

RECESSIONAL FINAL HYMN

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Refrain:

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Refrain:

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Refrain:

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Refrain:



The Anglican
and Roman
Catholic
Communities
gather
for
ecumenical
worship
to begin
Advent

A resource provided by the
Anglican Roman Catholic
Commission of Aotearoa New
Zealand

Welcome to this Advent worship service offered by the Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission of Aotearoa New Zealand (ARCCANZ).

This worship service derives from a creative, new, Southern Hemisphere Advent text brought to the ARCCANZ group by Father Yvan Sergy, further developed by Dean Jan Joustra with Andrea Savage, and by the Commission. The focus is on the coming of light into the world, as with every Advent wreath service. However, ARCCANZ is offering a particular and new expression of this truth using the stars of the Southern Cross in the night sky. These stars are symbolised as four white candles with stars in front of them or on them. This symbolism is offered instead of the green wreath with its coloured candles, which originally derived from the Northern Hemisphere in a very different season of the year. However, it is still possible to use the four coloured candles with the traditional Advent wreath in this service and to focus on them as lights that shine in the dark.

The new approach, referring to the stars of the Southern Cross, is prompted by a number of biblical images. *The saints are called to shine like the stars of the night in the book of Daniel (Chapter 12, verse 3). It was a star that guided the Magi to the Christ child (Matthew, Chapter 2, verse 9). The coming of Christ is described by Saint John (the Gospel according to Saint John, Chapter 1, verses 4 and 5) as the coming of a light into the darkness, which the darkness cannot overcome. We are called, like John, to witness to this light as Christians. Ultimately, Christ is described as the morning star in the book of Revelation (Chapter 22, verse 16).* The season of Advent expresses all these hopes.

In the night sky in the Southern Hemisphere, the four central stars of the Southern Cross shine permanently above us. From ancient times, these stars offered travellers and ocean navigators who looked up to them, a sure sense of direction, the way to true south. So also as Christians, we look to the cross of Jesus and the light of His resurrection to offer us a true bearing for our lives: the Way, the Truth, the Life. In the season of Advent, in particular, we remember and anticipate the coming into the world of the light that enlightens everyone, as a baby and as the Redeemer Judge at the end of time.

Leader One:

Lord we share this light with our brothers and sisters

Leader Two:

People of God, take care of this light.

**May the light of Christmas grow evermore
in our hearts and communities.**

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader One:

Ma te marie a te Atua e kore nei e taea te whakaaro e tiaki o koutou ngakau o koutou hinengaro i roto i a Karaiti Ihu; a kia mau kia u hoki ki a koutou te manaaki a te Atua Kaha Rawa, a te Matua, a te Tama, a te Wairua Tapu aiane i ake tonu atu.

Amine.

Leader Two:

God of all those who yearn for a glimmer of assurance on the long journey home to you, come! Come with a vast storehouse of renewed dreams, hopes, and peacefulness. May we be alert at all times ready for the coming of the Lord.

Amen.

Leader One:

We believe that the Son of God once came to us; we look for him to come in glory. May his coming bring us the light of his holiness and his blessing and bring us and all humanity freedom. May almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Those with candles process out ahead of the Clergy.

Leader Two:

Let us join in singing the final hymn and praying that Christ will be our Light in this Advent Season. Go forth into the night in peace

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader

As Our Lord Jesus Christ has taught his disciples, longing for unity, we dare to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name,
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth
As it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us,

Save us from the time of trial

And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory

are Yours now and for ever.

Amen

E to matou Matua i te rangi

Kia tapu tou Ingoa.

Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga

Kia meatia tau e pai ai

ki runga ki te whenua,

kia rite ano ki to te rangi.

Homai ki a matou aiane

he taro ma matou mo tenei ra.

Murua o matou hara,

Me matou hoki e muru nei

i o te hunga e hara ana ki a matou.

Aua hoki matou e kawea kia whakawaia;

Engari whakaorangia matou I te kino:

Nou hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,

me te kororia,

Ake ake ake. Amine

CALL OF THE COMMUNITIES

The celebrant lights the candles to be presented from the cross / wreath.

A representative of each of the communities and other groups who are present come forward to receive a Star candle, light it from the Advent Cross / wreath and stand near the first light of the Southern Cross / wreath.

We come together as Anglicans and Roman Catholics in Advent, in the spirit of Christian friendship and hope that was so clearly and positively expressed by the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury on the occasion of the second Papal visit to England, held in 2010. We can do no better than quote the words used by our two leaders:

From an address of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, Lambeth Palace, London, September 2010:

"I wish to join you in giving thanks for the deep friendship that has grown between us and for the remarkable progress that has been made in so many areas of dialogue during the forty years that have elapsed since the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission began its work. Let us entrust the fruits of that work to the Lord of the harvest, confident that he will bless our friendship with further significant growth."

From an address by His Grace Archbishop Rowan Williams, Lambeth Palace, London, September 2010:

"We shall not quickly overcome the remaining obstacles to full, restored communion; but no obstacles stand in the way of our seeking, as a matter of joyful obedience to the Lord, more ways in which to build up one another in holiness by prayer and public celebration together, by closer friendship, and by growing together both in the challenging work of service for all whom Christ loves, and mission to all God has made."

Yours in the love of Christ

Archbishop David Moxon
Anglican Bishop of Waikato

Bishop Barry Jones
Roman Catholic Bishop of Christchurch

Co-chairs of ARCCANZ

WELCOME *Leader*

We gather to celebrate the blessing of the Advent Cross / wreath which will accompany us to Christmas. As the Southern Cross gives the cardinal directions, the Advent candles will help us focus on Christ the Light of the World coming into our creation. During this service, we shall bless this cross / wreath, light the first candle and invite a member of each of the communities gathered to come forward to take the light of Christ back to their community. May our worship and prayer help us to commemorate the birth of Christ our Saviour.

Leader One: The Lord be with you
And also with you

Leader One: Our help is in the name of the Lord
Who has made heaven and earth.

OPENING PRAYER *Leader Two*

Loving God, you made the stars, the moon and the sun which give light and rhythm to our lives. Through your Son, you offer us the season of Advent so that we may prepare our hearts and homes to receive the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. Send us your Holy Spirit, like a guiding star to lead us in this Advent season so that we may be ready to celebrate with great joy and happiness the birth of your Son, the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *(Optional)*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel!
And ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, thou branch of Jesse! free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell Thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

3. O come, O dayspring come and cheer!
Our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.	Come, Lord Jesus
You are light in our darkness.	Come, Lord Jesus
Son of God, save us from our sins.	Come, Lord Jesus
Son of Mary, deepen our love.	Come, Lord Jesus
Bring hope into the lives of all people.	Come, Lord Jesus
Give your peace to all nations.	Come, Lord Jesus
Be the joy of all who love you.	Come, Lord Jesus
Bring unity among all who believe in you	Come, Lord Jesus
Bless us as we gather here in your name	Come, Lord Jesus
Lord Jesus, stay with us always	Come, Lord Jesus

CHOIR ANTHEM:

Choir anthem or silence

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT CROSS / WREATH

Leader One: As the Southern Cross is a guide to travellers
May these lights guide us to celebrate the birth of Christ who
is our salvation.

Leader Two: May he come quickly and not delay.
Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
He is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples,
He is the Saviour of every nation,
He is the Light of the world.
Through your Holy Spirit, let your blessing come upon us
As we light the first candle of this Advent cross / wreath.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

All recite the Advent Chant

**Twilight, then darkness, night falls and a candle glows,
Gently surrounding us, a new birth of hope.
Watching, waiting, awakening a new birth of hope**

**God of hosts, bring us back;
Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

May your hand be on the one you have chosen,
the one you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.

**God of hosts, bring us back:
Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

A reading from the First Letter of St John 1:5-7 .

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

For the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

HOMILY :

THE PEACE

Leader One: Christ our Saviour came as the Prince of Peace.

Leader Two: May Christ give us his peace and joy, and let us share them with others. All peace and glory are his for ever.

Greet those around you with **Peace be with you**
Respond: **And also with you**

HYMN:
Choir anthem, hymn or silence

LITANY OF ADVENT

Leader

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

4. O come, thou key of David,
come and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

5. O come, O come, great Lord of might
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did'st give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

SERVICE OF THE WORD

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (9: 2-4)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with the joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 80

**God of hosts, bring us back;
Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
you who lead Joseph's flock,
shine forth from your cherubim throne
upon Ephraim, Benjamin, Manasseh.

**God of hosts, bring us back;
Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.