

**ORDER FOR BAPTIST MINISTRY**

**Advent — Coming Lord**

**An Alternative and Communal Daily Office**

**Becoming Present to God:**

**Stand**

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

Just when we thought  
the story had been told;  
**rumours surface  
and disturb the world.**

Just when we thought  
your kingdom was mapped;  
**prophets speak  
and boundaries are redrawn.**

Just when we thought  
it time to take it easy;  
**a Baptist roars  
and wildness is let loose.**

Just when we thought  
the future was secure;  
**a virgin conceives  
impossible, but real.**

**Come Lord, come  
here and now  
among your waiting people.**

**Celebrating the Presence of God**

**Sit**

Cosmic God, beyond time and space,  
yet within history and our world

**We look for signs of your coming.**

Revolutionary God, whose voice was heard  
through the prophets of old, upsetting our balance,

**We listen for signs of your coming.**

Vulnerable God, revealing yourself in human form,  
whose touch brings love, grace and peace

**We long for signs of your coming**

Migrant God, pitching your tent in our neighbourhood,  
and journeying with us in our exile

**We search for signs of your coming**

Adventurous God,  
calling us to be partners in your new creation

**We welcome every sign of your coming.**

### **Acknowledging our Humanity**

**Kneel, holding the Daily Office**

God of grace

Your favour rested on Mary

**and rests on us**

Formed life within Mary

**Forms life within us**

Dazzled and baffled Mary

**Dazzles and baffles us**

Where we have thought too highly of ourselves,  
looking down on others

**Lord have mercy**

Where we have failed to challenge the powerful,  
ignoring the cries of the powerless.

**Lord have mercy**

Where we have filled ourselves with good things,  
sending the poor away empty

**Lord have mercy**

And by your Spirit  
birth in us and through us  
**life in all its fullness.**

### Listening for the Word of God

Sit

From *The Common Lectionary*

#### The Canticle

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

**as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—**

to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence.

**When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.**

From ages past no one has heard,  
no eye has perceived

no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.

**We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like filthy rags.**

We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like a wind, take us away.

**Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.**

*Isaiah 64:1-4, 6, 8*

#### Bringing our Concerns

Kneel with hands open in the lap.

With Mary, God-bearer,  
**we pray for all who carry the most precious of gifts.....**

With Mary, Christ-birther,  
**we pray for all who today utter their first cry**

With Mary, accepter of the wildness of God,  
**we pray for all who are misunderstood**

With Mary, fleeing violence,  
**we pray for all who are refugees, the stateless, lost in the fogs of confusion and helplessness**

With Mary, heart-pierced,  
**we pray for all who are broken-hearted and bereaved**

With Mary, singing of the unseating of powers,  
**we pray for all who protest against injustice and oppression**

With Mary, greeted by faithful servants approaching the end of days,  
**we pray for those who face their own infirmities and death.**

With Mary, God-bearer,  
**we pray that the proud might be scattered in the imaginations of their heart and the humble and meek lifted up, that the hungry might be filled with good things, and the rich sent empty away, Amen.**

**Going to love and serve.**

**Stand, with open arms and hands**

Celebrating the mystery of your coming,  
and stepping into the unknown we say with Mary,

**We are your servants, let it be to us as you lead.**

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

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