

Bible Readings & Prayers – Sunday 5th December, 2021

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.

Malachi 2:17-3:4

You have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet you say, 'How have we wearied him?'
By saying, 'All who do evil are good in the sight of the Lord, and he delights in them.'
Or by asking, 'Where is the God of justice?'

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom
you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom
you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the
day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of
silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver,
until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah
and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former
years.

Mark 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had
been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with
child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling
to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had
resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child
conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him

Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.