



### HOW DOES THIS IMAGE SPEAK TO ME IN MY PRAYER?

Here

To you, my God, I lift my soul. *Entrance Antiphon*

Lord, increase our longing for Christ our Saviour, and give us the strength to grow in love. *Old Opening Prayer*

They will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation and there will be no more training for war. *First Reading*

Let us give up what we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. *Second Reading*

Let us see, O lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help. *Gospel Acclamation*

master is coming.  
the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. *Gospel*



AMDG  
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
YEAR A,  
27 NOVEMBER 2016

The first Sunday of Advent begins a new Liturgical Year for the Church, reminding us that Christ the beginning of his constant us to see his loving presence in whatever happens, and gifting us with HOPE for the Kingdom of Justice, Love and Peace that his Final Coming in Glory will bring.

### OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray with longing and waiting for the coming of the Lord:

Father in Heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.

Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth.

I begin my prayer by looking back at the past year, noticing any significant joys or sorrows and how God has been with me in these. I give thanks and ask for the faith and hope to entrust my whole life to God whatever the future may hold.

I pray the Opening Prayer once or twice, making its desires my own. I notice what touches me and talk with God about what I feel. I choose the phrase which means most to me, repeating it slowly and with longing, allowing God to move my heart.

I wait in silence and emptiness for God's 'coming' in my prayer in whatever way he chooses. I pray in adoration:

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*

Prepared by St Beuno's Outreach in the  
Diocese of Wrexham



LDS

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 2: 1 5

The vision of Isaiah, son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it, and they will say:

to the Temple of the God of Jacob  
that he may teach us his ways  
so that we may walk in his paths:  
since the Law will go out from Zion  
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

This 'vision' of the Kingdom of God, encompassing all nations and peoples living together in peace and harmony, is a message for the people of Isaiah's time. But it is also a prophecy for us, filling us with hope and joy and pointing forward to the coming of Christ now and at the end of time.

I read the passage once or twice, marvelling at the picture it paints of the values of God's Kingdom. I think of our world, torn by strife, hate and greed, needing God's healing love, and I beg God to look with mercy on us all. I pray, 'Come, Lord Jesus, come.'

I think about my own life and values and ask Jesus to come to me anew this Advent to 'teach me his ways' that I may 'walk in his paths in the light of the Lord.' I pray, 'Come, Lord Jesus, come.'

### SECOND READING: PAUL TO THE ROMANS 13: 11 14

You know

salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is nearly over, it will be daylight soon let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Jesus Christ.

I read this slowly and reflectively, allowing it to speak to me and sharing with the Lord whatever thoughts or feelings it stirs in me.

### THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 24: 37 44

Jesus said to his disciples:

when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

*Jesus spoke these words as a citizen of an occupied land. His reference to the time of Noah and the future suggests a belief that humanity's self-preoccupation will forever blind us to its disastrous results. Jesus tells us to be alert and responsive with God to the state of things NOW, and thus contribute to the coming to the Kingdom.*

I read the Gospel, contemplating Noah and his contemporaries – Noah aware of surrounding disaster, taking action against it for the benefit of humanity; his contemporaries unaware until it was too late. I pray this from within my own context, speaking to God and listening to God's assurances.