

**Midday prayers 2009: Cost of Relationship**  
**December**  
**Season of Light**

Mon: the creation of light *Advent candle is lit*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
The earth was formless and empty,  
darkness was over the surface of the deep  
and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.  
And God said, "Let there be light,"  
and there was light.  
**God saw that the light was good,**  
**and he separated the light from the darkness.** *Genesis 1:1-4*

In the beginning was the one who is called the Word.  
The Word was with God and was truly God.  
From the very beginning the Word was with God.  
And with this Word,  
God created all things.  
Nothing was made without the Word.  
Everything that was created received its life from him,  
and his life gave light to everyone.  
**The light keeps shining in the dark,**  
**and the darkness has never put it out.** *John 1:1-5*

Your Word, O God, has given us life;  
your Word incarnate gives us new life in the Easter promise.  
May your Word illuminate this Advent season,  
dispelling the darkness of fear and mistrust;  
may your Word dwell among us always,  
awakening our hearts to your enduring love, justice and peace.  
We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
your Light and Word.  
**Amen**

Tues: the dawning of light Advent candle is lit

The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of the shadow of death  
a light has dawned.

*Isaiah 9:2*

Jesus said "I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life."

*John 8:12*

Gracious God,  
we joyfully await the dawning of your Light, Jesus Christ.  
May the light of his Word  
shatter the darkness of ignorance and greed;  
may the warmth of his love  
melt the winter of hatred and injustice.  
Transform us into a people of his light,  
that we may reflect your saving grace  
to our waiting world.

**Awaken us, O God, from the sleep of hopelessness;  
raise us up from the depths of despair  
so that we may be ready to greet  
the dawning of the Morningstar,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen**

Wed: the shining of light Advent candle is lit

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.  
We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,  
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.  
*John 1: 14*

O God, star kindler  
kindle a flame of love within us  
to light our path in days of darkness.

O God, sun warmer  
Warm us with your love  
to melt the frozen hand of guilt.

O God, moon burnisher  
burnish the shield of faith  
that we may seek justice  
and follow the ways of peace.  
*From the Iona Community*

Kindle, O Lord, in our hearts, we pray,  
the flame of that love which never ceases,  
that it may burn in us and give light to others.  
May we shine forever in your temple,  
set on fire with that eternal light of yours  
which puts to flight the darkness of the world;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord.  
*Source unknown*

Thurs: the revealing of light Advent candle is lit

Not to us, O Lord, not to us  
but to your name be the glory,  
because of your love and faithfulness.  
*Psalm 115:1*

A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
and the rugged places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.  
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." *Isaiah 40:3-5*

Prepare the way of the Lord!  
He is the light that comes to darkness,  
he is the strength that comes to weakness,  
he is the wind we hear approaching like a mighty roar of thunder.  
The Lord is near!  
Prepare his way, and  
sing praises, all ye people!

Let the whole world keep silence!  
For the maker of creation's coming here,  
He brings his holy presence to our everyday.  
Glory! Glory!  
Sing his praises all ye people!  
*Vince Gilbert*

Fri: the gift of light *Advent candle is lit*

I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you,  
because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.  
Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing  
in him to make him stumble.

*1 John 2:8,10*

**Jesus, you are the light of the world.  
In you, we too, are the light of the world.  
Let our light shine brightly  
that God may be praised.**

Jesus, Lord and Saviour  
we thank you for this season of celebration  
the renewal of your love for us  
that never fails.  
We pray for all your people  
that today even in the darkest corners  
your lamp may be lit  
and your light may shine  
giving joy and peace.  
Amen

Sat: the season of light *Advent candle is lit*

God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"  
made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light  
of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.  
*2 Corinthians 4:6*

Come, follow the light that shines for you  
and leads you to a stable with a manger and child.  
**Lord, we have followed the light.**

Come, listen for the voice that calls you  
to find new life in the broken corners of the world.  
**Lord, we have heard the voice.**

May we see the guiding light  
may we find you in a stable  
may we follow you to the cross  
may we find new life through you  
as we begin our journey  
from the manger to the cross and back again.

to those who are following on.  
May our lives be filled with the love of God  
for those who are following on.  
**Amen**

**Wave of Prayer for Mothers' Union**

Lord, in this Season of Light we remember with thanks  
the work of Mothers' Union worldwide.

Today we pray for the people and work of:

- 1 – 5      **Central Africa:** Upper Shire; **West Indies:** North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba;  
**Rwanda:** Byumba; **Tanzania:** Rift Valley; **Nigeria:** Lagos Mainland;  
**Scotland:** Glasgow & Galloway
- 6 – 10     **West Indies:** Jamaica & the Cayman Islands; **Rwanda:** Gahini; **Nigeria:**  
Sokoto, Ahoada, Offa & Oji River; **Scotland:** St Andrews, Dunkeld &  
Dunblane
- 11 – 15    **Canada:** British Columbia, Quebec & Qu'Appelle; **Central Africa:** Northern  
Zambia; **West Africa:** Cameroon; **Ireland:** Limerick & Killaloe
- 16 – 20    **All MU Trainers and Workers and the staff and work of Mary Sumner  
House.**
- 21 – 25    **Refugees, internally displaced families and those living in a climate of  
fear.**
- 26 – 31    **Other women's groups and those working to support families  
throughout the world.**

A moment of silence is kept.

We bring before God our prayers for the world and ourselves.

**Intercessions**

**Final Blessing**

**May God, who laboured in love to create all life,  
continue creating within us  
new hope, new joy, new visions;  
and may we go from here to bring  
new life to the world.  
Amen**