

*And some more recent*

*Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure.*

*Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.*

*Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.*

*And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.*

*(Frank Borman, Apollo 8 space mission, 1968)*

Apollo 8 was in orbit from Christmas Eve into Christmas Day



*Gather round, come closer, there is no reason to fear the dark.*

**The light of the world shines in our hearts.**

*Come and worship the waiting is over, the gift of love is given.*

**The light of the world shines in our hearts.**

*Look! Look and see all our hope, become real in a tiny child.*

**The light of the world shines in our hearts.**

*Let us worship God with wonder, awe and joy!*

**The light of the world shines in our hearts.**

**Michaela Youngson**



**November 2020**

**Advent Prayers**

**Come Lord Jesus**

*.Lord as we approach Christmas so much more than usual is uncertain.*

*We pray for patience in the parts of our plans that as yet cannot be made without more information and knowledge.*

*We pray for those who already have plans but as yet no clue as to whether it will be possible to carry them out.*

*We pray for those who would dearly like to meet up but feel the risks are too great.*

*We pray for those who will be finding Christmas a difficult or lonely time whatever the season brings.*

*Lord we thank you for the positive things Christmas will offer us this year.*

*The ways we have learnt to communicate because of lockdown that will help us to share in different ways.*

*The ways we have found to share differently with our neighbours as our work or social calendars and timetables have changed.*

*The friends we have grown closer to because of shared needs or because of skills offered and shared.*

*We pray for things we will miss this year that we love to share as part of celebrating you birth , Lord.*

*The kissing and cuddling of family to keep people safe.*

*The parties with families or friends all together.*

*The long journeys to gather together.*

*The carols sung at church or concerts.*

*Opening our homes to invite others in.*

**Lord, guide us on how to do Christmas differently this year**

## ***Some traditional prayers for Advent***



Let the just rejoice,  
for their justifier is born.  
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,  
For their saviour is born.  
Let the captives rejoice,  
For their Redeemer is born.  
Let slaves rejoice,  
for their Master is born.  
Let free men rejoice,  
For their Liberator is born.  
Let All Christians rejoice,  
For Jesus Christ is born.

(St. Augustine of Hippo - AD 354-440)

Father, in the wilderness of the Jordan  
you sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts  
for the coming of your Son.  
Help me to hear his words and repent of my sins,  
so that I may clearly see the way to walk,  
the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him,  
our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts  
That the God who breathed this world into being  
Placed stars into the heavens  
And designed a butterfly's wing  
Is the God who entrusted his life  
to the care of ordinary people  
became vulnerable that we might know  
how strong is the power of Love  
A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp  
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.

God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things  
that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his  
wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

