

## **Bible Readings & Prayers – 4th December, 2022**

### **Advent Candle Prayer**

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
The prophets said you would bring peace  
And save your people in trouble.  
Give peace in our hearts at Christmas  
And show all the world God's love.  
Amen.

Watching, waiting, help us to be ready for you Jesus. Amen.

### **The Collect for Second Sunday of Advent**

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.  
Amen.

### **Exodus 13: 17-22**

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, 'If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt.' So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness towards the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle. And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph, who had required a solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, 'God will surely take notice of you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here.' They set out from Succoth, and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

### **John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the one  
    who is called the Word.  
The Word was with God  
    and was truly God.  
From the very beginning  
    the Word was with God.  
And with this Word,  
    God created all things.  
Nothing was made  
    without the Word.

Everything that was created  
received its life from him,  
and his life gave light  
to everyone.  
The light keeps shining  
in the dark,  
and darkness has never  
put it out.  
God sent a man named John,  
who came to tell  
about the light  
and to lead all people  
to have faith.  
John wasn't this light.  
He came only to tell  
about the light.  
The true light that shines  
on everyone  
was coming into the world.  
The Word was in the world,  
but no one knew him,  
though God had made the world  
with his Word.  
He came into his own world,  
but his own nation  
did not welcome him.  
Yet some people accepted him  
and put their faith in him.  
So he gave them the right  
to be the children of God.  
They were not God's children  
by nature or because  
of any human desires.  
God himself was the one  
who made them his children.  
The Word became  
a human being  
and lived here with us.  
We saw his true glory,  
the glory of the only Son  
of the Father.  
From him the complete gifts  
of undeserved grace and truth  
have come down to us.