

Advent reflective prayer activity

Seeds of salvation

From the beginning of time the seeds of salvation were planted:
Let us reflect in silence and thank God for his loving plans for us.

In the beginning was the one who is called the Word.
The Word was with God and was truly God.
The light keeps shining in the dark,
and the darkness has never put it out.

John 1:1, 5

Creator and Redeemer
you did not plant the seed of this earth
into the universe as if by chance.
**It was your hand that placed it here
your plan to grow it here.**

You did not populate this earth
with a people made in your image
purely by chance.
**It was your hand that placed us here
your breath that keeps us here.**

You did not come as a tiny child
to walk this earth as if by chance.
**It was your Love that brought you here
your Grace that saved us here
our Creator and Redeemer. Amen**
John Birch www.faithandworship.com

Shoots of promise

Through history the seeds budded with prophetic shoots of promise:

Let us reflect in silence and thank God for his loving promises to us.

The Lord declares: The days are coming, when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land.
Jeremiah 33:14-15

Speak to us, Lord.
Fill our hearts with wonder
as we contemplate afresh
the coming of our Messiah.

May the fulfilment of words
uttered in ancient times
strengthen our faith
in God's promises to us.

**The Lord is mighty to save;
his love endures forever.
We place our trust
in the promises of God. Amen**

Signs of hope

Through history the seeds were nurtured with prophetic signs of hope:

Let us reflect in silence and thank God for the hope his salvation offers.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son,
and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

**Awaken our souls; open our hearts
that we may be ready to greet
the dawning of the Morningstar,
our Lord Jesus Christ.**

As we watch and wait for the promised one,
open our eyes to see the wonders of your appearing;
open our eyes to the dawning of hope in lives of despair.
Illumine our hearts with the radiance of your glory
that we may shine out your love
to a world in need of a Saviour's light.

**The Lord is mighty to save;
his love endures forever.
We place our hope
in the light of Christ. Amen**

Blossom of salvation

Salvation blossomed into reality through the birth of Christ:
*Let us reflect in silence and thank God for the miracle of the
Saviour's birth.*

Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you:
you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.
Luke 2:11-12

**The Lord is mighty to save;
his love endures forever.
We praise our God
for the birth of the Messiah.**

Angelic voices resound
throughout eternity,
proclaiming the Messiah.
God becomes man;
Heaven touches earth,
and we will never be the same.

**As the people blessed of God
we will tell of your glory;
proclaiming your love to those
in need of a Saviour's touch. Amen**

Growth of salvation

The growth of salvation flourishes in the world:
*Let us reflect in silence and thank God for his ongoing work in
our lives.*

We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be
the Saviour
of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of
God, God lives
in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love
God has for us.
1 John 4:14-15

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time.
John Birch www.faithandworship.com

**The Lord is mighty to save;
his love endures forever.
We place our trust
in the love of God. Amen**

Fruit of salvation

The fruit of salvation will be fully realised when Christ returns
in glory:
*Let us reflect in silence and thank God for the prospect of
eternity.*

This will happen on the day when the Lord Jesus comes
to receive glory because of his holy people.
And all the people who have believed will be amazed at Jesus.
2 Thessalonians 1:10

Wonderful Saviour, Risen Lord,
we look forward to our Advent journey.

We await the familiar delights;
we anticipate wonders anew;
we open our hearts to our loving God.

We will journey to the stable;
walk onwards to the cross;
we will watch for the coming
of our Heavenly King.

**Awaken our souls; open our hearts
that we may be watchful and alert
for the coming of the Heavenly King,
our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen**

Blessing

**May the salvation of God
through the new born Christ
fill our hearts with wonder and praise
this Advent time and always. Amen**