

**Loving God**

**who sees every deed done for love,  
and whose servant Joseph reminds us  
of the value of quiet service;  
help us always to recognize those  
whose faithful care promotes our flourishing.  
May we celebrate all your saints  
who work for your Kingdom  
and wait together for its fulfilment  
in the return of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**



*Advent Wreath Prayers- Advent at home*

Week 1: Matriarchs

Traditionally on the first Sunday in Advent, we think of the Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. We remember how they adventured into the unknown with God, confident that God's promises would come true. Today we are remembering their womenfolk, the Matriarchs: Sarah, Hagar, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel. Sarah's loyalty and courage saved Abraham's life. Hagar was the first to give God a name and became the mother of a great nation. Rebecca left home and family at a moment's notice to travel to a new land. Leah knew sadness in her marriage, but knew herself heard by God and went on to be a mother of kings. We remember these women and their example today.

As we light the first advent candle, let us pray:

**Loving God**

**Who is both mother and father,  
we thank you for the matriarchs,  
who with their brothers, husbands and sons,  
played their part in your story of hope.  
We pray that like them**

**we will journey with you in faith,  
this Advent and always,  
Amen**

### Week 2: Prophets

On the second Sunday in Advent, we remember the prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah and more – with their words of salvation and hope. Today, we remember with them, their sisters who spoke God's truth to the world. Deborah shared God's message of liberation, Miriam sang of God's victory, and Hannah declared God's justice and restoration. We remember all who prophesied God's goodness today.

As we light the second candle, let us pray together  
(using the prayer on the back of the notice sheet):

**Loving God,  
we remember with thanks  
our sisters and brothers in years gone by  
who have spoken your message of hope to the world.  
Give us courage to add our voices to theirs  
in proclaiming your good news,  
fulfilled in Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
Amen**

### Week 3: Elizabeth

On the third Sunday in Advent, we traditionally remember John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the Lord. Today, we remember too his mother, Elizabeth. Her husband struck dumb, her unborn son

leaping in her womb, it was she who greeted her kinswoman Mary with words of joy and blessing. As her son would recognize the Messiah on the banks of the Jordan, Elizabeth recognized in Mary, the mother of her long-awaited Lord. As John prepared the way for Jesus' ministry, so Elizabeth prepared Mary for her task in God's great plan of salvation. We remember Elizabeth and John today.

As we light the third candle, let us pray together  
(using the prayer on the back of the notice sheet):

**Loving God  
whose servants Elizabeth and John  
recognized your coming  
and played their part in your plan of grace;  
help us to see you in the circumstances of our lives,  
to prepare our hearts to receive you,  
and to give our lives to serve you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.**

### Week 4: Joseph

On the fourth Sunday in Advent, we usually think of Mary, mother of Jesus. Today we remember too, her husband Joseph. Always in the shadow of his family, nevertheless, his faith and obedience were vital as he supported Mary and protected the infant Jesus. As we remember this remarkable man, let us give thanks for all whose quiet support is essential to the ministries of others.

As we light the fourth candle, let us pray together  
(using the prayer on the back of the notice sheet):