**Outline of Advent Meal Blessing or Lighting of Wreath**

**Greeting** (Leader of Prayer) “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” [Make the Sign of the Cross.]

(All) **Amen.**

**Opening Prayer** (Leader)

(All) **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading** (Reader)

*Silence.*

**Blessing and/or Lighting of first candle** (Leader)

**Prayers of the Faithful** [invite all present to make petitions of the Lord.]

(Person praying:) “we pray to the Lord.” (All) **Come, Lord & save us.**

**The Lord’s Prayer** (Leader) “Gathering all our prayers and praise into one we pray in the words our saviour gave us.” (All) **Our Father…**

**Sign of Peace** (Leader) “Let us offer each other a sign of peace.”

(All) **Peace be with you.**

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**First Sunday of Advent 2015**

St. Boniface & St. Peter’s Parishes, Bluewater

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**Come, Lord Jesus!**
What Is Advent?
Advent means ‘the coming’. During the four weeks before Christmas we look forward to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ as king and judge at the end of time and to our Christmas celebration of his coming as our saviour 2,000 years ago.

Coming at the end of time. As Christians we are sent to build up God’s kingdom on earth. We do this by living each day as his people: by working and praying, by obeying God’s will and by suffering with Christ. At the end of time, Jesus will come to judge our efforts and to hand over to the Father the kingdom he has built with our help.

During the first weeks of Advent (up to December 16) we reflect on Christ as our coming king and our judge; we wait in joyful hope for his return in glory (the parousia) to complete his work on earth.

Coming as our saviour. Beginning on December 17, we join with the prophets and the people of God who looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. We express our longing for God’s mercy, and grow more aware of our need for this saving help.

Preparation: Advent is a period of four weeks of prayer and preparation, of renewal and of looking forward to the coming of the Lord Jesus among us, his beloved people.

During Advent our prayer is one of hope and love: Come, Lord Jesus!

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Prayer and Scripture for Week I

Opening Prayer: God our father, you are rich in mercy to all your children. Open our eyes to your presence in our brothers & sisters. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading: From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (25:6-10a)

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Blessing/Lighting of Candle:

[If not blessed: O God, our heavenly Father, you have sent Jesus your Son as the light of the world. Bless us, we pray, that this wreath and our lives might be filled with your goodness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.]

[As the first candle is lit] Come, Lord Jesus! May your spirit give us new wisdom in following you, new courage in being your disciples, and new joy as we await your return in glory. You who live and reign, for ever and ever. Amen.

From Advent: Hope and Joy (CCCB Publications, 2006)