

ORDER FOR BAPTIST MINISTRY
Advent — Coming Lord
An Alternative and Communal
Daily Office

Becoming Present to God:

Stand

+ In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

Just when we thought
the story had been told;
rumours surface
and disturb the world.

Just when we thought
your kingdom was mapped;
prophets speak
and boundaries are redrawn.

Just when we thought
it time to take it easy;
a Baptist roars
and wildness is let loose.

Just when we thought
the future was secure;
a virgin conceives
impossible, but real.

Come Lord, come
here and now
among your waiting people.

Celebrating the Presence of God

Sit

Cosmic God, beyond time and
space,
yet within history and our world
We look for signs of your coming.
Revolutionary God, whose voice
was heard
through the prophets of old,
upsetting our balance,
We listen for signs of your coming.
Vulnerable God, revealing yourself
in human form,
whose touch brings love, grace and
peace
We long for signs of your coming
Migrant God, pitching your tent in
our neighbourhood,
and journeying with us in our exile
We search for signs of your coming
Adventurous God,
calling us to be partners in your new
creation
We welcome every sign of your
coming.

Acknowledging our Humanity

Kneel, holding the Daily Office

God of grace
Your favour rested on Mary
and rests on us

Formed life within Mary
Forms life within us
Dazzled and baffled Mary
Dazzles and baffles us

Where we have thought too highly
of ourselves,
looking down on others
Lord have mercy

Where we have failed to challenge
the powerful,
ignoring the cries of the powerless.
Lord have mercy

Where we have filled ourselves with
good things,
sending the poor away empty
Lord have mercy

And by your Spirit
birth in us and through us
life in all its fullness.

Listening for the Word of God

Sit

From *The Common Lectionary*

The Canticle

O that you would tear open the
heavens and come down
so that the mountains would quake
at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your
adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at
your presence.

When you did awesome deeds that
we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains
quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no eye has perceived
no eye has seen any God besides
you,
who works for those who wait for
him.

We have all become like one who is
unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like
filthy rags.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like a wind, take
us away.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Isaiah 64:1-4, 6, 8

Bringing our Concerns

Kneel with hands open in the lap.

With Mary, God-bearer,
**we pray for all who carry the most
precious of gifts.....**

With Mary, Christ-birther,
**we pray for all who today utter
their first cry**

With Mary, accepter of the wildness
of God,
**we pray for all who are
misunderstood**

With Mary, fleeing violence,
**we pray for all who are refugees,
the stateless, lost in the fogs of
confusion and helplessness**

With Mary, heart-pierced,
**we pray for all who are broken-
hearted and bereaved**

With Mary, singing of the unseating
of powers,
**we pray for all who protest against
injustice and oppression**

With Mary, greeted by faithful
servants approaching the end of
days,
**we pray for those who face their
own infirmities and death.**

With Mary, God-bearer,
**we pray that the proud might be
scattered in the imaginations of
their heart
and the humble and meek lifted
up,
that the hungry might be filled with
good things,
and the rich sent empty away,
Amen.**

Going to love and serve.

Stand, with open arms and hands

Celebrating the mystery of your
coming,
and stepping into the unknown we
say with Mary,

**We are your servants, let it be to us
as you lead.**

+ In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

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