



LITANIES

Bishop. E. Anne Henning Byfield

FIRST WEEK

- LITURGIST:** God, we seek your presence for the realization of a true Advent spirit.
- CONGREGANTS:** Come, Lord Jesus, come.
- LITURGIST:** Everyday, thousands of people are infected with, and many die from COVID-19.
- CONGREGANTS:** Come, Lord Jesus, and bring healing to those who are sick, and to all who grieve that they may know your consolation; and for doctors, nurses and all health-care providers, that they may be protected from infection, and have strength to withstand the difficulty of the work.
- LITURGIST:** Everyday, hundreds of people are infected, and still die from HIV AIDS.
- CONGREGANTS:** Come, Lord Jesus empower us to continue to work under the anointing of the Spirit of God to destroy this deadly impact on our lives.
- Liturgist:** Everyday Black people die from murder from police shootings and urban fire.
- Congregants:** Come, Lord Jesus, use us to stop this violent destruction, and show the way of love, justice and reconciliation.
- Liturgist:** Everyday, we face national, global, and political terrorism.
- Congregants:** Come Lord Jesus come as we rebuild a nation for justice, peace and equality. Demolish all strongholds of racism, sexism, xenophobia, and bigotry.
- All:** Come descendants of our Lord, let us walk in the hope of the Lord. We light this candle proclaiming, come Lord, come. Isaiah 2:5



SECOND WEEK

LITURGIST: Living between calm and chaos, we hear certain sounds of war and violence as we search for a way out.

CONGREGANTS: Come, Lord Jesus, come; show us the peace of your salvation.

LITURGIST: Living between calm and chaos, we have troubled dreams, painful realities and unbalanced busy-ness.

CONGREGANTS: Come Lord Jesus with the power of balance to quieten the inappropriate noise.

LITURGIST: Living between chaos and calm, we seek for a tomorrow to help us live today.

CONGREGANTS: Come, Jesus come, be the light out of darkness so that we can make our strong Zion stronger.

LITURGIST: With uncertain sounds, troubled dreams, painful realities, death of our young, and working to make our strong Zion stronger, we declare:

CONGREGANT: Come, Lord Jesus, come, bring calm to agitation, peace to violence, response to inactivity, and empowerment so that there is joy in the midst of resistance. We light these candles.



THIRD WEEK

- LITURGIST:** The people cried out for a prophet who would confront the stagnation in and out of the church walls.
- CONGREGANTS:** We too cry for a prophet who dares to be heard, speaks truth to power, bows not to false power while proclaiming, come Jesus, come.
- LITURGIST:** As we prepare for the waiting of Christ, we open our eyes to those young and old who also see new visions and act on them in the midst of racism, sexism and other injustices.
- CONGREGANTS:** We give thanks for the emergence of these new liberators and we proclaim as well, come Jesus, come.
- LITURGIST:** The prophets of old declare that God's reign is at hand and we must release God's power, justice, hope, love, light, and peace. In this season of waiting for the re-revealed Christ, we all must become God's prophets.
- CONGREGANTS:** Stir within us the will, the power, the work, and the resolve to be a light to a dying world; we light these candles in anticipation, and expectation.



FOURTH WEEK

LITURGIST: We are a few days away from our celebration of the birth of Christ, what do you want for Christmas?

CONGREGANTS: We want some “fear nots” so that our anxiety over global transition is stilled. We affirm that we are well able to confront the present need to re-imagine a new global church in this pandemic.

LITURGIST: In a few days, when we sing the special carols, someone will be crying over the loss of a loved one, others will weep at the loss of income. Others will weep over the impact of being Black, poor, imprisoned or pastoring in crisis. What sayest you to them?

CONGREGANTS: We pray that they have the good news of Jesus, life is restored, faith renewed. healing after the death of a child, hope after the double assault by urban violence or police action shootings and have the power of grace.

LITURGIST: Very soon many families will open gifts, share the love and laughter of relationship, what do you want for Christmas.

CONGREGANTS: We want some “great joy” for all. We hope that in the midst of all of life’s challenges, the joy of Jesus will be our strength and laughter will return.

LITURGIST: What shall we do today in preparation for Christmas Day?

CONGREGANTS: We light these candles that the world will have some fear nots, good news and great joy in our Savior the Messiah, Jesus the Christ.