



# Advent Prayers



**CALVARY**  
CHURCH OF SANTA ANA



# Advent Prayers

*This guide is a resource for the season of Advent leading up to Christmas. May it stir your heart's affection and mind's attention toward the coming of Jesus Christ.*

*For the first week of Advent there are two focuses: "advent" and "hope." For the first half of the week concentrate on the "advent" section and for the second half, shift your attention to the "hope" section. In the following three weeks, each week has its own Advent focus: joy, peace, and love. We encourage you to engage with the content and then spend time in prayerful reflection with the Lord.*

“For God alone  
my soul waits  
in silence; from  
him comes  
my salvation.”

Psalm 62:1

# Week 1: ADVENT & HOPE

## Advent

December 3-6, 2023

### Opening Prayer:

*“Lord, here I am. I open my heart to you today. As I consider **advent** today, may your Holy Spirit come move in me and speak to me as you will. Amen.”*

### Scripture:

Slowly read the Scriptures of the first half of the week:

*“I **wait** for the LORD, my soul **waits**, and in his word I hope” Psalm 130:5*

*“But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly **wait** for it with perseverance. Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Romans 8:25-26*

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The word “advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” Traditionally spanning four weeks, it is a period characterized by the quiet and joyful expectancy of God’s people – an anticipatory waiting for the Messiah, Jesus, to arrive. In this season, we not only look back in celebration to his birth, we also look forward in longing to his second coming. We have a sure hope as followers of Jesus in our waiting, that one day he will come again to reign and restore all things.

Waiting is difficult for many people. When the end and outcome is not in sight, it does not come naturally for most of us to wait patiently and expectantly. In Scripture we see that Mary, the mother of Jesus,

displays patient and affectionate waiting for something to happen even though what was about to happen did not seem natural at all. Nevertheless, God has the power to achieve something within us that surpasses our expectations. In fact, she responds to the angel Gabriel saying, *“I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true”* (Luke 1:38). What trust! Mary trusted so deeply that her waiting remained open to any potential outcome.

Waiting in this open-ended way is a profound approach to life. It means letting go of control, trusting that God is in control, and believing that something will happen to us that is far beyond what we can imagine. It’s about not trying to dictate our future, but allowing God to define and guide our journey. It’s the idea that God works in us and forms according to his love, not our fear.

### Reflective Prayer:

*“Lord, what am I waiting for right now? What is it I am praying for?”*

*“Lord, what fears come up as I consider my waiting? What is your invitation for me here? What is it for me to give up control?”*

*“Lord, what is it for me to hope as I wait?”*

*“Lord, in this season of Advent, expectant waiting for our Messiah Jesus to be born, what feelings come up for me? What does this mean to me?”*

### Blessing:

Open your heart and posture yourself to receive this advent blessing.

In this advent season, “may you **wait**  
patiently for the Lord. May you be brave  
and courageous, yes **wait** patiently  
for the Lord.” Psalm 27:14

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# Hope

December 6-9, 2023

## Opening Prayer:

*“Lord, here I am. I open my heart to you today. As I consider **hope** today, may your Holy Spirit come move in me and speak to me as you will. Amen.”*

## Scripture:

Slowly read the Scriptures of the first half of the week:

*“Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my **hope** comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.”  
Psalm 62:5-6*

*“At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.” Luke 2:25-26*

*“But if we **hope** for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Romans 8:25-26*

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While we wait, we may notice that praying becomes increasingly challenging. Yet, we remember that the Holy Spirit has been advocating for us all along. We recognize that we have not prayed in isolation, but that our prayers have been held, accompanied, and supported by the intercession of the Holy Spirit on our behalf. Even now, he is praying for you! How does this hit you? Is this surprising?



Shocking? Comforting? Our God Almighty, the Lord of Lords, bends down to listen (Psalm 116:2) and joins us to intercede for us. The Trinity talks amongst Himself on our behalf! Such a mystery may leave us without words, but it does not take away our hope!

In Luke 2, we see that the Holy Spirit gave Simeon the patience to wait. It's this very Spirit who helps us have patience and hope in God and his promises, even when life presents challenges. We don't give up in opening our hearts to the Lord. Where else would we go? Like Simeon, we yearn for God himself! Waiting on God demonstrates faith and waiting instills hope.

### **Reflective Prayer:**

*“Lord, what does it look like for me to hope in you in general, but also in my day-to-day life?”*

One of the indicators of maturity is the ability to delay instant gratification, to wait patiently with desire, yet to wait in hope.

*“Lord, how do I wait in hope? What would it be for me to hope in the dark, in the mystery of what is going on in my life?”*

*“Lord, renew my hope in you!”*

### **Blessing:**

Open your heart and posture yourself to receive this advent blessing.

In this advent season, “may the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in **hope**.”

Romans 15:13

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# Week 2: JOY

December 10-16, 2023

## Opening Prayer:

*"Lord, here I am. I open my heart to you today. As I consider advent **joy** today, may your Holy Spirit come move in me and speak to me as you will. Amen."*

## Scripture:

Slowly read the Scriptures of the week:

*"...the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great **joy** to all people." Luke 2:10*

*"I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my **joy**. Yes, your **joy** will overflow!" John 15:11*

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Biblical joy is more than a feeling. Rather, it's more of a lasting emotion or capacity we have that comes from the choice to trust that God will fulfill his promises. As followers of Jesus, joy is an attitude that we embrace. We are already joyful now because we know the story of Christmas and the story to come - Jesus did come to us as God in flesh and he will come again. While we wait, we choose joy to anticipate the future redemption. This is why Christ's coming is significant - it was announced as good news that brings great joy! Our expectation leads to joy and joy is a key component in the life of being in Christ. Jesus taught us to abide in God's love that his joy may be in us, and that our joy may be made full. (John 15:9-11). Abiding in God's love provides the unshakable source of joy, which is in turn the source of peace, which is based in the reality of God's grace and goodness. It is his Spirit and the reality of our abiding relationship with him that enables our lives to be a joyous journey with him.

### Reflective Prayer:

*“Lord, when I think of joy and what it means, do I feel like I am a joyful person?”*

*“Lord, where am I finding it hard to have joy in my life currently? What is making it hard to have joy in my current situations/relationships/life circumstances?”*

*“Lord, what would it be to enter into your joy?”*

### Blessing:

Open your heart and posture yourself to receive this advent blessing.

In this advent season, “may the God of hope fill you with all **joy** and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

Romans 15:13

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# Week 3: PEACE

December 17-23, 2023

## Opening Prayer:

*“Lord, here I am. I open my heart to you today. As I consider advent **peace** today, may your Holy Spirit come move in me and speak to me as you will. Amen.”*

## Scripture:

Slowly read the Scriptures of the week:

*“Glory to God in highest heaven, and **peace** on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” Luke 2:14*

*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of **Peace**. His government and its **peace** will never end.” Isaiah 9:6-7a*

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The Old Testament Hebrew word for peace is “shalom.” Shalom means “complete” or “whole.” Think of it like a solid stone wall. As long as all the bricks are in their place and the wall is whole and complete, everything is good. But if any bricks are missing or not where they should be, things start to go wrong – the shalom begins to break down. Isaiah the prophet foretold of the Messiah being a “Prince of Shalom.” As Jesus walked the earth, he offered his peace to others and as he shared about the coming of the Holy Spirit, he shared the peace that he is leaving with his followers (John 14:27).

In a world full of conflict, differing opinions, angst, and pain, embracing a peaceful way of life can be difficult. It involves joining in the way of Jesus, who, through his death and resurrection, brought



true peace by reconciling everything in both heaven and on earth. Peace isn't just about making conflict stop; it's also about fixing what's broken and making it whole again. This applies to our personal lives, relationships, and situations, often involving forgiveness.

### **Reflective Prayer:**

*"Lord, what are specific areas of my life and my heart that need your shalom? What are these places that need your fixing, healing, and transformation to make me whole?"*

*In Philippians we are encouraged to not "worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."*

*Take a few moments and tell God what you need, thank him for what he has done, and trust that he will give you his peace - he will make you whole again.*

*Spend some time praying for God's peace for your friends and family, for Calvary Church, for Orange County, for our country, and for the world.*

### **Blessing:**

Open your heart and posture yourself to receive this advent blessing.

In this advent season, "May the Lord of  
**peace** himself give you **peace** at all times  
in every way. The Lord be with you."

2 Thessalonians 3:16

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# Week 4: LOVE

December 24-25, 2023

## Opening Prayer:

*"Lord, here I am. I open my heart to you today. As I consider advent **love** today, may your Holy Spirit come move in me and speak to me as you will. Amen."*

## Scripture:

Slowly read the Scriptures of the week:

*"God showed how much he **loved** us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real **love**—not that we **loved** God, but that he **loved** us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." 1 John 4:9-10*

*"**Love** is patient and kind. **Love** is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. **Love** never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

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This advent love we are talking about here is the New Testament Greek word, "Agape." This love is not necessarily a feeling or emotion we have for another person, but it goes deeper – it is an action-oriented type of love; one that is sacrificial. At advent we remember and rejoice that God sent Jesus into the world as an act of love. In fact God himself is love (1 John 4:8)! Jesus is the perfect example of what it looks like to be a person of love and as we journey throughout our lives, one of the hopes and goals is that we will know God's love for us more and more and that we, too, will be transformed into being a person of agape love. As we look to Jesus, we see how he lived and learn how to grow and mature into people

of love who have the character of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 13 we find a biblical definition of love. Since the Holy Spirit is the main agent of change in our lives, we willingly open to him and his power, inviting him to come to us, bring about transformation, nurture our growth, and lead us to become individuals who receive and internalize his love more and more, but also become people of love.

### **Reflective Prayer:**

*God loves you more than you know. Ask the Lord, “Lord, will you show me how you see me? Lord, help me to experience your love. How are you loving me now?”*

*Ask the Lord, “Lord, teach me about myself. Is there a certain part of me that is resistant to loving you? What makes it hard for me to love you? What are parts of my heart that are not loving you, others, or myself? What does stepping into transformation look like?”*

*Ask the Lord, “Lord, what is it to love my neighbor as myself? How do I love myself? How can I love my neighbor in the same way?” Open to the Lord about this.*

### **Blessing:**

Open your heart and posture yourself to receive this advent blessing.

In this advent season, “may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his **love** is. May you experience the **love** of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.”

Ephesians 3:18-19

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Come and see how all are welcomed at the table in our 4-part Advent Series “The Christmas Table” – wrapping up on Christmas Eve with a meaningful celebration together at one of our Candlelight services.

Our prayer is that you experience more of God’s hope, joy, peace and love through the Sunday services and special events this Christmas at Calvary.

**[CalvaryLife.org/Christmas](https://CalvaryLife.org/Christmas)**



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