



# Overflowing Love

# Candle Liturgy

**Advent Offering 2018  
2-24 December**

**The lighting of the Advent Candles is a special moment and you may want to keep it simple. This short liturgy offers a way to light the candles that links to the theme of this year's Advent Offering. If you would like to do something else alongside, you could accompany each week's prayer with singing a verse of a suitable candle-lighting hymn. *Advent candles tell their story (StF 165)* is a particularly good fit for this year's Advent Offering themes.**



## **Introduction: to be repeated before the lighting of the candle(s) each week**

Advent is a time of longing – when we re-visit the story of waiting for Christ's birth and the reality of living in the in-between time of anticipating his return. We are still a people dwelling in darkness, living in a world where there is much emptiness and pain.

But it is also a time of celebration because through Jesus' birth – our hearts are already filled with God's overflowing love, welcoming us back into friendship with God. We are God's children, living in God's light. At Advent we rejoice in welcoming Jesus' presence among us again, recommit to gather with others as if they were him; and look forward to welcoming his coming return, when the whole world's darkness and emptiness will be filled to overflowing with the wonder of his perfect, abundant, light, life and love.



## **Advent Sunday (2 December 2018)**

Lord Jesus Christ, light in our darkness  
and only hope for our emptiness and  
pain,  
just as Abraham and Sarah longed  
for their aching arms to be filled,  
so we too long to receive your presence  
among us,  
to experience the fullness of your  
overflowing love.

Come for the sake of the lonely and  
frightened;  
transform our darkness with your warm,  
welcoming light. Amen.



## **Second Sunday in Advent (9 December 2018)**

Lord Jesus Christ, light in our darkness  
and only hope for our emptiness and pain,  
just as Zephaniah sang out your coming  
forgiveness  
and your promise to gather in the oppressed  
and outcast,  
so we too announce your movement towards  
us –  
the astounding friendship you offer us through  
overflowing love.  
Come for the sake of the lonely and frightened;  
transform our darkness with your warm,  
welcoming light. Amen.

## **Third Sunday in Advent (16 December 2018)**

Lord Jesus Christ, light in our darkness  
and only hope for our emptiness and pain,  
just as John the Baptist prepared the people's  
hearts to receive you  
by preaching the good news of counter-cultural  
generosity,  
so we ready ourselves for your presence among  
us;  
incarnate, in Spirit and in all who we reach out  
to with overflowing love.  
Come for the sake of the lonely and frightened;  
transform our darkness with your warm,  
welcoming light. Amen.

## **Fourth Sunday in Advent (23 December 2018)**

Lord Jesus Christ, light in our darkness  
and only hope for our emptiness and pain,  
just as Mary laid aside all convenience and  
comfort  
to make room for the most precious presence,  
so we also commit to re-orientate our priorities;  
to say yes to pouring out our lives in overflowing  
love.  
Come for the sake of the lonely and frightened;  
transform our darkness with your warm,  
welcoming light. Amen.

## **Christmas Day (25 December 2018)**

Lord Jesus Christ, light in our darkness  
and only hope for our emptiness and pain,  
with the Church in every time and place,  
with the hosts of heaven,  
we glorify your name and celebrate your coming.  
We praise you, love incarnate, born in our midst  
today!  
We rejoice in the triumph of your light over  
darkness;  
in your overflowing love beyond measure  
for ever and always. Amen!

