



## Collects

### 4th Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

### First Communion of Christmas

Eternal God,  
who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on  
earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

### Christmas Morning

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

### 1st Sunday of Christmas—31st December

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Pray for our Christmas celebrations and the Services ~that we can share God's Love with others.  
**Knowing Jesus ~ Making Him known**
- For those of our congregation facing the limitations of ill health or who are alone this Christmas. For those facing Christmas without loved ones for the first time.
- For those who will find Christmas difficult—that they will know God's love.
- Pray for the ministry of CAIAS ~ **CAIAS ~ next meeting on 11th January 2018**

### Immanuel Prays!

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in the Chapel**. Please do join us if you can, as we continue to pray for the life of our church and for one another. If there is someone or something you wish to pray for but cannot be present, please contact Lorraine or Marion. There will be no meeting in the week after Christmas—hopefully we will all find time to pray on our own!

Lorraine and Marion

## The Advent Candles

(Tune: Away in a Manger) Words by Sandra Dean,  
former Director of Music  
at Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Canada.  
Used with her permission and blessing.

1. A candle is burning,  
a flame warm and bright;  
A candle of **Hope** in  
December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessings  
from heav'n's starry sky  
Our hearts we prepare now,  
for Jesus is nigh.

2. A candle is burning,  
a candle of **Peace**;  
A candle to signal  
that conflict must cease.  
For Jesus is coming  
to show us the way;  
A message of Peace  
humbly laid in the hay.

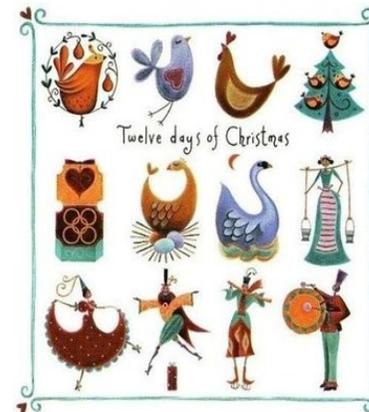
3. A candle is burning,  
a candle of **Joy**;  
A candle to welcome  
brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder  
and eyes light and glow  
As Joy brightens winter  
like sunshine on snow.

4. A candle is burning,  
a candle of **Love**;  
A candle to point us  
to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas,  
a wonderful birth;  
For Jesus is bringing  
God's Love to our earth.

5. We honour Messiah  
with the **Christ-Candle's** flame;  
Our Christmas Eve candles  
glad tidings proclaim.  
O come, all ye faithful,  
rejoice on this night  
As God comes among us,  
the Christian's true Light.

## Ministry Musings Christmas Blessings

INDESCRIBABLE  
Gift



Babe in a manger or a bird in a tree ~  
celebrate Christmas ~ but what do you  
see?

2 turtle doves ~ the Old and New  
Testament.

3 French hens ~ Faith, Hope and  
Charity.

4 Calling birds ~ The four Gospels  
and/or the four  
Evangelists.

5 Golden rings ~ The first five books of  
the Old Testament ~ the "Pentateuch".

6 Geese a-laying ~ the six days of creation.

7 Swans a swimming ~ the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit ~ (Roman  
Catholic the seven sacraments).

8 Maids a milking ~ the eight Beatitudes.

9 Ladies dancing ~ the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

10 Lords a-leaping ~ the ten Commandments.

11 Piper piping ~ the eleven faithful apostles.

12 Drummers

drumming

~ the twelve points of doctrine in the  
Apostles Creed.

Give thanks this Christmastide that we do not have to 'hide our  
faith' but can admit to '**Knowing Jesus ~ Making Him known**'.