

# Advent Prayer Guide

## Week 2

### Invitation

The days are getting shorter as we approach the winter solstice. Although most of our communities are flooded with artificial light, there is something inside us that notices, that becomes unsettled by the shift in balance between darkness and light at this time of year. This shift is often seen as a metaphor for our society when hard times or disturbances prevail.

### Scripture

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
*[Luke 1:78-79, spoken by Zechariah to his newborn son, John, later known as the Baptist.]*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. *[John 1:6-9]*

### Prayer

Darken the room you are in and be silent for a few minutes.

Light a candle.

Pray: In the dark places, in the shadows, where we hide our fears, your voice calls to us. On the streets we travel, the paths we walk, guide our feet; take us to places where you would go. Give us words that you would use, that in this Advent season of promise and preparation, we might, with John the Baptist point those near us to the Light that is coming into our world.

Be silent for a few minutes.

Breathe deeply. Amen.

### Practice

#### 1. Listen

"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"  
by J.S. Bach

[https://youtu.be/bLfic6\\_Fku8](https://youtu.be/bLfic6_Fku8)

Greenville Choral Society Youth Chorale, 2014  
(#26 in the *Presbyterian Hymnal*)

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,  
and usher in the morning.  
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright,  
but hear the angel's warning.  
This child, now weak in infancy,  
our confidence and joy shall be,  
the power of Satan breaking,  
our peace eternal making.

#### 2. Go

John the Baptist felt compelled to tell everyone about the Light of the World. What about you and me? To whom shall we bring this Light?

### Looking for More?

Try this: <http://d365.org>

