

# And Jesus Came

An Advent Devotional



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ISBN:  
ISBN-13:

## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to Edward and Gloria Borden, my wonderful parents, who taught us to observe Advent and keep Christ at the center of our Christmas celebration.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Art work courtesy of Michelle K Sallee

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# CELEBRATING ADVENT

## What is Advent?

The word Advent means “coming” – celebrating Advent means celebrating the *coming* of Jesus. This is three fold for our family:

1. His historical coming – as in His physical birth over 2000 years ago.
2. His coming into our hearts – the moment in time that we commit our hearts and lives to Jesus (as the Christmas hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem so eloquently describes: ”O holy child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in; **Be born in us today**”)
3. His prophetic final coming in the last days – the ultimate return of Jesus Christ for which we wait expectantly!

## When is Advent?

The season of Advent begins four weeks before Christmas. This year it is Sunday December 2, 2012

- Advent 2013 begins on the First Sunday in Advent, December 1, 2013
- Advent 2014 begins on the First Sunday in Advent, November 30, 2014
- Advent 2015 begins on the First Sunday in Advent, November 29, 2015
- Advent 2016 begins on the First Sunday in Advent, November 27, 2016

## Celebrating Advent

Celebrating Advent helps you to set aside time every day or at least once a week to concentrate on the true meaning of Christmas. We have celebrated advent in our family several ways over the years but our main annual tradition that we have always done is having an advent wreath and weekly family devotional service.

## The Wreath



The Advent wreath is in a circle which represents eternity and is surrounded by evergreens which represent life...eternal life. The wreath is decorated with five candles....one for each of the four Sundays before Christmas and one for Christmas Eve.

The first candle (purple) symbolizes hope – the hope that the Messiah would come

The second candle (purple) symbolizes love – Gods love towards us for sending His Son Jesus to save us from our sins

The third candle (pink) symbolizes joy – the joy we find in Christ and His coming

The fourth candle (purple) symbolizes peace – the peace that comes in knowing Christ as Lord and Savior

The fifth candle is the Christ candle (white in center) which symbolizes purity

The wreath is always in the center of our table so everyday we are reminded of the Advent season.

## The Family Advent Service or Devotional

We have our weekly advent service every Sunday evening during dessert. We always dim the lights and set the table with some festive

china...we want to make it a special time that the kids look forward to! We use a simple advent devotional book that is not too cumbersome so we don't lose the attention of the younger children. Our service includes – scripture reading, lighting of the advent candle, a short story, singing some Christmas hymns & prayer. Different family members take part in each aspect of the service so everyone is involved. (they love that!)

After our service we enjoy yummy desserts & egg nog, hot apple cider or cocoa while we savor family time together. Having a weekly Advent family service I believe has been one of the key components of keeping Jesus the focus of our Christmas season.



# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## *JESUS CAME... TO SEEK AND TO SAVE*

### Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father.

Help us prepare our hearts and minds to focus on Jesus during this Christmas season. Thank you for loving us and sending your Son, Jesus Christ to save us and give us eternal life!

In His Name we pray, Amen

### Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-6

Luke 19:10

### Candlelighting

We light this first candle of Advent – the candle of Hope. This candle reminds us that God made a promise to His people. He gave them hope by promising to send a Messiah. Let hope enter our hearts as we wait for the Messiah, Jesus Christ to come again!

### Discussion

Discuss the meanings of the scriptures read. Emphasize and expand on what Jesus meant when He said He came to “seek and to save the lost”.

### Questions

Who do you know that is “walking in darkness” and needs the light of Jesus to come into their life?

Make a prayer list of these people to pray for then during this Advent season that the light of Jesus might come into their darkness.

# Praise and Worship

## O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:

Chorus:  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God  
Glory in the highest:

Chorus:  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing!

Chorus:  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

## **Prayer**

Lord,

Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus to come into our darkness and be our eternal light. Help us to remember the true meaning of this season. AS Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, let us share the good news of the gospel to those who are in darkness.

In His precious name we pray, Amen

## **The Advent Blessing**

May the Lord bless you this Advent season with His hope, love, joy and peace as you celebrate the birth of His only Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### *JESUS CAME...TO TAKE AWAY OUR SIN*

#### Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Let us always remember the true meaning of Christmas as we celebrate this year. Help us truly prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. In Jesus name, Amen

#### Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

John 1:29

Romans 5:8

#### Candlelighting

We light this second candle of Advent – the candle of Love. May our hearts be filled with the love of Jesus, now and forever. May we reflect upon God's greatest gift of love, His Son, Jesus!

#### Discussion

Discuss the scriptures read. Share what it means that Jesus came to save us from our sins. Why do we need to be saved and how exactly did Jesus do this?

#### Questions

When did you accept Jesus Christ as your savior? Share your salvation story

# Praise and Worship

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born to us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel

## O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:

Chorus:  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God  
Glory in the highest:

Chorus:  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing!

Chorus:  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

## **Prayer**

Father God

Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. Remind us throughout this Advent and Christmas season that salvation is truly the greatest gift we could ever receive. We love you!  
In Jesus name, Amen

## **The Advent Blessing**

May the Lord bless you this Advent season with His hope, love, joy and peace as you celebrate the birth of His only Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### ***JESUS CAME...TO GIVE US ABUNDANT LIFE***

#### **Opening Prayer**

Almighty God,

We thank you for this beautiful Christmas season and all the lovely sights and sounds that surround us as a reminder of your goodness. Help us to continue to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child. In Jesus name, Amen

#### **Scripture Reading**

Luke 2:1-11

John 10:10

#### **Candlelighting**

We light this third candle of Advent – the candle of Joy. Jesus birth brought great joy to the shepherds in the fields that night. In the almost 2000 years since then, He has brought great joy to many hearts and lives. Let the light of that joy shine from us to all those who need God's touch this season.

#### **Discussion**

Discuss what it means to have abundant life. Have everyone share their picture of an abundant life. Discuss what you think God's definition of an abundant life.

#### **Questions**

What brings you the greatest joy and happiness?

How can you help someone else to experience a more abundant life this Christmas season?

## **Praise and Worship**

### **O Come All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:

Chorus:

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God  
Glory in the highest:

Chorus:

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing!

Chorus:

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord

## Joy to the World

Joy to the World , the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father

Thank you the great joy you give in Jesus. Help us to continue to look to Him to be the center of our joy. Open our eyes to those around us who need extra blessings in their lives this Christmas season  
In Jesus name, Amen

## **The Advent Blessing**

May the Lord bless you this Advent season with His hope, love, joy and peace as you celebrate the birth of His only Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### ***JESUS CAME...TO SERVE***

#### **Opening Prayer**

O Lord,

We ask that you would keep our hearts and minds focused on you during this Advent season and upcoming Christmas celebration. Help us always to remember the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! In His name we pray, Amen

#### **Scripture Reading**

Luke 2:12-20

Matthew 20:28

#### **Candlelighting**

We light this fourth candle of Advent – the candle of Peace. We take the time to pull away from the busy pace of the season to focus on the peace Jesus brought into the world and into our lives.

#### **Discussion**

Discuss what it means to serve and be a servant. Share what you think Jesus meant when He said He came to serve and give His life.

#### **Questions**

How do you feel about being a servant?

Name one thing that you can do to practice servant hood this Christmas season

# Praise and Worship

## Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the King  
And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born to us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel

## **Prayer**

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for coming to earth as a servant who was willing to give your life for each of us. Help us to love and serve those around us every day and to serve you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We love you! In your most precious and holy name, Amen

## **The Advent Blessing**

May the Lord bless you this Advent season with His hope, love, joy and peace as you celebrate the birth of His only Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

# CHRISTMAS EVE

## *JESUS CAME!*

### Opening Prayer

Father God,

We praise you and thank you for this very special night. We want to stop and remember that first Christmas Eve when the baby Jesus was born in a stable and welcomed to the world by barn animals and shepherds. Be born in us anew tonight as we celebrate that glorious Christmas Eve!  
In Jesus name, Amen

### Scripture Reading

John 1:1-12

John 3:16

### Candlelighting

We light the Christ candle to remind us of the purity of Christ. The evergreen wreath reminds us of the eternal, unchanging love of God. May the four candles: hope, love, joy and peace fill our hearts with the Light of the world – Jesus!

### Discussion/Reflection

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Jesus came to die for our sins. Jesus came to give abundant life and Jesus came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. This Christmas Eve let us all world and changed history. Then let us reflect on that moment in time when Jesus, the very Son of God, came into our hearts and changed our lives for eternity!

## Sharing

Have each person pray a short prayer thanking the Lord for touching their lives.

## Praise and Worship

### Silent Night

Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Saviour is born  
Christ, the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth "

## **O Holy Night!**

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.  
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, the night when Christ was born;  
O night, O Holy Night , O night divine!  
O night, O Holy Night , O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another,  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.  
And in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,  
His power and glory ever more proclaim!  
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

## **O Come All Ye Faithful (Refrain)**

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

We give Him all the glory,  
We give Him all the glory,  
We give Him all the glory,  
Christ the Lord

For He alone is worthy,  
For He alone is worthy,  
For He alone is worthy,  
Christ the Lord

# Prayer

Heavenly Father

We do adore you! Thank you for the greatest gift ever given – the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Be born again in our lives tonight. We love you!

In Jesus Name, Amen

# The Advent Blessing

May the Lord bless you this Christmas with His hope, love, joy and peace as you celebrate the birth of His only Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

### ***JESUS IS COMING AGAIN***

#### **Light all Candles**

#### **Scripture Reading**

Revelation 3:20

Revelation 22: 12-17; 20

#### **Discussion/Sharing**

Jesus is coming again! The word clearly tells us that Jesus is going to come back for His children. Discuss His second coming and the assurance we can have as Christians that we will go with Him when He comes.

#### **Praise and Worship**

##### **Joy to the World**

Joy to the World , the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

### **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  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

## **Prayer**

Dear Lord

We look forward to your second coming and we ask that you would keep us in the center of your will as we await your return. Come quickly Lord Jesus! Amen!

## **Benediction**

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Beth Lambdin** has been inspiring and motivating others to live a life of passion, purpose and praise for well over two decades as a youth leader, teacher, speaker, author and through personal life coaching. She is available to speak at meetings, seminars, conferences or retreats. Beth is a recovering "control freak" but hopelessly addicted to coffee and dark

chocolate. She got a "sweet deal" on a husband who has been her best friend for 25 years and is a Mommy to eight blessings...so far! Beth has been faithfully following, at times failing yet always pressing forward with her Lord Jesus, since 1979.