



Creative
Communications
Sample

The Dear Christ Enters In

Daily Prayers for Advent By Jane Wilke

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

—"O Little Town of Bethlehem," verse 3

Introduction

But to all who did receive [Jesus], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12

A friend recently described how, as a child, he and his Sunday school friends walked down the church aisle every Christmas Eve with their hands cupped, singing hymns with heartfelt love. What a wonderful visual image to carry with us into Advent—hands cupped in prayer as we meditate upon the gifts of grace the dear Christ offers as he enters in heartfelt love to our world, our church, our family and our hearts.

—Jane Wilke, author

Sunday

Worthy are you, our LORD and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

Revelation 4:11

Heavenly Father, may we join with the whole creation in praising you for the world you have gift-wrapped in love for us. Yet as we see the beauty that surrounds us, keep us ever mindful that the world created in your perfection became marred by our sin. Praise and thanks to you, loving Father, for not abandoning us or this world in which we live, but for sending your Son, gift-wrapped in love, as the dear Christ enters in. AMEN.

Monday

First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all ... who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

Dear Lord God, we lift up all leaders throughout the world. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, open their hearts to the wisdom and understanding that true authority lies not in influence among people, but in you. For those who rule in spiritual darkness, pierce their hearts with the light of Christ's love and guide them with true compassion so that people everywhere might enjoy freedom, security and peace as the dear Christ enters in. AMEN.

Tuesday

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Psalm 34:18-19

In the name of Christ whose own suffering brought life and salvation to the world, we lift up those whose peace has been fractured by tragic violence around the world. Immerse them in your love and lead them from the darkness of despair into the light of your love. For those who seek to bring comfort, fill them with compassion and be in the words they speak and the actions they take as the dear Christ enters in.
AMEN.

Wednesday

*If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy
the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in
the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.*

Isaiah 58:10

O Lord, we lift up all those around the world who live in physical and emotional poverty. Hold close to your heart those who are hungry, homeless and hopeless. Fill their stomachs with food and fill the souls of those who do not yet know you. Lead us to share our own abundance in response to the gift of your love to us in Christ. Fill us all to overflowing as the dear Christ enters in. AMEN.

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In these warm and inviting prayers for this season of reflection, author Jane Wilke opens our eyes and our hearts to the message that the dear Christ enters into our lives in many and various ways at school, at home, at work, at church—wherever we find ourselves this Advent season. Each prayer is a window of welcome to the Christ Child.

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This book, along with many other Creative Communications for the Parish products, is available on

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