



Advent for the Family

Advent is the season before Christmas. Advent includes four Sundays. During Advent we want to spend time preparing ourselves for the birthday of Jesus. We think about Jesus and what he has done for us. We think about ways that we can change so that we can be more like Jesus.

Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is circular. A circle has no beginning and no end. The circle reminds us that God always was and always will be. The evergreen branches used in our Advent wreath remind us that God never changes and that He always loves us. The four candles represent the four Sundays of Advent, during which we prepare for Jesus' birthday. When we light these candles, we remember that Jesus is the Light of the world. He brings us hope, peace, joy, and love.



The First Week in Advent

Nov. 28 At the time when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, He planted a garden in Eden. Then God took man and settled him in the garden to cultivate and care for it. God then created Eve so that man would have a suitable partner. Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with hope.

Nov. 29 Everything was beautiful. The plants, the animals, the flowers were all perfect. It was a wonderful garden of paradise. There was no sin. God asked only one sacrifice from Adam and Eve. God asked that they not eat the fruit of one tree in the garden as a sign of obedience. Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with hope.

Nov. 30. Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the Lord God had made. The serpent tempted the woman and the man by asking, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" "If you eat the fruit from this tree, you will be like God." So Eve took some of its fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened to sin! They were ashamed and hid themselves from God. Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with hope.

Dec. 1 Because Adam and Eve gave in to the temptation of the devil and disobeyed the one simple favor God asked of them, they would be punished. "Cursed be the ground because of you! You shall work hard all the days of your life. When you die, your body will return to the ground from which you were taken. For you are dust and unto dust you shall return."

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with hope.

Dec. 2 But God still loved Adam and Eve. God promised that he would send the

virgin who shall be with child and bear a son. This child shall be named Emmanuel, "God is with us." Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with hope.

Dec. 3 When Mary was a young girl, she became engaged to Joseph. God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary. Gabriel said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." Mary did not understand. Gabriel told her not to be afraid. He explained that the Lord had blessed her. God had chosen her to be the Mother of His son. Mary wondered how this could happen. Gabriel told her that the Holy Spirit would come to her. Nothing was impossible with God. Mary answered that she was the Lord's servant and would do as God asked. Mary trusted God. She had hope. Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with hope.



The Second Week in Advent

Dec. 4 The angel said to Mary, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with peace.

Dec. 5 The Angel Gabriel told Mary, "Behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also

conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her to give birth to her child. Elizabeth and Zechariah thought that they would never have children. Nothing is impossible with God." Mary said to the angel, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from Mary. Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with peace.

Dec. 6 Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was expecting a baby. When Elizabeth saw Mary, she was filled with joy from God. Elizabeth cried out, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with peace.

Dec. 7 Mary responded, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Mary remained with Elizabeth for three months and then returned home to Galilee. Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with peace.

Dec. 8 When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. All the neighbors and friends wanted to call the baby Zechariah, after the father. But Elizabeth said in reply, "No, He will be called John." But the friends said, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." They asked Zechariah. He wrote on a tablet "John is his

name.” Immediately Zechariah’s mouth was opened, his tongue freed and he could speak. He thanked God for keeping his promise of a savior. Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with peace.

Dec. 9 Zechariah was filled with joy in having his son, John. Zechariah sang, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel. He has visited and brought salvation to his people. He has raised up our salvation within the house of David. And you, John, will be called prophet of the Most High God. You will go before Jesus to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation and forgiveness of their sins.” Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with peace.

Dec. 10 John grew strong in body and spirit. Elizabeth and Zechariah were good parents. They taught John all about the Old Testament and showed John that he would prepare the way for Jesus to come. Since John’s parents were very old, they died when John was a young teenager. John went to live with a community of holy people in the desert. There, John learned to copy the writings of the Old Testament. He also learned how the prophets of the Old Testament predicted the coming of Jesus Christ. Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with peace.



The Third Week in Advent

Dec. 11 After Joseph and Mary were married, a ruler named Caesar Augustus wanted to know how many people he ruled. Caesar Augustus ordered all people to go back to their hometowns to be counted. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem because Joseph was of the family of King David. It was a long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, it was time for Mary to give birth to Jesus. Bethlehem was crowded, and there was no room in any of the inns. They found shelter in a nearby stable. Let us pray:
All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with joy.

Dec. 12 While Mary and Joseph were in the stable in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. The promise that God made to Adam and Eve when they were banished from the Garden of Eden came true. The prophet Isaiah wrote: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.” Let us pray:
All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with joy.

Dec. 13 There were shepherds in a nearby field watching their sheep. Suddenly the sky was filled with a bright light, and the shepherds became afraid. The shepherds looked up in the sky and saw many angels. An angel told the shepherds not to be afraid. The angel had good news. He told them that a Savior had been born in Bethlehem. The shepherds could find Him in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes. The angels praised God. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests." Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with joy

Dec. 14 When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds began to talk to one another. They decided to go to Bethlehem and visit the baby Jesus. The shepherds found Mary and Joseph in the stable. Jesus was lying in the manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with joy.

Dec. 15 The shepherds explained that the angels had told them about Jesus' birth. Mary listened to everything they said and kept those words in her heart. When the shepherds left, they told all their friends what they had seen and what they had been told. Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with joy.

Dec. 16 After Jesus was born, the Wise Men arrived in Jerusalem. They had been following a bright star. They stopped at

King Herod's palace and asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" The Wise Men explained that they had seen His star rise and came to praise Him. Let us pray:
All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with joy.

Dec. 17 King Herod was jealous. He called his advisors. He asked if they knew what the Wise Men were talking about. His advisors explained that long ago, a prophet had written that in Bethlehem, a king would come who would be a leader of the Israelite people. King Herod told the Wise Men that the Child could be found in Bethlehem. King Herod then wanted them to return and tell him about what they had found, so he could honor the Child also. Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with joy.



The Fourth Week in Advent

Dec. 18 The Wise Men followed the star again. They followed this bright star until it stopped. The star stopped above the place where Jesus was. The Wise Men went inside and saw Mary and Jesus. They knelt before Jesus and praised Him. The Wise Men gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Afterward, the Wise Men were warned in a dream not to return to King Herod. They returned to their country using a different route. Let us pray:

All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with love.

Dec. 19 The Wise Men departed from King Herod and went home a different way. The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him. Joseph rose and took the child and Mary by night. He departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of King Herod. The prophet Jeremiah predicted this would happen when he stated, "Out of Egypt I called my son." Let us pray:
All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with love.

Dec. 20 When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the Wise Men, he became furious. He ordered the killing of all the boys in Bethlehem if they were two years old and younger. Let us pray:
All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with love.

Dec. 21 Years later, when Herod had died, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel. For those who wanted to kill the child Jesus are dead." Joseph rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. Joseph set up a carpenter's shop in the town of Nazareth. Jesus grew in wisdom, age and grace. Let us pray:
All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with love.

Dec. 22 When the days were completed for their purification, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every males that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord. Let us pray:
All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with love.

Dec. 23 On Christmas Day, we celebrate God's greatest gift to us, Jesus. We celebrate the presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist – His body, blood, soul, and divinity We celebrate the love God has for us, individually and for all peoples throughout the world. We celebrate by sharing the love of Jesus with each other. Let us pray:
All: Come, Lord Jesus, and light our way with love