



Advent Chant

Composer: Phil Porter

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Twilight then darkness, night falls and candles glow
gently surrounding us a new birth of hope.
Watching, waiting, awakening a new birth of hope.

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You may be interested to know:

Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference President, Archbishop Philip Wilson ... gave an assurance that the Bishops had a discussion at last week's plenary meeting on the need to make "adequate pastoral and sacramental provision for the Church in Australia". *Catholica Australia* reports the petition raised interest among the bishops and more than three hours were devoted to discussing the issue. Dr Paul Collins, on behalf of the petition organisers, says he was "more than happy" with the formal letter response from Archbishop Wilson and general feedback from individual bishops. "We were more than surprised with the level of interest the petition generated within the Church," Dr Collins said. "Our original hope had been to try and generate a response of around 10,000 signatures and to receive over 16,700, including over 160 responses from priests, exceeded their expectation by a long way," he said. "Cath News" Thursday 6 December.

Advent Litany

Composer: Bernadette Farrell

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Word of justice, Alleluia,
come to dwell here. Maranatha!
Word of mercy, Alleluia,
live among us, Maranatha!
Word of power, Alleluia,
live within us, Maranatha!
Word of freedom, Alleluia,
save your people, Maranatha!

Word of healing, Alleluia,
heal our sorrow, Maranatha!
Word of comfort, Alleluia,
bring us hope now, Maranatha!
Word of gladness, Alleluia,
fill our hearts now, Maranatha!
Word of wisdom, Alleluia,
Come renew us, Maranatha!

Word we long for, Alleluia!
Word we thirst for, Maranatha!
Key of David, Alleluia!
Son of Mary, Maranatha!
Promised Saviour, Alleluia!
True Messiah, Maranatha!
Cry of prophets, Alleluia!
Hope of ages, Maranatha!

Light of nations, Alleluia!
Light in darkness, Maranatha!
Risen Saviour, Alleluia!
Lord of glory, Maranatha!
You we long for, Alleluia!
You we thirst for, Maranatha!
Here among us, Alleluia!
Living in us, Maranatha!

Comfort, Comfort All My People

Composer: Robin Mann

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**Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my Word
Speak it tender to my people,
all your sins are taken away.**

Though your tears be rivers running,
though your tears be an ocean full,
though you cry with the hurt of living,
comfort, comfort.
Every valley shall be lifted,
every mountain shall be low,
every rough place will be smoother,
comfort, comfort.

Though your eyes see only darkness,
though your eyes can see no light,
Though your eyes see pain and sorrow,
comfort, comfort.
Every night will have its morning,
every pain will have an end,
Every burden will be lightened,
comfort, comfort.

Though we build strong walls for prisons
though we feast while others starve,
Though we fill this world with weapons,
comfort, comfort.
Every prisoner will be rescued,
every hungry mouth be filled.
Every gun will rust, forgotten,
comfort, comfort.

Though we fracture God's creation,
though we stand so far apart
Though we fail to love each other,
comfort, comfort.
Every wall will crack and crumble,
every stranger will be a friend,
Every one embrace another,
comfort, comfort.

Repent! Here are the five high-roads to repentance: first, acknowledging one's sins; second, forgiving the sins of others; third, prayer; fourth; almsgiving, fifth, humility. Do not be idle, but day



by day set out along these roads. The going is not difficult and poverty is no excuse for stopping at home. Even if you are very poor, you can still lay aside anger, carry yourself humbly, persevere in prayer and acknowledge your sins... We have learned how our wounds are to be healed – we must now apply these remedies. St John Chrysostom (c.349-407)

Prepare a way for the Lord. Today both Isaiah and the Baptist speak from the wilderness where they were close to God. A shoot, springing from the stock of Jesse, is Isaiah's fertile image that nurtures the hope of the Chosen People. It reminds them of God's faithfulness in the past. The Christ will bring integrity and peace, gifts people most long for. The psalm gives unrestrained voice in its joyful expectation that their lives will be precious in his sight. John the Baptist, man of camel-hair, locusts and wild honey, was a striking figure. We join with him in searching out God's will. The winnowing fan and fire are symbols of the Lord's activity, of his vital purposes for us. The kingdom is so close.

Lord, let me be a steadfast person, as Paul exhorts. Let the justice of the Old Testament be integrity in me. Let its peace be peacefulness in me. Then, above all, let me stretch out my arms to be enkindled by your Spirit. Set afire with your love, may I seek union with the others in my life, and they will be precious in my sight. Together we wait to celebrate your coming. (from Daily Prayer online)