**a candle in need of light**

Come, here is a candle in need of light!

Let us light it,

**then the light of God will shine in our darkness,**

**and the darkness will never overwhelm it!**

Come, here is a candle in need of light!

So let us light it:

For there are voices to listen to,

and questions to be spoken.

There is truth that will disturb our ease;

for our world is badly broken.

**Let us light this candle:**

**The light of God will shine in our darkness:**

**and the darkness will never overwhelm it!**

**a waiting world**

We wait for the promised one,

**For the prophets have told us of the way of God:**

In Bethlehem! the least of all places:

**God will be found with us, and there will be peace.**

We wait for the promised one,

**For the prophets have told us of the way of God:**

A child! A prince of peace:

**God will be found with us, and there will be light.**

We wait for the promised one,

**For the prophets have told us of the way of God:**

A branch! Growing from aged roots:

**God will be found with us, and truth will be known.**

We wait for the promised one,

For this is our waiting time,

- time to prepare, to listen, to hear

This is our waiting time, so that we do not rush,

head long and unprepared into this moment

when God will break in to our poverty and riches

with signs and wonders beyond our understanding.

In a language we can speak;

with people we do know;

with images we can understand.

This time of waiting is here

so we might stand some chance

of welcoming God With Us.

**a world in need of blessing**

God bless us and disturb us

**For this is what we need**

We need you O God,

We need your light

to shine in our darkness

then we will never be overwhelmed.

**God, bless us and disturb us with your presence!**

**a blessing not to be missed!**

Let us know God’s blessing at this time of waiting:

Let us be blessed with patience:

**Lest we miss God’s coming among us.**

Let us be blessed with wisdom:

**For then we will welcome God’s coming among us.**

Let us be blessed with hope:

**That we might dare believe God’s coming among us.**

Let us know God’s blessing at this time of waiting:

**For ourselves, for our world, for eternity.**

**an Advent carol**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,

God with us, save those who on earth do dwell.

We mourn our loss and live in fear

until the hope of God appear:

*Rejoice, Rejoice,*

*Emmanuel shall come to those*

*who on this earth do dwell.*

O come, Eternal Wisdom, come

amidst our foolishness and make your home.

To us the path of wisdom show,

teach us your ways that we might ever know:

O come, O Ancient Strength and free

your people from all tyranny.

From deep despair your people save,

give even vic’try o’er the grave:

O come, O Long Desired One, show

The Source of Life: may all creation know!

The Ground of All: you make us one!

The Prince of Peace: your work in us begun!

**a movable Advent**

*This is a movable liturgy for Advent. It is about people moving and it is about light moving. We created this liturgy after we had completed some reshaping work on our worship space to help us explore the physical flexibility of the space, but it has a power beyond this very practical intention! Because the candle is processed in you will need to give thought to the sort of candles to use. We used candles set in small bowls – you can get them from most home decor places – and this worked well. So far as the people moving: if you have movable seating in your worship space then you can move the chairs to face the direction that you welcome the light from. Alternatively invite people to turn to the appropriate direction where indicated. If you have a congregation from different places geographically, find people from a place appropriate for each week.*

Look to the south/east/north/west!

*(the people turn to face the s/e/n/w)*

From the south we hear the call of our world:   
**The call of God’s creation.**

In the south/east/north/west we will see the life of our world:

**The deeds of God’s creation.**

Come, let us see what God has done:

**Let us welcome God’s light from the s/e/n/w.**

*the Advent candle is processed in from the appropriate direction.*

People will come from south and east

and north and west

to behold the light of God.

**The people who walk in darkness**

**will see a glorious new light.**

For the light of God

is found in our world:

**it will never be over come.**

“Advent is getting ready for that impossibility which will permit us to dance and sing and march and thank and drink - and live!” is a quote from “Text for Preaching” Year A, Westminster John Knox Press, p. 21

**and for Christmas day......**

Look to each other!

In this time and this place

we will hear the call of our world:

**The call of God’s creation.**

In this time and this place

we will see the life of our world:

**The deeds of God’s creation.**

Come, let us rejoice, for God is with us:

**Let us welcome God with us this day**

*We light our Christmas candle*

People have come from south and east

and north and west

to behold the light of God.

**The people who walk in darkness**

**will see a glorious new light.**

For the light of God

is found in our world:

**it will never be over come.**

**a Christmas day carol**

South and east and north and west

God’s people gather, and are blest

by God’s eternal faithfulness,

Sing Gloria in excelsis!

West and south and east and north,

The angels show the shepherds worth,

and bless the poor o’re all the earth,

Sing Gloria in excelsis!

North and west and south and east,

Born in a stable, ‘mongst the least,

inviting all: come share God’s feast.

Sing Gloria in excelsis!

East and north and west and south,

This story, spread by word of mouth,

made sure the grace of God was out,

Sing Gloria in excelsis!

South and east and north and west,

All people gather, and be blest

by God’s eternal faithfulness,

Sing Gloria in excelsis!