

December 2

In this Advent, let us lift up light where there is darkness. Let us bear hope where there is despair. Let us build community where there is isolation. Let us model abundance where there is scarcity. Let us be love where there is fear. Let us live in peace. Amen.

Source: St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community

December 3

Loving God, we sense that all is your creation and everything, and all of us are being drawn back toward your loving heart. Help us to be people of peace, to speak about it in an uneasy world, and to live it among the people you have put into our lives every day. Light in us a desire to prepare for your coming; to stand in the darkness, waiting, eager, and filled with joy. Come, Lord Jesus, come. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

December 4

Dear Lord, through the darkness, we look for your wisdom. We want our hearts to be open to you. But sometimes in these days, it seems that so many things come between us. Help us to be awake and aware of the radiance you bring to our lives. Help us to be grateful each day for the blessings of family and friends. Let us be a peacemaker in our own lives, and in the world. Let us pray, especially for this difficult world and those who are in need of an end to violence. Our heart longs for this as our Advent prayer today. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

December 5- Search Retreat

Christ, we await your coming and we respond to your invitation to journey to the holy Mountain and announce your love to a world in darkness. Today, we pray especially for our students attending December Search. Grant that they may obtain all the fruits that they can from this retreat. Enable each of our Searchers to know themselves and their classmates better and become closer to you. Bless our leaders and help each to listen attentively, to ponder prayerfully, and to speak wisely. We pray that the connections made on Search will plant the seeds for deeper friendships that extend way beyond the retreat and into the fabric of everyday life. Amen.

December 6

Slow us down, O Lord, this Advent, so we may understand the darkness we are in, the darkness of fear that comes with wanting more, And the fear of having less. Grant us the light of transformation, as we wait for your true abundance--the love of the Incarnation, a love that brings us true dignity and security a love that embraces all that enriches all that calls us all to share justly and celebrate joyfully. Amen.

Source: Education for Justice

December 9

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, hard hearts, half-truths, and superficial relationships May God bless you so that you may live from deep within your heart where God's Spirit dwells. May God bless you with anger...at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people May God bless you so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace. May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war. May God bless you so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy. And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, in your neighborhood, so that you will courageously try what you don't think you can do, but, in Jesus Christ, you'll have all the strength necessary. May God bless you to fearlessly speak out about injustice, unjust laws, unjust and cruel treatment of prisoners, and senseless wars, genocides, starvations, and poverty that is so pervasive. May God bless you that you remember we are all called to continue God's redemptive work of love and healing in God's place, in and through God's name, in God's Spirit, continually creating and breathing new life and grace into everything and everyone we touch. Amen.

Source: "Troubadour: A Missionary Magazine," published by the Franciscan Missionary Society

December 10

Emmanuel, our world waits in darkness, longing for your light. In the midst of darkness, enkindle our hope. As we long for lasting peace in the midst of war, be with us. As we long for families to be reunited, be with us. As we long for enemies to be reconciled, be with us. As we long for cures and healing, be with us. As we long for decent jobs and economic security, be with us. As we long for love and community, be with us. Fulfill the deepest longings of your people and dispel the darkness in our hearts and in our world. Let your Word ignite the hope the world needs to bring to life your love and justice. Amen.

Source: Katherine Feely S. N. D. -Education for Justice

December 11

O God of our waiting, you bring light out of darkness, order to chaos. Be with us as we wait, guide us as we watch, strengthen us as we work to heal a nation divided by race, a world divided by war. Let us not be afraid to cry from the top of our voice, "You are the light. You are the peace!" Amen.

Source: St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community

December 12

O mother of the Americas, you came on a dark hill in a dark time to one who had no documentation. To the challenge of the authorities, you offered roses and grace. You wanted a space, simple and extraordinary, a space where all could worship together, equally your children. You call us again in this dark time to create a space where all your children are welcome, cherished, offered bread, roses and what grace we can gather. O lady, still shining, Madre, Mother, you wait on a hillside, until we believe, until we can welcome to one whom you send. Amen.

Source: Education for Justice-Jane Deren, Ph. D.

December 13

Lord God, only you can see into my heart and know that under all the busy-ness of my life, there is a deep longing to make this Advent one that welcomes you more deeply into my own life. My heart desires the warmth of your love, and my mind searches for your Light in the midst of the darkness. Help me to be a peacemaker this Advent and to give special love to those who disagree with me. Give me the strength and courage to forgive those who have hurt me. Help me to free my heart from the prison of my anger and hurt. Come, Lord Jesus, come. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

December 16

God who dispels all darkness, Come to be with us, in each one of our situations; Come to live among us, live with us and in us.

God of Light, open our hearts to the mystery of your love and the invitation of your grace. Let our complacency give way to conversion and our judgments to compassionate acceptance of others. Turn oppression to justice and transform conflict to a peaceful accord. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who draws near, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

December 17

Come Emmanuel, Come Open our arms to the gift of the stranger. Come, Emmanuel, Come Open our ears to the cries and laughter of the stranger. Come, Emmanuel, Come. Open our hearts to Your Presence that we may receive Your peace. Oh, precious and unexpected Guest, Amen

Source: St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community

December 18

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you, we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Source: Henri J.M. Nouwen

December 19

God of short days and long nights, God of deep darkness and numbing cold, howling wind and silent stars, we are cold and numb. Yet still. You come, dancing and exuberant, filling us with hope, bringing us back to life, bringing Your peace! Amen

Source: St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community

December 20

Emmanuel, God-with-us, in anticipation and hope this Advent season, we look forward to Christmas Day as we prepare to welcome Christ into our hearts. As we reflect upon the past year, we ask your forgiveness for the times we failed to live according to your will. Forgive us for failing to welcome the stranger, for walking past a person in need, for remaining complacent in the face of injustice, for praying to you only in times of trouble, for doubting your word, for acting out of self-interest and for closing our hearts. Illuminate for us the path of righteousness as we light our Advent candles in your name. Set our hearts aflame that we too may go forth and set the world on fire. Call us to serve the common good, ground us in your presence and renew our spirits. On this Advent journey we are reminded of your love and mercy. We give you thanks for bringing light into the world and we rejoice in the promise of everlasting life.

Source: Education for Justice