

## HOLY HALF HOUR FOR DECEMBER 2016

# Joyful Hope

**Hymn : Jesus my Lord my God my all...**

**Introduction :**

We are in the beautiful season of Advent where we wait in anticipation and joyful hope. Advent means 'coming'. We wait in anticipation to welcome Jesus at the end times by taking stock of our lives and making sure that we are ready to meet Jesus. We also commemorate the birth of Jesus which occurred 2000 years ago. As we gaze at you, Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament we feel excited at your coming and at the same time sad that we have not been true to you in many moments of our lives. Yet we gaze in confidence as we affirm that we will make every effort to focus on you so that you will find us eager and ready to welcome you.

**Hymn : O God my God for you my soul is thirsting**

Advent is a good time to ensure that we are ready with enough oil in our lamps as we prepare to meet the Bridegroom.

**Scripture Reading:** Mathew 25:1-13 to be proclaimed from the Bible (SILENCE)

**Reflection :**

- Are we vigilant and attentive to the voice deep within us?
- Like Mary, are we willing to wait in hope, trusting that God is at work?
- Will we take the time to reflect, pray, read, meditate and be open to transformation, or are we going to be busy with decoration, preparing food, cleaning, buying clothes etc.?
- Are we ready to spread Joy – with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help and forgiveness?
- Are we going to be generous with the gifts that have been given to us?

**Hymn : Jesus Come**

Our response after every prayer will be:

**Response : Come Lord Jesus (3) come and be born in our hearts.**

**Prayer :**

Lord Jesus / Master of both the light and the darkness / send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation/  
We, who have so much to do / seek quiet spaces / to hear your voice each day/ We, who are anxious  
over many things / look forward to your coming among us.

**Response : Come Lord Jesus (3) come and be born in our hearts.**

**Prayer :**

Lord Jesus / we pray with hope / that this time will be different / we, who are rushing will stop to breathe / We, who are indifferent will take notice of You and your works in the world / We, who are selfish will be mindful of our actions / that we may be found loving, peaceful and joyful at your coming.

**Response : Come Lord Jesus (3) come and be born in our hearts.**

**Prayer :**

Lord Jesus / We, who are blessed in so many ways / long for the complete joy of your kingdom / We, whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence / WE are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light

**Response : Come Lord Jesus (3) come and be born in our hearts.**

**Benediction :** Let us bow

**Concluding Prayer :**

God of the journey, your invitation is to all, to walk with you without fear of stumbling. Your arm enough to steady the feeblest soul. Your grace to rescue us should we fall Grant us faith enough to take you at your word. To know that when our hearts are heavy and the destination seems so distant, that you are there with us along the road. Forgive us those times when we doubt your Word, when we awake and feel alone. Draw us ever closer into your family, that we might know your presence and sing your praises all the days of our lives. Amen

**Hymn : Come and save us O Lord with power and might**

*Prepared by Ms Charmaine Moraes  
For the  
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