

## UNSETTLED ADVENT - SESSION 4

### READING

***64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. 66 All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.***

*Zechariah's Prophecy*

***67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:***

***68 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.***

***69 He has raised up a mighty saviour<sup>[a]</sup> for us  
in the house of his servant David,***

***70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,***

***71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all  
who hate us.***

***72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,***

***73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us 74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.***

***76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,***

**77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**78 By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon<sup>[b]</sup> us,**

**79 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 1:64-79, NRSVA)

### **CLOSING PRAYERS** - *Four candles are lit*

A: This our fourth advent candle

B: Advent is now complete

C: But the light that really matters is the light of Christ, in our midst, God with us.

Glory to Christ, Son of Mary;

A: born a child, you are one with us.

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest.**

B: Glory to Christ, Son of David;

born to rule, you reign in our hearts.

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest.**

C: Glory to Christ, Son of man;

born to save, you are the light of the world.

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest.**

A: Blessed are you, God our Father,

through your Son the Christ. His name is Jesus.

**ALL: God is with us. Praise the Lord.**

B: Jesus came and shared our life.

**ALL: God is with us. Praise the Lord.**

C: Jesus is our King on high.

**ALL: God is with us. Praise the Lord.**

A: Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel!

He has come to the help of his people and has set them free.

B: He has provided for us a mighty Saviour,  
a descendant of his servant David.

C: He promised through his holy prophets long ago  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the power of all those who hate us.

**ALL: God said he would show mercy to our ancestors  
and remember his sacred covenant.**

A: With a solemn oath to our ancestor Abraham  
he promised to rescue us from our enemies  
and allow us to serve him without fear,

**ALL: that we might be holy and righteous before him  
all the days of our life.**

B: “You, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God.

You will go ahead of the Lord to prepare his road for him,  
to tell his people that they will be saved by having their sins forgiven”.

**ALL: Our God is merciful and tender.**

**He will cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us  
and to shine from heaven on all those who live in the dark shadow  
of death,**

**to guide our steps into the path of peace.**

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen

**ALL: Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray,  
and in your great mercy defend us  
from all perils and dangers of this night,  
for the love of your only Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

A: Lord, it is night.

B: We rest in you. We pray for deep sleep, and joy in the morning.

C: For Christ, God with us, has come to us and remains with us forever.