



ADVENT

HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP GUIDE



CITY OF LIGHT
ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Visit www.cityoflightanglican.org/events/advent
for additional articles, books, photos, and other
resources on the season of Advent and the Christian calendar.

INTRODUCTION

Advent is a time to be honest about the darkness we see around us and to long for the coming of Jesus to bring his light. This guide is a collection of Advent practices that have for centuries invited the church into the hope that Jesus has come and will come again.

If you already have a practice of household worship, these could be helpful additions to that practice. Or perhaps this season is a great opportunity to start or restart your disciple-making practice!

There are many ideas here. Don't try to do everything! Perhaps you will choose one or two daily practices or one or two weekly practices. As you practice Advent, pray about who the Lord would invite you to practice it with.

For those of us with children we are called to disciple, they will be learning in City Kids how the Church tells time and engaging the story of Jesus' birth in a variety of ways during Advent. Celebrating Advent as a family reshapes this season to be a holy time and opens their imaginations to receiving Jesus' coming to them.

This season fills quickly with many things to do, so we pray this resource assists you in finding ways to practice the coming of Christ. If you have any questions or want to know more about celebrating Advent, please let us know.

Peace,

Fr. Trevor McMaken

ADVENT PRACTICES

DAILY DEVOTIONS: the Book of Common Prayer includes several options for daily household devotions. We have included a few in this guide so that you can incorporate the rhythms of a daily devotional in your household this Advent. (pg 6)

ADVENT CANDLES: lighting candles reminds us that Christ brings light into the world and scatters all darkness. Each week, light one more of the four candles at dinner every night or on Sabbath. On Christmas Eve or day, light the last candle—the Christ Candle.

ADVENT CALENDAR: create a family or personal Advent calendar to help count down the days until Jesus' birth. (pg 7)

A JESSE TREE: build a Jesse tree to tell the story of God. (pg 8)

SING: sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel or another hymn each night at dinner or bed. (pg 15)

READ: choose a passage to from the Advent readings to read during family or individual devotions. As you read, ponder the passage using wondering questions. (pg 10)

RE-CREATE: as you read the story of Jesus' birth, try re-creating the story in various ways— acting it out, drawing it, re-telling it to others, etc.

PRAY: spend time praying individually and as a family this Advent. Pray for those you know who are far from God. The prayers of the Church are a good way to begin or end your prayers. (pg 13)

MEMORIZE: pick a Scripture passage to memorize individually or as a family this season. A Psalm, one of the lectionary passages from Isaiah, or Mary's Song the Magnificat are all great sections to memorize. (pg 10)

SERVE: think of ways to serve others in your own family and those outside your home. As a family, you could bake cookies for your neighbors or invite another family over for dinner. Visit our website for more opportunities to serve your neighborhood and city this Advent: <http://www.cityofflightanglican.org/events/advent-mission>

INVITE: pray about inviting those in your life who don't know Jesus to your home or an Advent or Christmas Eve service. Invitations for special services will be available at the welcome table each week. See our website for more details about services as well: <http://www.cityofflightanglican.org/events>

DECORATE: the colors purple and blue in the church are for seasons of preparation, like Advent. Are there ways that you can incorporate purple or blue into your home this year? This could be as simple as a cloth on your table!

BUILD A NATIVITY: throughout Advent, build the nativity scene piece by piece as we journey to baby Jesus appearing on Christmas day. Have the different pieces travelling towards the Nativity throughout Advent, and then place baby Jesus in the Nativity on Christmas Eve.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Opening Prayer

In the morning, from Psalm 51

Open my lips, O Lord, ★

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, ★

and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence ★

and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again ★

and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: ★

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

At the close of day, from Psalm 134

Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, ★

you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.

Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; ★

the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

A Reading

Choose from the various Advent readings on pages 10-11.

A period of silence may follow.

A hymn or song may be sung. (song ideas on pgs 15-17.)

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect

In the morning

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

At the close of day

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. *Amen.*

Or choose from the Advent collects for each week on page 14

ADVENT CALENDAR IDEAS

There are many different ways to create an Advent calendar that helps count down the days until Jesus' birth. Advent calendars begin on Sunday, December 3rd and go through Christmas Day. Here are some ideas to help begin creating your own:

PAPER CHAIN: link together pieces of paper for each day of Advent with various activities to do as a family. These activities can include simple things like reading a verse together, drawing pictures, and reading a book or some special activities like baking cookies, a service project, and going somewhere fun as a family.

ACTS OF SERVICE AND KINDNESS: your family Advent calendar could focus on ways to serve and bless others. Each day could include a simple way of expressing kindness, such as telling a teacher thank you or writing a friend a letter.

TRADITIONAL CHOCOLATE CALENDARS: if the traditional chocolate Advent calendars are already part of your family tradition, think of ways to make eating the chocolate special, such as eating it together, reading Scripture before, giving a chocolate away some days, or praying together beforehand.

HANGING CALENDAR: number small pieces of paper for each day of Advent, and on the back, write an activity such as the ones in the Paper Chain example. Using twine, hang this where your family can see it.

BUILDING A JESSE TREE

A Jesse Tree tells the story of God's creation through Jesus' birth and serves as a great reminder of God's constant love for his people. The origin of the Jesse Tree comes from Isaiah 11:1, which says, "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit."

The ornaments on the Jesse Tree can help guide your family devotions as you discuss different Bible stories and how they helped prepare for Jesus.

There will be ornaments available at the welcome table throughout Advent for your family to take home, color, and use on your own Jesse tree!



CC Photo by Avondale Pattilo UMC, "Jesse Tree", 2009.
www.flickr.com/photos/apmethodist/4354910140/in/photostream/

JESSE TREE VERSES

To create a Jesse tree, find a small tree, a branch, or draw one on the poster board. Throughout Advent, add the ornaments listed below (actual ornaments, drawings, or homemade ones).

Apple: Adam and Eve, Genesis 3:1-15

Ark: Noah, Genesis 6

Lamb: Isaac, Genesis 22:1-19

Knife: Abraham, Genesis 22:1-19

Ladder: Jacob, Genesis 28:1-22

Coat: Joseph, Genesis 27:1-4

Burning Bush: Moses, Exodus 2

Harp: David, 1 Samuel 16:14-23

Crown: Solomon, 1 Kings 1:22-48

Whale: Jonah, Jonah 1-2

Dove: Elisha, 2 Kings 5:1-27

Rose: Isaiah, Isaiah 35:1-2

Heart: Ruth, Ruth 1:15-18

Wheel: Ezekiel, Ezekiel 1:15-21

Lion: Daniel, Daniel 6:1-24

Lily: Mary, Luke 1:26-28

Hammer: Joseph, Matthew 1:18-24

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

SUNDAY LECTIONARY:

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

Psalm 25:1-9

Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:4,8-16

Psalm 132

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Day

Micah 5:2-5a

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Psalm 80:1-7

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

CHRISTMAS STORIES:

Preparing for Jesus

Luke 1:5-25 (The Birth of John the Baptizer Foretold)

Luke 1:26-38 (The Birth of Jesus Foretold)

Luke 1:39-45 (Mary and Elizabeth)

Luke 1:46-56 (Mary's Song)

Luke 1:57-66 (John the Baptizer Is Born)

Luke 1:67-80 (Zechariah's Song)

Matthew 1:18-25 (Mary and Joseph Prepare)

Jesus' Birth

Luke 2:1-7 (The Birth of Jesus)

Luke 2:8-20 (The Shepherds)

John 1:1-18 (The Meaning of Jesus' Birth)

After Jesus' Birth

Luke 2:22-40 (Jesus Presented in the Temple)

Matthew 2:1-12 (The Magi Visit Jesus)

Matthew 2:13-23 (The Holy Family Become Refugees)

WONDERING QUESTIONS

In City Kids, the teachers use wondering questions to help guide conversation and reflections on Bible stories. Here are some questions for Advent:

I wonder how the prophets, like Isaiah, listened to God...?

I wonder how the prophets knew it was God speaking...?

I wonder how we can hear from God today...?

I wonder how Isaiah and the people before Jesus waited patiently for Jesus to come...?

I wonder how Mary felt when the angel spoke to her...?

I wonder how Joseph felt about baby Jesus coming...?

I wonder how we can rejoice like Mary did in her song...?

I wonder how we can obey like Joseph did when the angel told Joseph to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife...?

I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt as they journeyed to Bethlehem...?

I wonder what it would be like to have God's special child, Jesus...?

I wonder why God chose to send his Son into the world as a baby...?

I wonder how God felt when his Son Jesus came into the world...?

I wonder why we spend time preparing and awaiting the birth of Jesus...?

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

What does it say? About people? About God? About you?

How do we obey? Is there a sin to avoid? Promise to claim? Example to follow?

Who needs to hear this today? Who is someone far from God that you can share this with this today or this week? How?

How does this lead me to pray? Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and give you strength to do what he is asking you to do.

PRAYERS

As you pray throughout Advent, the prayers of the Church found in the Book of Common Prayer may help guide you through both individual and group prayer times.

SIMPLE RESPONSES

Leader: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Leader: Our King and Savior now draws near:

People: Come let us adore him.

THE SONG OF MARY (MAGNIFICAT)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; ★

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: ★

the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him ★

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, ★

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, ★

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, ★

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, ★

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, ★

to Abraham and his children for ever.

COLLECTS

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation; Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS DAY

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

SONGS

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O Come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory over the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel.

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

O come, O Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
And bar the way to death's abode.

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
And bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
And turn our darkness into light.

Words: Charles Wesley, *Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord* (London: William Strahan, 1745), number 10.

Music: Hyfrydol, Rowland H. Prichard, 1830.

SOON AND VERY SOON

Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Hallelujah hallelujah
We're going to see the King

No more crying there...

No more dying there...

"Soon and Very Soon," 1971 Bud John Songs, Inc. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Crouch Music Corp. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing).

WE WILL FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF ZION

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the LORD our God
We are not consumed, by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up (Chorus)

Chorus:

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength (Chorus)

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom. (Chorus)

"We Will Feast in the House of Zion," written by Sandra McCracken © 2015 Drink Your Tea (ASCAP) / Joshmooreownsthis Music (ASCAP).



ADVENT

ADVIENTO EN LA IGLESIA CITY OF LIGHT

Advent is a time to be honest about the darkness we see around us and to long for the coming of Jesus to bring his light. Join us for these four weeks as we wait expectantly for the light of Christ to come.

12/2 (10am)—THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Father Matt Woodley

12/9 (10am)—LESSONS AND CAROLS: Father Trevor McMaken

12/16 (10am)—THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Casey Solgos

12/23 (10am)—THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Grace Kircher

12/24 (5pm)—CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

12/30 (10am)— MORNING PRAYER

1/6 (10am) Epiphany Sunday

www.cityoflightanglican.org