

ADVENT PRAYER AND CELEBRATION

Celebrating the promise of the coming Christ

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16 ESV

Advent is a four-week season before Christmas celebrating the promise of Christ’s coming. It marks the beginning of the Christian Calendar, which also includes Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. However, unlike the other seasons of the Christian Calendar, many people, regardless of faith background, participate in some form of Advent, often using an Advent Calendar to count down the days until Christmas.

For Christians, Advent is a time of remembering and rejoicing as well as watching and waiting. During this season, we recognize our need for a savior, we realize the reality of Immanuel, God with us, who restores and reconciles all things, and we respond out of praise and thanksgiving. In contrast to Lent, which is a time of entering into Christ’s suffering through fasting, Advent is a time of anticipation and celebration that Christ has come, and He will come again.

We encourage you to use this guide as we observe Advent together. We also invite You to pray and worship with us Monday - Saturday at noon and Sundays at 8AM.

Week 1 | Nov 22 - Nov 28

“For unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

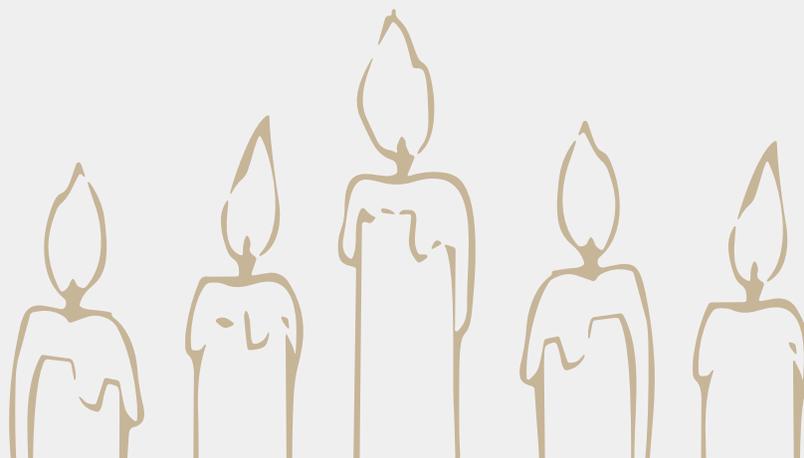
Isaiah 9:6 ESV

Read:

Genesis 3; Isaiah 9

Pray:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are God. Thank You for bringing us to another Advent season. Thank You for being present with us in our joys and sorrows through the last year. Whether in joy or grief, we set aside this time to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Father, thank You for not leaving us under the power of Satan or under the oppression of evil. Thank You for sending Your Son to be our Savior, who upholds justice and righteousness. Jesus, thank You for coming to the earth to rescue all of creation. Holy Spirit, I invite You to witness to us of this truth more deeply during this Advent season. God, make us generous in giving as the Father generously sent His Son. Amen.



Week 2 | Nov 29 - Dec 5

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient of days.”

Micah 5:2 ESV

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed.”

Luke 2:4-5 ESV

Read:

Micah 5; Luke 2:1-7

Pray:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are God. Thank You for bringing us to another Advent season. Thank You for being present with us in our joys and sorrows through the last year. Whether in joy or grief, we set aside this time to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Father, over and over we see in Your word that You choose the small, lowly and unknown people and places of this world to bring about Your promises. Jesus, You were promised to Israel and came to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Holy Spirit, I invite You to increase my faith in God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises in my life, even in the seemingly small and insignificant places. Make me patient in waiting during this Advent season. Amen.

Week 3 | Dec 6 - Dec 12

“And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’”

Luke 2:10 ESV

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Romans 10:15b ESV

Read:

Luke 2:8-20; Romans 10

Pray:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are God. Thank You for bringing us to another Advent season. Thank You for being present with us in our joys and sorrows through the last year. Whether in joy or grief, we set aside this time to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Father, thank You for sending Your angels to proclaim the coming of Your Son and thank You for sending people into my life to proclaim the good news of Jesus' coming. Jesus, thank You for bringing joy and peace to the earth. Holy Spirit, I invite You to come and make me one who proclaims Your coming, like the angels did for the shepherds. God, in this Advent season, may my feet be feet that bring the good news. Amen.

Week 4 | Dec 13 - Dec 19

“And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him. Then opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”

Matthew 2:11 ESV

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16 ESV

Read:

Matthew 2:1-12; John 3:1-21

Pray:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are God. Thank You for bringing us to another Advent season. Thank You for being present with us in our joys and sorrows through the last year. Whether in joy or grief, we set aside this time to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Father, thank You for giving us the example of the Magi. Holy Spirit, I invite You to reveal Christ in a great way so I may fall down in worship as the Magi did. Jesus, You are the promised gift of the Father. God, in this Advent season, let me first give gifts of worship to Jesus and then prepare gifts for others as an act of worship to You. Amen.

Week 5 | Dec 20 - Dec 26

“And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Luke 2:7 ESV

Re-read:

Luke 2

Pray:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are God. Thank You for bringing us to another Advent season. Thank You for being present with us in our joys and sorrows through the last year. Whether in joy or grief, we set aside this time to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Father, thank You for sending Your son Jesus as a baby. Jesus, thank You for coming to us as a vulnerable child. We receive You as the promised one, the Messiah promised to Israel. Holy Spirit, I invite You to show me the hope, faith, joy, peace and love that came to the earth through Jesus. God, in this Advent season, create in me a deep adoration for You. Help me to rejoice in the greatest gift of all, Jesus Your son. Amen.