
only in "invisible light". (*Denys*)

Sing of the one who is coming.
Find him in the "deep but dazzling darkness"
of that first Christmas night. (*Henry Vaughan*)

Sue Allerton/CAFOD

We long for your coming

The prophets of old longed for the coming of Jesus into the world

We, too, long for your special coming at this time

in the hope that it may bring joy to all who are suffering

and the light of faith to all who do not know you.

Amen.

Sr Bridgetta Rooney/CAFOD

Light up our lives

Christ, come into our world of darkness

Light up our lives with your coming.

Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth

Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world

And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings.

Amen.

Sr Bridgetta Rooney/CAFOD

"O Antiphons" for Creation

O God, you give tender care to all creation; sustain us in our efforts to continue your work.

O Lord of all, you came to set us free and to judge your poor with justice; help us to help those who are poor and continue to experience injustice.

O You of Jesse's stem, you came as a sign for all peoples; come to our aid as we work for a world of justice and peace.

O Key of David, break the shackles of those who are in darkness and lead your people into freedom; especially those people who are unjustly imprisoned whilst defending the poor.

O Christ of light come and shine down on all who live in the darkness of modern slavery.

O Prince of peace come and save the nations, especially those currently in turmoil.

O Emmanuel, Saviour of all, come and set us free so that through your loving care we might help bring freedom to others.

Trevor Stockton/CAFOD

People of hope

In this season of Advent, inspire us to be a people of hope.

Encourage us not to be greedy for material possessions, but for justice and truth.

Enflame us with a love for others, which crosses boundaries of race, religion and nationality.

Stir within us a desire to fight for the integrity of creation and appreciate the immense beauty of the earth.

Be with us, Lord, at this time, that we may be a people of hope. Amen.

Promise of re-commitment

Reader: We have begun a journey together. We have asked ourselves questions about the way we live. We have asked whether we are truly following Christ's example. Now we ask for the courage to continue our journey. Lord Jesus, teach us the joy of having less and being more.

All: Lord, grant us the courage to transform our lives and to follow your example.

Reader: Lord Jesus, show us how to pray and to praise.

All: Lord, grant us the courage to transform our lives and to follow your example.

Reader: Lord Jesus, may we learn from you how to live more simply and more generously.

All: Lord, grant us the courage to transform our lives and to follow your example.

Reader: Lord, you created this vast and immense universe. Help us to love it as you love it.

All: Lord, grant us the courage to transform our lives and to follow your example.

Leader: Lord, you are a God of hope,
The One who brings light to dark places.
Help us as we journey on from here
To take your light with us.
We ask this through your son, Emmanuel. Amen

Susy Brouard/CAFOD

The presence of God

Loving Father, we know you are with us always and we see your presence:-

in the joy of families drinking clean water,

in the joy of farmers seeing their crops grow,

in the joy of children attending school,

in the joy of mothers providing for their families,

in the joy of our brothers and sisters waking each day

with renewed hope for a fair and just world.

Caring Father, we live in eager hope and expectation that we will see your presence:-

in the decisions made by the World Trade Organisation,

in the continued work to make poverty history,

in the search for justice for the imprisoned and oppressed,

in the policies of decision makers,

in the joy of working alongside our brothers and sisters

to create a fair and just world.

*Kathleen Scullion/CAFOD
Inspired by Isaiah 61:1-2t*

Expectant God

The heavens can no longer hold your abundant love,
So you pour out the gift of your embodied self
Relinquishing the beauty of your majesty,
To adorn the pale colours of our humanity.
Choosing to enter into this world in a place of scarcity and need.

Reveal to us this hidden world
of poverty,
of refugees,
of suffering.

As you choose this as the place of your birth
Let us choose this to be the place of our rebirth.

Rebuild us,
Transform us,
Make us anew.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Kieran O'Brien/CAFOD

For the grace of hope in Advent

All of us are the work of your hands.

From the earth we were moulded in your image,

fragile and dependent upon you.

Made perfect, we sin against you,

but you respond always with forgiveness.

Out of love, you prepared us for the coming

of Christ.

Your own image was moulded from the same clay.

You came into our lives,

and talked about forgiving one another.

You sat among those who were down and out,

healing the sick and the lame.

You shared our joys and sorrows,

teaching us about loving our neighbour.

We are your clay, remaining fragile yet hopeful.

Shape us in this season of Advent

in readiness for the Word made flesh.

Through the grace of hope we pledge ourselves

to confront injustice.

And we pray for the peace that only Christ

can bring to our broken world.

Amen.

(Based on Isaiah 64: 6-7)

Tony Singleton/CAFOD