

## **Week 1 Faith**

- Faith is the confidence in what we can't see
- Faith is trusting that God is with us
- Faith is trusting that in Jesus God has brought new life

## **Week 2 Hope**

- Hope is the confidence in what we don't yet see
- Hope is trusting God for his promises
- Hope is trusting that the Resurrection Life is for us too

## **Week 3 Peace**

- Peace is the inner assurance of God's presence
- Peace is the inner contentment that God is with us
- Peace is the inner knowledge that God is for us

## **Week 4 Joy**

- Joy is the deeper happiness knowing God is good
- Joy is the human spirit responding to what is good
- Joy is an irrepressible upwelling of emotion

## **Christmas Day Love**

- Love is knowing we are special and precious to God
- Love is knowing our deepest humanity is good in God's eyes
- Love is our response to being loved by God

*Make notes or what you hear God saying, how you sense God's Spirit prompting you, and what you learn and are given in your prayers.*

## **Advent Prayers**

*May we love those whom you have given us with a deeper love  
May we love our neighbours as ourselves,  
May we love you with a deeper love  
as we discover how much you love us.*

*Each week we explore a theme which is a thread in the Christmas Story,*

### **Faith, Hope, Peace, Joy**

*Pray these prayers each day of the week*

#### **A prayer for the first week in Advent**

Almighty God, give us the gift of FAITH,  
to see you in the world you have made,  
to know you in the uncertainties we face and  
to grow into a deeper understanding of your gift of grace.

#### **A prayer for the second week in Advent**

Almighty God, give us the gift of HOPE,  
that we may trust in your promises,  
that we may know you to be Sovereign of all  
and that in you shall all be renewed and made good.

#### **A prayer for the third week of Advent**

Almighty God, give us the gift of PEACE  
an inner peace which strengthens our heart  
a community peace which enables all to flourish  
and peace in our world so all may live in freedom and justice.

#### **A prayer for the fourth week of Advent**

Almighty God, give us the gift of JOY,  
that joy which is like the excitement of a child for Christmas  
that joy which is like the inner contentment of an accepted happiness  
that joy which overflows and gives joy too to others

## **DAILY PRAYERS – pray slowly and add your own thoughts**

### **❖ Sunday**

Almighty God, Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer,  
Watch over our churches we pray,  
Guide our leaders and keep us close to you.  
This Advent and Christmas may we rediscover your presence with us,  
and discern your light in our dark and confusing world.

**Amen**

### **❖ Monday**

We pray for our community –  
for our community buildings, shops, pubs and restaurants;  
We thank you for all that we have and all we enjoy.  
May God bless our shared spaces:  
May we come to a time when we can gather again with joy.

**Amen**

### **❖ Tuesday**

We pray for our GP Surgeries and their staff,  
for our Pharmacies and all who care for people in the community  
We thank you for those who give so much to help others.  
May God bless all who care:  
May we come to a time when we are no longer anxious.

**Amen**

### **❖ Wednesday**

We pray for our schools –  
pupils and staff; for our universities and colleges.  
We thank you for the education opportunities we have in this country.  
May God bless us in our learning –  
may our young grow strong in body, mind and spirit.

**Amen**

### **❖ Thursday**

We pray for our homes –  
for families and for those who live by themselves;  
We thank you that you have made us each special,  
each different, each in your image.  
May God bless our homes,  
and the homes of our family, friends and neighbours –  
Keep us in peace.

**Amen**

### **❖ Friday**

We pray for our wider community and nation –  
for our councillors and leaders,  
for the well-being of all and for the common good.  
We thank you for the beauty of our area  
and for all who look after our land.  
May God bless those in authority with wisdom and right judgement –  
may we be led in God's ways.

**Amen**

### **❖ Saturday**

We pray for the nations of the world and for our global relations;  
for a greater concern for our planet, and for the poor;  
for an end to wars and a time of peace.  
We thank you that we can live in peace and in prosperity –  
may we not take it or others for granted.  
May God bless us with peace.

**Amen**

*You can end your prayers with some silence and the Lord's Prayer*