

**Be Still**  
***Waiting in joyful Hope***

**Prayer**

God, our loving Father, we thank you that your love for us is without limit or condition, and is greater than we could hope for or imagine.

You promised the light would shine in darkness.

Light in our hearts a flame of your love:

Love that will warm our families and homes,  
your love that will bring healing.

As we prepare in these days for the birth of Jesus, your Son and our Brother, we surrender to you the darkness in our lives.

Help us to turn our hearts to you and welcome Jesus into our lives anew.

**Amen.**

*Let's think about people that are lonely and alone—especially at this time of year with the added problems the pandemic brings.*

*As we think of individuals we know, you may like to light a candle and pray for them.*

***'I pray for....., God, be a candle in the wilderness.***

**Prayer**

Light a candle in our world, O God, let it brighten our faces so that we may tell this world the time is arriving when you will put on flesh and walk among us. **Amen.**

**Blessing**

May God from whom all blessings flow  
send us his Word each day of our lives.

May that Word grow to fulfilment by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and may God bless us, take away our fear,  
and lead us to grow in faith and love. **Amen.**

**Prayer**

God our Father,  
your promises of old gave your people hope  
that you would enter their lives anew.

We rejoice that Jesus, your Son,  
the fulfilment of your promises,  
can be found among us today.

We ask you to help us to open our hearts to him. **Amen**

**Reflection—Karl Rahner**

Every year, my God, your Church celebrates the holy season of Advent.

Every year we pray those beautiful prayers of longing and waiting,  
and hear those lovely songs of hope and promise.

Every year we roll up our needs and yearnings and faithful expectations  
into one word: *"Come!"*

And yet, what a strange prayer this is!

After all, you have already come and pitched your tent among us.

You have already shared our life with its little joys,  
its long days of tedious routine, its bitter end.

Could we invite you to anything more than this with our *"Come!"*?

Could you approach any nearer than you did when you became  
the 'Son of Man', when you adopted our ordinary little ways so thoroughly  
that it's almost impossible to distinguish you from other human beings?

In spite of all this we pray: *"Come!"*.

And this word comes from the bottom of our hearts as it did long ago from  
the hearts of our forefathers, the kings and prophets who saw your day still  
far off in the distance, and fervently blessed its coming.

Indeed, your coming is promised in the very first pages of Holy Scripture,  
and yet, on the last page, there still stands the prayer: *"Come, Lord Jesus"*.