

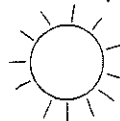
Jesus told us  
how we will know that the end  
of time has come.

Use the code to fill in the blanks  
and find out what we must watch for!

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

“

20 8 5 18 5 23 9 12 12 2 5



19 9 7 14 19 9 14 20 8 5

19 21 14 1 14 4 13 15 15 14



”

1 14 4 19 20 1 18 19



LUKE 21:25

The word "Advent" means "coming."  
Today is the First Sunday of Advent  
when we light the first candle  
on our wreath.

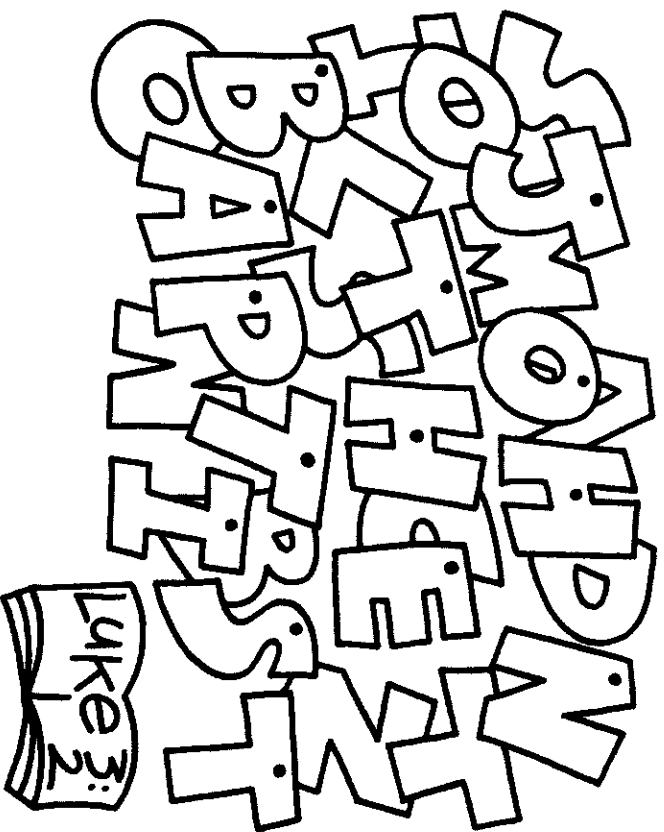
Find the words missing from the poem below

Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ is not far away,  
and we must be ready for \_\_\_\_\_ Day.  
As we light the \_\_\_\_\_ candle on our Advent ring,  
we begin to prepare for the \_\_\_\_\_ of our King.  
Like the ring of \_\_\_\_\_ holly and \_\_\_\_\_  
that we see,  
God's love is \_\_\_\_\_, and will always be.  
As the light from the \_\_\_\_\_ grows brighter and  
strong,  
we watch and we \_\_\_\_\_ as time draws on.

WAIT CHRISTMAS BIRTHDAY CANDLES  
PINE FIRST GREEN UNENDING BIRTH

**THINK** and **LOOK** ahead

Color the letters marked with a •  
to find the name of God's special messenger!  
Write the letters on the lines below



• STEP BY STEP •

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

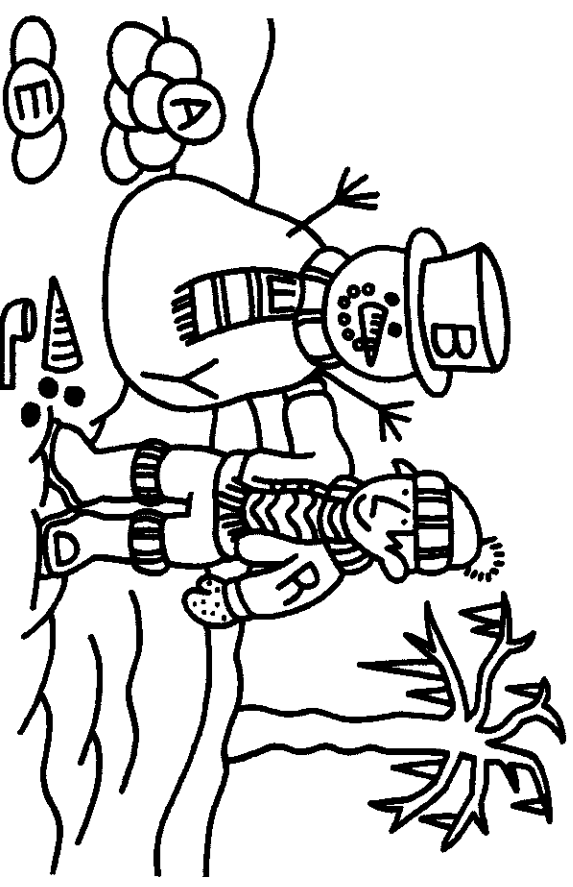
**Be ready to  
welcome Jesus!**

LUKE 21:25-28, 34-36

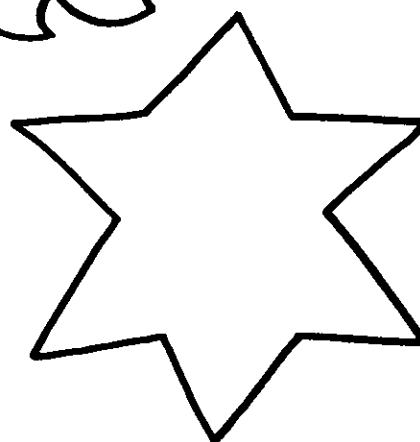
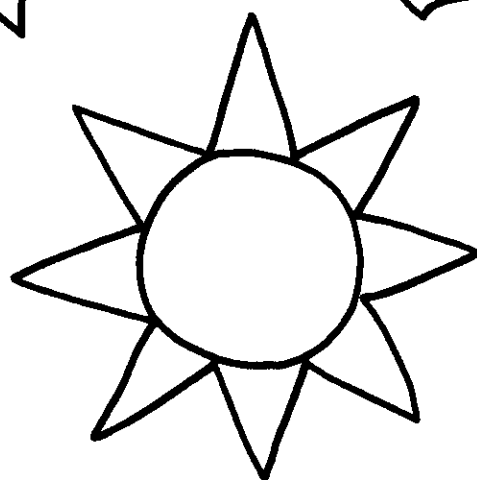
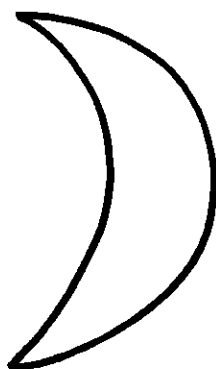
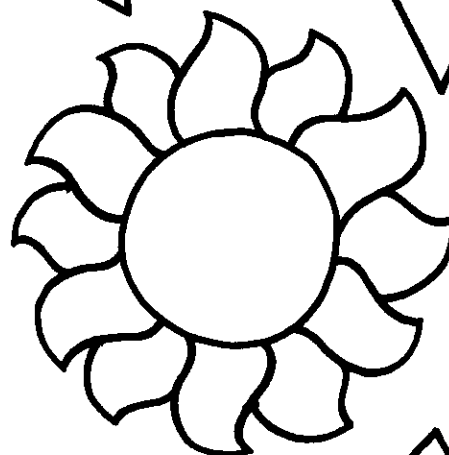
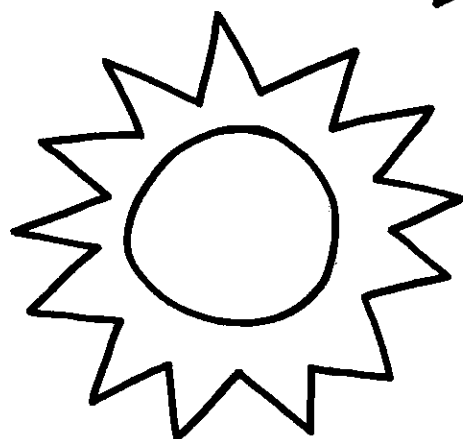
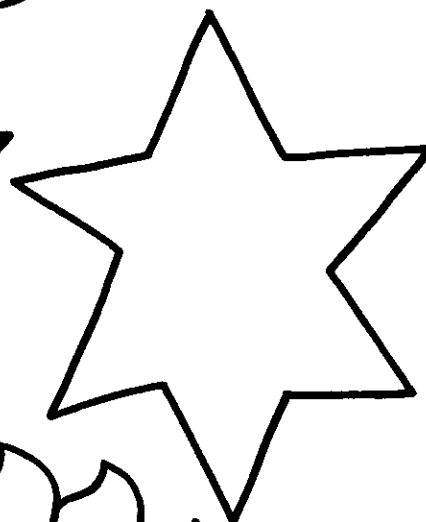
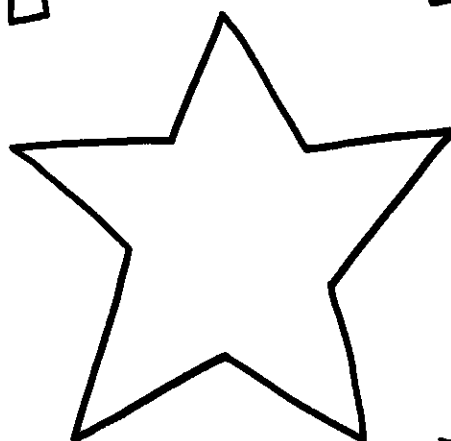
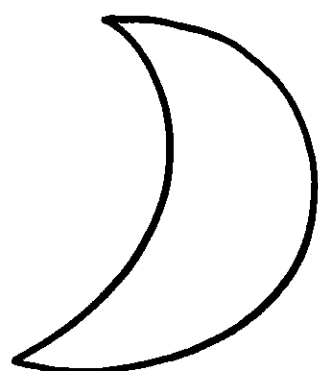
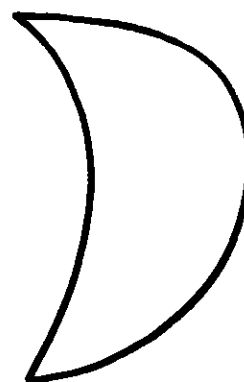
Jesus will come again—but only God  
knows what day and time!

Find these letters hidden in the picture:

**B - E R - E - A - D - Y**



# Star, moon and sun templates.



**THINK** and **LOOK** ahead

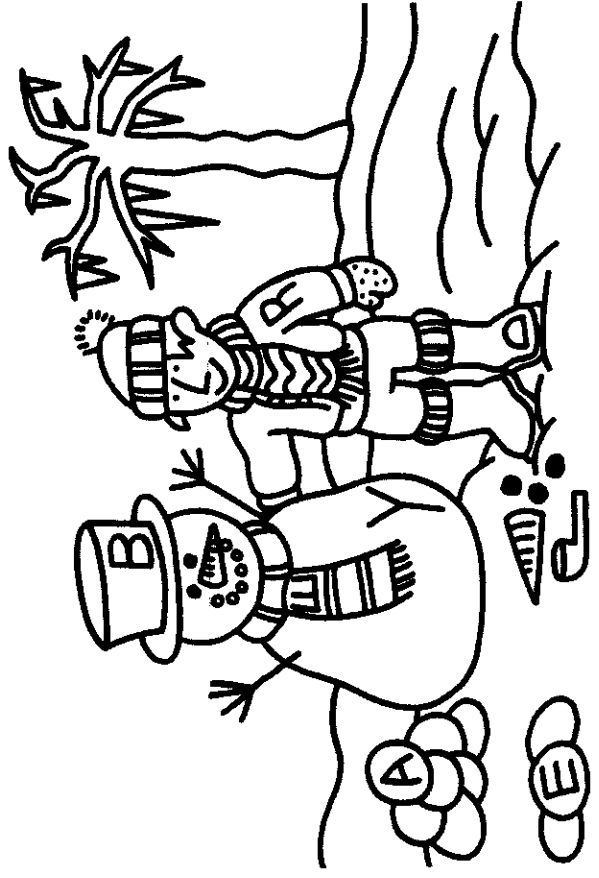
# Be ready to welcome Jesus!

LUKE 21:25-28, 34-36

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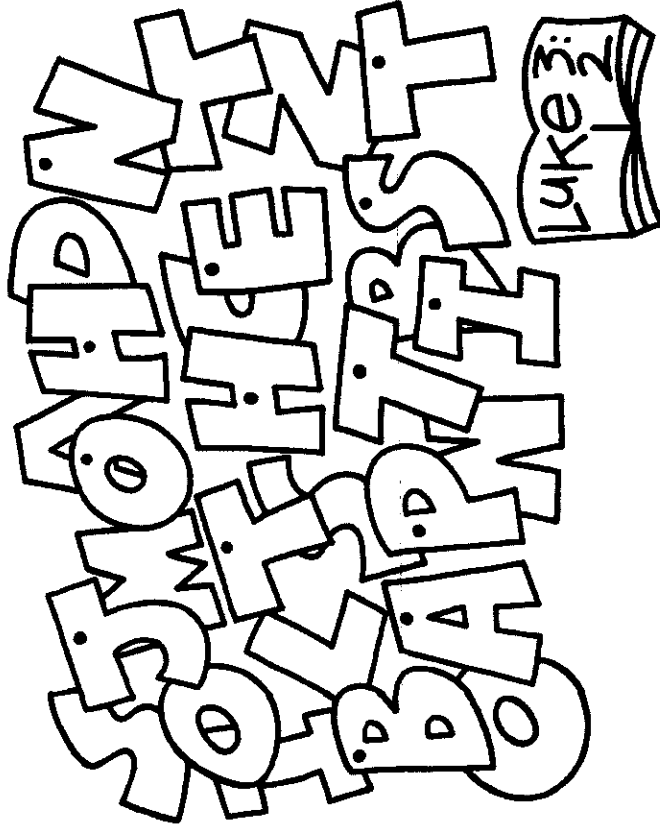
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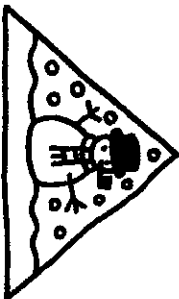
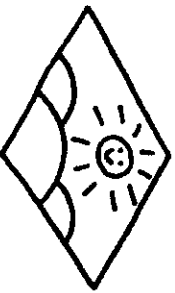
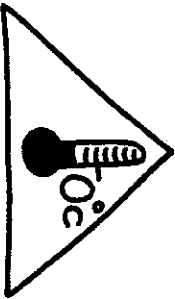
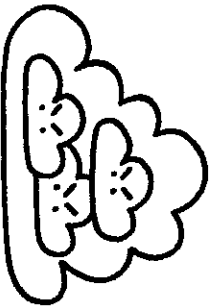
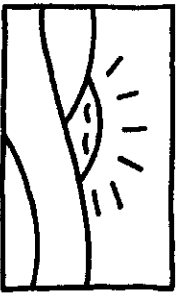
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

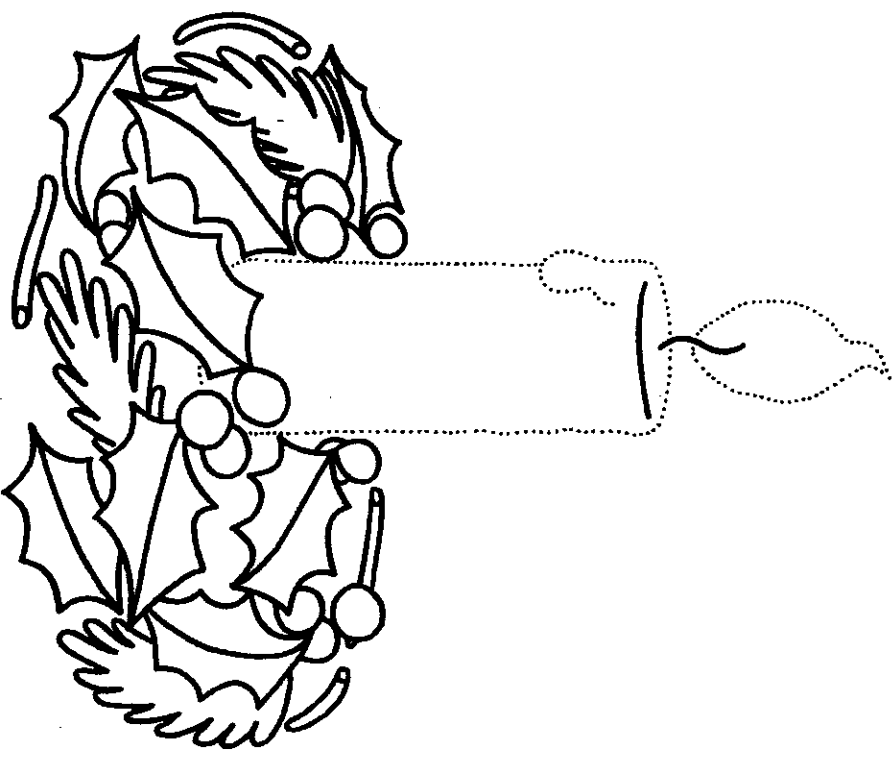
We know what  
will happen by the signs  
we see around us  
(Luke 21:25).

Match the pictures that go together



Advent begins today.  
We light one candle.

Trace the candle. Color the picture



**THINK** and **LOOK** ahead

• STEP BY STEP •

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

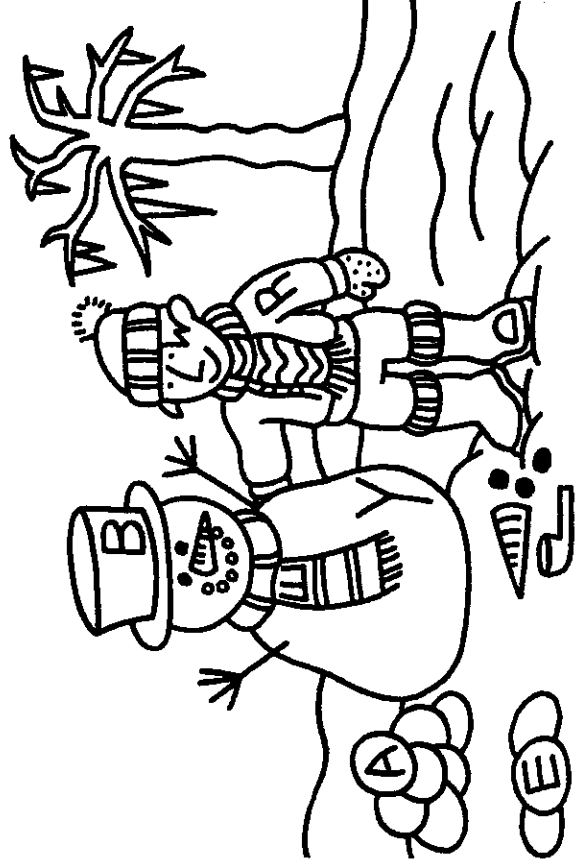
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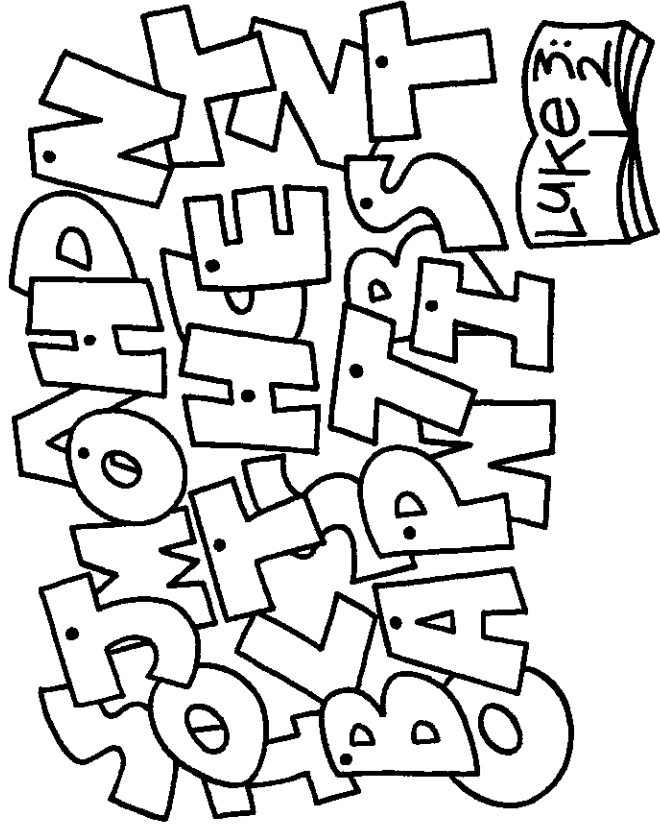
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# First Sunday of Advent

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## Focus

A Bible open at today's Gospel passage, a small Advent wreath, and a selection of stars and moons (see *Activity*) scattered around the display.

## Introduction

What signs do we see in the world around us to warn us that autumn and winter are on the way? (Encourage the children to share their ideas.) Only God knows when the world will end, but he will send us unmistakable signs to warn us that the time has come for Christ's glorious return.

## Gospel Acclamation

Light the first Advent candle on the wreath and sing the Advent Acclamation for Year C.

## Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Luke (21:25-28, 34-36)

Jesus said, 'Before the Son of God returns, there will be signs in the sun, moon and stars, and people will be afraid and bewildered by all that they see. There is nothing to fear; instead, give thanks to see the power and glory of God. Hold your heads high because your salvation is near. Stay awake and always keep yourselves ready to meet the Son of God, so that you are not taken by surprise when he comes unexpectedly.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Reflection

*Have you any idea how many stars there are in the night sky?*

If you look up at the sky on a clear, dark night it is possible to see about 3000 of the billions of stars in our galaxy. Some are small and faint, while others are much larger and very bright.

*Ancient star watchers noticed that stars form patterns in the sky. They imagined that the shapes formed 'pictures' and gave them names. Do you know the names of any of these star patterns or pictures?*

Some like the 'Little Bear' are named after animals, whilst others such as 'The Plough' are named after the object they resemble.

*If you were out in open country or at sea, how could the sun, moon and stars help you?*

Navigation is the process of working out where you are and in what direction you are travelling. Before modern aids, people would use the sun by day and the moon and stars by night to navigate and find their way. Because the sun always rises in the east and sets in the west, people knew in which direction they were travelling. The position of the stars at night and measurement of the distances between them also allowed them to do this.

*Who else uses the sun, the moon and stars to find their way?*

Many animals and birds depend on the night sky and the position of the sun to help them find their way as they migrate or make long journeys in search of food, warmth or somewhere to raise their young.

*What would you need to see the night sky really clearly?*

A powerful telescope allows us to see the stars, moon and sun in great detail.

*Why did Jesus tell us to keep a careful watch on the sky?*

At the end of time, before Jesus returns in glory, there will be signs in the sky to warn us of his coming. We don't know exactly what those signs might be, but they will be unmistakable to everyone who sees them. Jesus reassures us not to worry but to celebrate his glorious return.

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## Activity

Copy the templates and cut out star, moon and sun shapes from thin metallic card. Decorate these with glitter, tinsel and stick-on shapes, and attach gold thread to hang them from your tree.

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## Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

That Christians everywhere will lead lives filled with love, forgiveness and truth, so that Christ may find us ready to greet him when he comes again.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the homeless, the poor and the unloved will experience the warmth of Christ's love this Christmas as we make them welcome.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That people who are filled with hate and anger may find peace and joy as they prepare to celebrate Christ's coming.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That anyone who feels lonely or sad will find hope and happiness through our loving care and concern.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

*Silence*

Loving Father,  
keep us close to your love  
and forever ready to greet Christ when he returns in glory.  
We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**