

Advent Family Prayer ~ 2018

First Church in Marlborough (Congregational) UCC



*Prepare the way for the Lord.
The Gospel According to Mark 1:3*

Why this booklet?

Many of you told me that you would like to pray with your children but you don't know how or where to begin. I am hoping that this booklet will help you grow deeper in your Christian faith. Taking 5 minutes daily will help you get into the habit of family prayer. Use it together. Use it to make time for your family in the business of life. Use it to bring worship into your home.

Why Pray?

Think of it as a spiritual gym and exercise. You know you need it – but getting started is the hardest point. Once you begin – it is really easy.

Any helpful tips?

Pick one morning and evening prayer that you will say every day. After a while you will learn it by memory and you can all recite it together.

A regular grace over a meal is a very good place to start.

Learning to say a Psalm together is also good.

MORNING PRAYERS

O God, the smile of the dawn lights up the sky.

May the smile of your face, light up our day. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, We thank you that you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger,

Order us in all our doings. And guide us to do always what is righteous in your sight; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus, be close to me and those I love through the twists and turns of today and be with me at the day's end. Amen.

EVENING PRAYERS

Save us, O Lord, while waking and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and when we sleep, we may rest in peace. Amen.

Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep, watch and guard me through the night, and wake me with the morning light. Amen.

GRACE OVER MEALS

For what we are about to receive, may the God make us truly thankful. Amen.

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and may the food from you be blest. Amen.

ADVENT PRAYER

Loving and faithful God, who came into this world not to condemn but to save it. Help us in this Advent season to prepare our hearts and minds for your coming again, and to receive the gift of your only Son our Lord Jesus Christ with joyful hearts. In whose name we pray. Amen.

FAMILY PRAYER OVER SUNDAY DINNER

Kill the phone, game, and switch off the TV.

Say **Grace** together.

Enjoy the food and the company.

When the meal is over open prayer with:

Prepare ye, prepare ye, the way of the Lord!

All answer: **And all the nations will see the Salvation of our God!**

Sing one stanza of "**O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel**" (on back page of booklet)

Read a **Psalm** (23, 46 or, 121) or say the **Lord's Prayer** together.

Say the **Evening Prayer** and the **Advent Prayer**

Close with: **Amen.**

Have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas
Yours in Christ, Pastor Kaz

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high, Who or - der all things
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on
 4. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem, From ev - 'ry foe de -
 5. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the
 liv - er them That trust your might - y pow'r to
 heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on



here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 law, In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re -
 save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 high, And close the path to mis - er - y.



joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el Shall



come to you, O Is - ra - el.

6. O come, O Dayspring from on high
 And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadow put to flight.

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of humankind;
 O bid our sad divisions cease,
 And be for us our King of Peace.