

Lord, as you dispelled the fears  
of a maiden mother by whispering  
the promise of your presence,  
so banish the world's misconceptions  
about you and your ways.

Come to each of us.

Roll back the clouds of doubt  
and pessimism.

Fill our individual lives with servant  
love and direct the nations to  
humble awareness;  
for you are God,  
rich in mercy,  
strong in righteousness,  
ready to make your home with us  
now and for ever.

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Help us to prepare a way for you  
by our thoughtfulness towards others,  
by our care in little things,  
by our upholding of the oppressed.

Help us to prepare a way for you  
by our thoughtfulness towards creatures,  
by our care of crops and kitchens,  
by our upholding of creation.

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The dawning brightness of your love  
begins to break upon us, Lord God,  
for in the coming of Jesus your Son,  
peace is proclaimed,  
justice rains down  
and our hearts are filled with hope.  
May all people know the awe and  
wonder of your saving love.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Heavenly Father, in the midst of a  
troubled world, you are light and life.  
Send us your healing for those who  
are ill, your strength for those  
who are suffering,  
your compassion for those  
who grieve, and  
your courage for those who work  
for the healing and service of others.  
Bless our nation of Wales with  
the life-giving spirit of your love,  
and grant us your mercy,  
revealed in the person of Christ,  
your Son. Amen.

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## Benefice of Eglwysilan & Caerphilly

### Prayers for Advent



Produced by the Benefice

God, so much of faith is waiting  
like a pregnant woman waiting in hope  
like a people under siege,  
holding out till relief comes  
like the soul lost in the darkness,  
unable to see even a glimmer of light  
yet stumbling through the night  
because somewhere,  
out ahead, day will surely break  
God, be with us in our waiting.

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Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;  
give new courage to your people,  
who trust in your love.  
By your coming, raise us to share  
in the joy of your kingdom  
on earth as in heaven,  
where you live and reign with  
the Father and the Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

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At Advent we should try the key  
to our heart's door.  
It may have gathered rust.  
If so, this is the time to oil it,  
in order that the heart's door may  
open more easily when the Lord Jesus  
wants to enter at Christmas time!  
Lord, oil the hinges of our hearts' doors  
that they may swing gently and easily  
to welcome your coming. Amen.

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Among the hungry  
among the homeless  
among the friendless  
come to make things new.

Among the powerful  
among the spoilt  
among the crooked  
come to make things new.

In halls of fame  
in corridors of power  
in forgotten places  
come to make things new.

With piercing eyes  
with tender touch  
with cleansing love  
come to make things new.

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God of all hope and joy,  
open our hearts in welcome,  
that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming  
may find in us a dwelling  
prepared for himself;  
through the same Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.

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New Zealand and Polynesia*

O God, you speak through your prophets  
your words hold us and challenge us  
and keep us right: come and  
tell us the truths that we need to know  
and write them into our hearts and lives.

O Lover of the little ones,  
their Guardian and Defender:  
come with your angels and cradle your  
children and guide their stumbling feet  
along the homeward roads.

O Maker of laughter,  
who plays with Leviathan in the deep  
waters: come stretch out your hands  
to cuddle and tickle your children  
through the moments of their days.

O Loving Mother, whose presence offends  
many and delights many more:  
come and help us to see clearly  
the one in whose likeness we are made.

O Pilgrim God, abandoning that which is  
no longer needed:  
come with us on our journey,  
show us how to travel lightly  
keeping only what we need to grow.

O God, you love us  
come, come quickly,  
we need your help.

O Wind of God, you blow through  
the holes in our defences  
and lay bare our fear:  
come, breathe on us gently,  
as at the beginning,  
and give us life.

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