Dear Jesus,
Brother, friend and savior,
It is a difficult time to be a Catholic.
Stories of abuse make us angry and break our hearts.
We are wandering in the dark. We are weary.

*Light the dark, Jesus.*

But we know you accompany us in our suffering, Jesus.
You do not leave us alone.
You do not wait for us like the light at the end of a tunnel.
You bring the light in.

*Light the dark, Jesus.*

When we sing “O come, O come, Emmanuel!” this Advent,
We are asking you to be “God-with-us”:
God with us in our wandering,
God with us in our pain,
God with us in our confusion,
God with us in our time of darkness.

*Light the dark, Jesus.*

Advent is a time of expectant waiting.
Find us ready to receive your light at Christmas.
Bring that light of your love to our church family and to all the world.
Inflame our hearts with your radiant faith, hope and love.
Please hurry. We need you with us.

*Light the dark, Jesus.*

Amen.