



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



# CROSSROADS PRESBYTERIAN FELLOWSHIP

ADVENT 2025

## PARTICIPATING IN **GOD'S STORY**

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We love good stories. The best stories have a way of capturing our imaginations and making us believe, if only for a moment, that we belong in them. The Bible has an explanation for this. It tells us that God is writing the story of all stories, and we were created to inhabit His drama of redemption.

Since antiquity, the church has rehearsed and participated in God's story by keeping time differently than the rest of the culture. Of course, the church still counts days and hours, but the seasons of its calendar are inspired by the annual feasts and celebrations of God's people in Scripture. The church calendar (also known as the Christian or liturgical calendar) is an aid that helps Christians orient their lives around the biblical story. The seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost tell the story of the good news of Jesus and the work of the Spirit in the life of the Church.

**ADVENT:** Waiting, preparation, and anticipation for the coming of Christ.

**CHRISTMAS:** The mystery of God becoming man in the person of Jesus.

**EPIPHANY:** The revelation of Jesus Christ to the world.

**LENT:** A 40-day period of penitence, self-examination, and preparation.

**EASTER:** A 50-day celebration of the Resurrection.

**PENTECOST:** The arrival of the Holy Spirit and birth of the church.

Our default setting is to let cultural holidays, sports seasons, and entertainment dictate our rhythms. Inevitably, this pattern leaves us feeling tired and restless in a confusing story. The beauty of the church calendar is that it transforms something as basic as time into a means of discipleship and Christian formation

As we dramatize the gospel with common colors, postures, songs, prayers, and disciplines, we are united in time with Christians all over the world— watching, anticipating, celebrating, longing, lamenting, and living together in one common story. Advent is the beginning of the new church year and a chance for us to set up rhythms of prayer and worship that fortify us in a culture of competing stories.

## THE SEASON OF **ADVENT**

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Advent means “coming,” and its posture is that of longing, expectation, and waiting. During this time, the church looks back to Jesus’ first coming and looks forward to his coming again. This world is broken. We feel the impact of sin and death in almost every aspect of life. In light of this, the cry of Advent is a cry for help from those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin. It is also the cry of hope from those who await God’s deliverance. Advent calls us to wait and prepare for Jesus’ coming by repenting and believing.

The dominant color of advent is purple, which stands for royalty, symbolizing the coming of the king. The Scripture readings that accompany Advent are drawn from Old Testament messianic prophecies and New Testament messianic fulfillment passages. Common disciplines within the church during this season include confessing sin, acknowledging and lamenting the brokenness in the world, longing for a redeemer, and rehearsing the promises of God.

## HOW TO USE THIS **DEVOTIONAL**

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This devotional is designed to be practiced with others (spouses, children, roommates), but it can serve as a personal devotional as well. Each day guides you through a reflection, call to prayer, song, advent reading, discussion, prayer, and benediction.

### **CROSSROADS KIDS** TRACK

To assist children, Nathan Sharpton has added a section to connect the minds and bodies of kids to the reading for that day. For a more accessible bible translation, consider reading from the New Living Translation.

### **MUSIC**

When you come to a song you can sing a verse printed in the back of this book, listen to a recording, or simply read the lyrics since carols are poetry with rich theology. A **Crossroads Advent playlist** is available on Spotify/Apple Music in the links below to reinforce the themes of this devotional. Visit our church website for digital links to those playlists.

Let's enter into this new church year by rehearsing the gospel story together and asking the Lord to prepare our hearts for the advent of the Christ.

Maranatha,  
Rev. Josiah Green

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### **ADVENT PLAYLIST**

[spotify](#)//[Apple Music](#)

### **ARTWORK**

By Emily Engelhardt

## ARTWORK BY **EMILY ENGELHARDT**

As I began sketching ideas, I found myself starting to incorporate the familiar feeding trough in the manger scene. As I sat with this scene, my desire grew for baby Jesus to be held by Mary. There is a powerful and true juxtaposition of Jesus needing to be held in His delicacy, and yet His glory necessitates their posture of kneeling. I have a love for animals and felt it natural to frame Jesus, Mary, and Joseph with the animals in the manger. “All Creatures of Our God and King” is my favorite hymn, and my hand couldn’t help but start sketching a little kitten in awe of the Messiah.

As for the other images, I pulled the same colors while zooming out to capture the vastness of God’s grace with the guiding star. The gold color represents the holiness of Christ while the bright coral red hints at Christ’s human suffering. The palm leaves throughout foreshadow Christ’s path. In one of the images, we see the other side of the hill where the wise men are traveling toward Christ. Upon meditation, I was led to portray the intense anticipation of what they knew was awaiting them. In all of their obedience and wonder, they took one step at a time to offer Christ the Messiah what they had.

Each image feels applicable to me today — no matter how close He feels, there is a guiding light to be followed in the dark. And this light will take us all the way to the most humble and most glorious place.



## FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

### REFLECTION

Advent is designed to show that the meaning of Christmas is diminished to the vanishing point if we are not willing to take a fearless inventory of the darkness.

*Flemming Rutledge, 21st century*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
Serve the LORD with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!  
Know that the LORD, he is God!  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

*Psalms 100:1–3*

### SONG

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

### CROSSROADS KIDS

What does it feel like to wait for a promise? Before beginning the devotional, make a promise to the child. This promise can be something small, like a treat or an activity, that the children will look forward to after reading together. Now ask, “what are two feelings you have when you’re waiting for a promise to come true?”

### ADVENT READING

Genesis 3:1–15

*The Fall of Man and the first promise of the Messiah is revealed.*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when



## ADVENT READING

Genesis 3:1–15

*The Fall of Man and the first promise of the Messiah is revealed.*

you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” 11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” 14 The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

## DISCUSS

How does the text reveal the impact of sin on our relationship with creation, other people, and our creator?

## PRAYER

- Pray for our students—that they would have open hearts and open minds to receive and respond to God’s Word.
- Pray for family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who are suffering.

## BENEDICTION

**Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

*Psalms 27:14*

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## FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

### REFLECTION

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.

That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

*2 Corinthians 1:20*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,  
and to you shall vows be performed.

O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.

When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.

Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,  
to dwell in your courts!

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
the holiness of your temple!

*Psalms 65:1–4*

### SONG

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

### CROSSROADS KIDS

In the passage for today, the Lord makes a big promise and uses the number of stars in the sky as the example of how big the promise is.

Step outside and count the stars. See who can count the highest! If it is cloudy, look up how many stars are in the milkyway galaxy alone.



## ADVENT READING

Genesis 22:15–18  
*God's promise to Abraham.*

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

## DISCUSS

God said, “By myself I have sworn...” Why do you think God chose to confirm His promise with an oath? What does this action tell us about the certainty and reliability of His word?

God promised that in Abraham’s “offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.” Who is the ultimate “offspring” that fulfills this promise and how do you become a descendent of Him? See Galatians 3:27-29

## PRAYER

- Pray for marriages to be places of mutual love, joy, and honor.
- Pray for those who are sick or suffer from chronic pain.
- Tim & Rachel Price (RUF, WashU) - Pray for the freshmen at WashU to have open hearts towards God and one another, and for student leaders to continue serving with a Christlike heart. Pray that as Tim studies and teaches Scripture, he will love the Lord more deeply and glorify him.

## BENEDICTION

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

*Psalms 27:14*

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## FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

### REFLECTION

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry  
In the dawning of the King  
He the theme of heaven's praises  
Robed in frail humanity  
In our longing in our darkness  
Now the light of life has come  
Look to Christ who condescended  
Took on flesh to ransom us

*Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy name!

*Psalm 97:12*

### SONG

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

### CROSSROADS KIDS

Ask your children to think about a story with a bad king (It could be from a movie or a book). What makes a king bad? Now imagine a story with a good king! What makes a king good? What kind of King do we read about in Ps. 72? If this passage is about Jesus, what kind of king is he?

### ADVENT READING

Psalm 72:1-4,12-19

*A Divine King Shall Reign*

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! 2 May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice! 3 Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! 4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! 12 For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has

## ADVENT READING

Psalm 72:1-4,12-19

*A Divine King Shall Reign*

no helper. 13 He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. 14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight. 15 Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him! May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day! 16 May there be abundance of grain in the land; on the tops of the mountains may it wave; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field! 17 May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed! 18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. 19 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!

## DISCUSS

Psalm 72 describes a king who rules with justice, cares for the poor, and brings peace. Which of these qualities stands out to you the most, and why do you think it matters for the people he leads?

How does this picture of a good king help you imagine the kind of world God wants to create through Jesus?

## PRAYER

- That the Lord would raise up new leaders and hosts who will extend the hospitality of our community to the many new attendees calling Crossroads home.
- Vasyl & Viktoria Agarkov (MTW, Ukraine) - Pray for the children of Ukraine who have lost their families. For the Agarkov family in particular, pray that their children will adjust well to changing rhythms, and that their many needs related to raising children would be met.

## BENEDICTION

**Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

*Psalm 27:14*

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## FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

### REFLECTION

In a very real sense, the Christian community lives in Advent all the time... The disappointment, brokenness, suffering, and pain that characterize life in this present world is held in dynamic tension with the promise of future glory that is yet to come. In that Advent tension, the church lives its life."

*Fleming Rutledge*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Who is this King of glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!

*Psalm 24:8–10*

### SONG

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

### CROSSROADS KIDS

Hide an object in the house and don't give any hints on how to find it. After they can't find it, make a sign that directs them where to go. Now listen of the hints in the passage about how to find Jesus when he arrives.

### ADVENT READING

Isaiah 7:14

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet Isaiah.*

7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

## ADVENT READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet Isaiah.*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For to 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. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## DISCUSS

Which name in v.6 stands out to you and why?

What do the names of the promised Messiah tell us about Him?

## PRAYER

- Pray for women who long to be mothers—that they would rest in the arms of a loving and compassionate God.
- Pray for the volunteers and teachers at Crossroads—that they would be energized, prepared, and filled with the Spirit as they speak truth and love into the hearts of our Crossroads Kids.
- Daniel & Emi Kawasaki (Serge, Japan) - Pray that the young people of Japan will come to know the Lord through various local church and missionary efforts. Pray for joyful adjustments as Daniel and the Serge team in Nagoya welcome a new teammate this year.

## BENEDICTION

**Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

*Psalm 27:14*

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## FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

### REFLECTION

He became what we are that He might make us what He is.

*Athanasius, 4th century*

### CALL TO PRAYER

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress,  
my God in whom I trust."

*Psalms 91:1–2*

### SONG

O Day of Peace

### CROSSROADS KIDS

Ask your kids which animals go well together and which animals don't go well together. Do lambs like to play with wolves? What about leopards and goats? What about lions and cows? It would be very scary for some of these animals to play with wolves, leopards and lions. The Bible describes a peace that will come over the whole earth that will make everyone and everything feel safe.

### ADVENT READING

Isaiah 11:1–9

*A shoot shall come forth from the stump of Jesse.*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall

## ADVENT READING

Isaiah 11:1–9

*A shoot shall come forth from the stump of Jesse.*

be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. 6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. 9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

## DISCUSS

Isaiah paints a picture of a world where even natural enemies live in peace. How does this vision of harmony and safety give you hope? This prophecy points to God's ultimate plan for creation. How does it encourage you to trust that God is at work, even in a world of division and strife?

## PRAYER

- For unity in Christ to overpower division in the church.
- Pray for the art community (musicians, artists, writers)— that their work will be a source of truth, beauty, and light, directing others to the Creator.
- Travis Hutchinson (RUF, Brown University + RISD) - Pray that the Lord would put the desire to be a part of a campus fellowship into the hearts of students. Pray that the Lord strengthens RUF campus ministers like Travis as they share life with students on campus.

## BENEDICTION

**Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

*Psalms 27:14*

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## FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

### REFLECTION

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are.

*1 Corinthians 1:27–28*

### CALL TO PRAYER

And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall  
come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.

*Matthew 2:6*

### SONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful

### CROSSROADS KIDS

Find a small toy or object that fits in your child's hand that's important to them? Micah says Bethlehem is "too little to be among the clans of Judah." Why do you think God chose a small, unimportant town like Bethlehem for the birthplace of the heavenly king?

### ADVENT READING

Micah 5:2–4

*The glory of little Bethlehem is foretold by the prophet Micah.*

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 days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

## **DISCUSS**

What are some examples of God using the seemingly small and insignificant things, places, or people for His purposes?

The prophecy ends by saying, “they shall dwell secure” and He “shall be great to the ends of the earth.” What does it mean for you to feel secure because Jesus is your great King and Shepherd?

## **PRAYER**

- For opportunities to share the love of Christ with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.
- Pray for fathers—that they would look first to Jesus for strength and protection, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide them as they lead and love their families well.
- Pau & Kim Gualnam (Presbyterian Mission International) - Pray for restored peace in the state of Manipur, India, and for the Gualnams’ visa interviews scheduled for May of 2026 to proceed smoothly. The Reformed School of Theology is working on a road project—pray that this proceeds well.

## **BENEDICTION**

**Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

*Psalms 27:14*





## SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

### REFLECTION

A Child in a foul stable,  
Where the beasts feed and foam;  
Only where He was homeless  
Are you and I at home

*G.K. Chesterton, 20th century*

### CALL TO PRAYER

For you, O Lord, do we wait;  
O my God, be not far from us!  
Make haste to help us,  
O Lord, of our salvation!

Psalm 38:15; 21–22

### SONG

The First Noel

### CROSSROADS KIDS

Sometimes people feel sad around Christmas. Can you think of any reasons why that might be? If you ever feel sad, did you know God wants you to pray to him because He wants to be with you. What is one thing you feel sad about that you want to tell God?

### ADVENT READING

Psalm 42

*Why are you cast down O my soul? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him.*

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. 2  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear  
before God? 3 My tears have been my food day and night, while they  
say to me all the day long, “Where is your God?” 4 These things



## ADVENT READING

Psalm 42

*Why are you cast down O my soul? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him.*

I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival. 5 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation 6 and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. 7 Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me. 8 By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. 9 I say to God, my rock: “Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?” 10 As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me all the day long, “Where is your God?” 11 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

## DISCUSS

What are some of the reasons why the psalmist’s soul is cast down? How can you relate? Have you taken your sadness to God? Why or why not?

## PRAYER

- For those who feel especially sad or lonely around Christmas.
- The homeless population— pray for shelter, warmth, food, and for local churches and ministries to be Christ’s hands and feet in meeting their essential needs.
- Pray for the comfort of parents who have lost children, either in the womb or in the world.

## BENEDICTION

The LORD your God is in your midst...he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

*Zephaniah 3:17*

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## SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

### REFLECTION

A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes - and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 20th century*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Those who look to him are radiant,

and their faces shall never be ashamed.

*Psalm 34:3,8,5*

### SONG

All Glory be to Christ

### CROSSROADS KIDS

Have you ever been lost and not known where your parents are? Did someone come and find you? The passage from Isaiah says, "All we like sheep have gone astray". In the same way we all need Jesus to come and find us when we are lost.



## ADVENT READING

Isaiah 53:2–6  
*The prophecies are confirmed.*

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

## DISCUSS

Isaiah 53 was written 700 years before Jesus was born, yet it speaks of his suffering in specific detail. What did Jesus have to endure so that we could be saved?

## PRAYER

- Pray for the brokenhearted parents whose children are not walking with the Lord, that they may know God is the perfect, loving Father.
- For our neighboring churches and their pastors — Pastors Erik Johnson at Concordia Lutheran and Aaron Halstead at Midcities Church. That the church would thrive and Maplewood would be blessed.
- Clarke & Khrystyia Norton (MTW, Ukraine) - Pray for continued unity at the Lviv Holy Trinity Church as it grows and searches for a larger worship space. For the Nortons, pray that the Lord will grant patience and clarity as they discern their calling and desire to return to Lviv.

## BENEDICTION

**The LORD your God is in your midst...he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.**

*Zephaniah 3:17*

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## SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

### REFLECTION

For outlandish creatures like us, on our way to a heart, a brain, and courage, Bethlehem is not the end of our journey but only the beginning – not home but the place through which we must pass if ever we are to reach home at last.

*Frederick Buechner, 20th century*

### CALL TO PRAYER

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.  
I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress,  
my God in whom I trust.”

*Psalm 91:1–2*

### SONG

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

### CROSSROADS KIDS

Ask your children to close their eyes because you want to give them a gift. Place a piece of chocolate or a small piece of candy in their hands. Then ask them to guess why you gave them a treat. It was a gift they didn't earn or deserve but you were delighted to give it. It was gift of grace. The gift that God gives us is by grace.

### ADVENT READING

Romans 3:21–28

*Righteousness by the Law of Faith through Christ.*

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption

## ADVENT READING

Romans 3:21–28

*Righteousness by the Law of Faith through Christ.*

that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

## DISCUSS

Why do we need the righteousness of Christ and how do we receive it? Where do you see yourself not believing/living as if this is true?

## PRAYER

- For leaders of government at the local and national level. Pray for integrity, a commitment to justice, and the humility to lead their communities with compassion and fairness, particularly toward the vulnerable.
- Pray that the Roseland Terrace property would be a blessing to our neighbors and facilitate ministry for years to come.
- Braden Carter (RUF, University of Washington) - Pray that many students at the University of Washington will come to know Christ. May the Lord equip Braden and the RUF student leaders to minister well to students, showing them the truths of the Gospel.

## BENEDICTION

The LORD your God is in your midst...he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

*Zephaniah 3:17*

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## SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

### REFLECTION

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

*Psalm 51:17*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

*Psalm 32:1–2*

### CONFESSION

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.  
You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

*Psalm 139:104*

### SONG

Angels we have Heard on high

### CROSSROADS KIDS

Have you ever broken something and covered it up? The reading today is about “repentance.” One way you can think about it is to turn towards a God and turn away from evil. It means rather than running away or hiding when we’ve done something bad, we say we are sorry and run to the God who loves us.

### ADVENT READING

Joel 2:11–14

*The Lord desires a repentant heart.*

The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it? 12 “Yet even now,”

## ADVENT READING

Joel 2:11–14

*The Lord desires a repentant heart.*

declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. 14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

## DISCUSS

According to this text, how does God respond to those who repent? Share a time when you experienced the kindness of God in the face of your sin.

## PRAYER

- Those struggling with addiction — pray for strength to take one day at a time, for renewed resolve, and for the grace of total surrender to Christ the Savior.
- For the men and women who are in prison and their families. Pray for their salvation, rehabilitation, and for the love of Christ to penetrate the darkness and isolation of their cells.
- Kirk & Anna Norris (RUF-I, WashU) – Pray that God would break through years of materialistic and atheistic thinking among unbelieving students, especially those from East Asia, making the Gospel plausible and attractive. Pray also for RUF-I’s campus registration to be approved and for a transformative summer conference.

## BENEDICTION

The LORD your God is in your midst...he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

*Zephaniah 3:17*

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## SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

### REFLECTION

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

*It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,  
who comforts us in all our affliction.

*2 Corinthians 1:3–4*

### SONG

O Holy Night

### CROSSROADS KIDS

Ask your child to run to their room and grab one item that makes them comfortable, like a blanket or a stuffed animal. Ask, “what are two things you feel when you have this item in your hands?” The passage we are about to read shows that God wants to comfort us in amazing ways.

### ADVENT READING

Isaiah 40:1–11  
*Comfort ye my people.*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

## ADVENT READING

Isaiah 40:1–11  
*Comfort ye my people.*

make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” 6 A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

## DISCUSS

How does this passage challenge your (or society's) view of who God is? How is God challenging and comforting you in this passage?

## PRAYER

- For family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who need God's comfort.
- Pray for the discouraged and disheartened, that the joy of the Lord's salvation will be their strength.
- Joe & Felicity Congdon (MTW, Japan) - Pray for revival in Tokyo, and for the provision of workers and funds to support Setagaya Grace Church where the Congdons serve. Pray that families in the Tokyo community group continue to grow together in faith.

## BENEDICTION

The LORD your God is in your midst...he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

*Zephaniah 3:17*

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## SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

### REFLECTION

It is as if a great king, having built a city and established it by order, were to find it attacked by robbers through the negligence of the citizens. He does not abandon it to ruin, but comes himself to restore it to order.

*St. Athanasius, 4th century*

### CALL TO PRAYER

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;  
the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

*Psalm 19:7-8*

### SONG

The First Noel

### CROSSROADS KIDS

What are some rules that your family has around the house? Why do we have rules? Can you name the reasons why rules can be good? (They protect what's important, they keep us safe, they keep us from hurting others). God gives us rules to show us what he cares most deeply about.

### ADVENT READING

Exodus 20:1–17

*The Law of God which we in our own strength cannot keep.*

And God spoke all these words, saying, 2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 “You shall have no other gods before me. 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God

## ADVENT READING

Exodus 20:1–17

*The Law of God which we in our own strength cannot keep.*

am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 7 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. 8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. 12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. 13 “You shall not murder. 14 “You shall not commit adultery. 15 “You shall not steal. 16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

## DISCUSS

Laws protect what we value. God’s law is a list of “shall nots” but it also tells us what is important to God. What do we learn about what God loves when we read the ten commandments?

## PRAYER

- For educators and teachers in public, private, and homeschool contexts.
- For local leaders — Mayor (Barry Greenberg), Police Chief (Matt Nighbor), Fire Chief (Pete Marsac) and Superintendent (Bonita Jamison).

## BENEDICTION

The LORD your God is in your midst...he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

*Zephaniah 3:17*

## END OF SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

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## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

### REFLECTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of God, of His boundless love, became what we are that He might make us what He Himself is.

*Irenaeus, 2nd century*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!  
For great is his steadfast love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Come, let us praise the Lord.

*Psalm 117*

### SONG

Angels We Have Heard On High

### CROSSROADS KIDS

Have you ever made a mistake and felt really bad about it—like you couldn't fix it no matter how hard you tried? The Bible says, "There is now no punishment for those who trust in Jesus." That means when we belong to God, He doesn't hold our mistakes against us anymore! Jesus took away the punishment so we can start fresh.

## ADVENT READING

Romans 8:1–4

*The fulfillment of the Law through Christ.*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

## DISCUSS

What joy and relief does this passage bring you?

Where do you see yourself still trying to fulfill the law to earn God's favor?

## PRAYER

- Those who have walked away from the Christian faith.
- Pray for our middle and high schoolers—that they would grow in their identity in Christ.
- Jason & Liz Polk (MTW) - Pray that Jason and Liz as they settle well into their various new ministry roles while remaining closely connected to MTW Ethiopia. For their children, pray for healthy adjustment to their life and home in St. Louis.

## BENEDICTION

The Lord is our light and our protector. He gives us grace and glory.  
No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who do what is right.  
Blessed are those who trust in him.

*Psalm 84:11-12*

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## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

### REFLECTION

What child is this? 'The Infinite has become a finite fact.' Everything depends on this, or the nativity story is just a child's fable that no thinking adult can believe.

*Flemming Rutledge, 21st century.*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Behold, this is our God

We have waited for Him, that he might save us.

This is the Lord; we have waited for Him;

let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.

*Isaiah 25:9*

### SONG

All Glory be to Christ

### CROSSROADS KIDS

Take a candle or a flashlight into a dark room. Without using the light, spread out in the room and try walk around and find. Now, do this again but one of you light the candle or flashlight. Jesus is the light that everyone is drawn to. No darkness can put out His light!



## ADVENT READING

Isaiah 60:1–4

*Arise, shine! for your light has come.*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. 3 And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. 4 Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

## DISCUSS

Why do you think people are drawn towards the light in the passage?  
How has someone shown you light in the midst of darkness?  
What are some ways we can reflect God's light to others?

## PRAYER

- Nations experiencing war/conflict— Pray for an immediate and lasting peace, for relief aid to reach the hurting, and for justice to prevail over aggression.
- Refugees and displaced persons— Pray for a welcome in new lands, for safe places to call home, and for the trauma of their journey to be eased.
- For friends, family members, and co-workers who do not know the love of Christ.

## BENEDICTION

The Lord is our light and our protector. He gives us grace and glory.  
No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who do what is right.  
Blessed are those who trust in him.

*Psalms 84:11-12*

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## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

### REFLECTION

Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through;  
The Cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

*William Dix, 19th century*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Come, Let us through Him continually offer up sacrifice of praise to God,  
that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name.

*Hebrews 13:15*

### SONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful

### CROSSROADS KIDS

What are your family's Christmas traditions? What's better, your traditions before Christmas or Christmas? While we love traditions, they are usually not as exciting as the feeling of Christmas morning. In a similar way, people in the Old Testament who had never seen Jesus practiced traditions that helped them look forward to Jesus.

### ADVENT READING

Hebrews 10:1–10

*Christ came to fulfill the need for an all-sufficient sacrifice for sins.*

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? 3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins

## ADVENT READING

Hebrews 10:1–10

*Christ came to fulfill the need for an all-sufficient sacrifice for sins.*

every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## DISCUSS

The text says Jesus “does away with the first in order to establish the second.” What is the “first” (the old way) that was done away with, and what is the “second” (the new way) that was established?

## PRAYER

- Pray for those caught in the frantic pace of the season; that they may find a moment of stillness to recognize the sacred waiting of Advent.
- Mental health workers— pray for strength, compassion, wisdom, and stamina for those who dedicate their careers to helping others navigate mental illness.
- For children in the foster care system and those who care for them.

## BENEDICTION

The Lord is our light and our protector. He gives us grace and glory.  
No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who do what is right.  
Blessed are those who trust in him.

*Psalm 84:11-12*

## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

### REFLECTION

Immanuel, God with us in our nature, in our sorrow, in our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendor.

*Charles Spurgeon, 19th century*

### CALL TO PRAYER

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

*Lamentations 3:25–26*

### SONG

O Come O Come Emmanuel

### CROSSROADS KIDS

What is your favorite meal around Christmas time? Do you know all the steps that go into preparing that meal for you?

### ADVENT READING

Luke 1:5–17

*The birth of John the Baptist is foretold to Zacharias.*

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. 8 Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and

## ADVENT READING

Luke 1:5–17

*The birth of John the Baptist is foretold to Zacharias.*

burn incense. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. 11 And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

## DISCUSS

Zechariah and Elizabeth were faithful to pray even when their prayers seemed unanswered. How does this story speak to you about hope that lasts through long waiting? Where might God be inviting you to keep asking, even when the outcome isn’t clear yet?

## PRAYER

- Pray for expecting mothers—that they would release fear and anxiety into the hands of a God who loves their child even more deeply than they can imagine.
- Those facing terminal illness— pray for courage, peace in accepting God’s sovereignty, and for the deep, abiding hope of eternal life to outweigh present suffering.

## BENEDICTION

The Lord is our light and our protector. He gives us grace and glory.  
No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who do what is right.  
Blessed are those who trust in him.

*Psalm 84:11-12*

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## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

### REFLECTION

It was not enough for God to make His Son our guide to the way; He made Him the Way itself. Therefore, the only Son of God was to come among men, to take the nature of men, and in this nature to be born as a man. He was to die, to rise again, to ascend into heaven, to sit at the right hand of the Father, and to fulfill His promises among the nations, and after that to come again.

*St. Augustine, 5th century*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed. O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come. When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions. Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!

*Psalms 65:1–4*

### SONG

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

### CROSSROADS KIDS

Because Zechariah didn't believe right away, the angel made him unable to speak until the baby was born. Imagine you couldn't talk for nine months! What do you think Zechariah did during all that quiet time? What does quiet time help you do?

### ADVENT READING

Luke 1:13–25

*Zacharias is struck dumb until the fulfillment of Gabriel's prophecy.*

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great before the Lord. And

## ADVENT READING

Luke 1:13–25

*Zacharias is struck dumb until the fulfillment of Gabriel's prophecy.*

he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." 18 And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." 19 And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." 21 And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. 22 And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. 23 And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. 24 After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, 25 "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

## DISCUSS

Zechariah's silence wasn't punishment so much as a pause, a time to listen and prepare. How do you experience God in moments of quiet or stillness? How can you intentionally seek solitude to be still before the Lord this week?

## PRAYER

- Pray for a spirit of self-examination and confession, asking the Light of the World to reveal hidden areas of sin that need to be cleared out to prepare the heart.

## BENEDICTION

**The Lord is our light and our protector. He gives us grace and glory.  
No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who do what is right.  
Blessed are those who trust in him.**

*Psalms 84:11-12*

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## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 20

### REFLECTION

We believe... in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man.

*The Nicene Creed, 4th century*

### CALL TO PRAYER

O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim,  
You alone are God.  
You alone are King over all the nations of the earth;  
You have made heaven and earth.

*Isaiah 37:16*

### SONG

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

### CROSSROADS KIDS

In the story we are about to read Mary shows us what it looks like to have faith in God even when we don't know what will happen. Think of a time you had to trust what someone was saying to you, even when you didn't think it could be true. Was it hard or easy to believe them?

### ADVENT READING

Luke 1:26–38

*The angel Gabriel's annunciation to the Virgin Mary of the Incarnation.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern



## ADVENT READING

Luke 1:26–38

*The angel Gabriel's annunciation to the Virgin Mary of the Incarnation.*

what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” 35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

## DISCUSS

Mary responded to this incredible promise by saying, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” What was Mary’s situation when she gave this response? How would your life be different if v.38 was your ordinary response to the Lord’s revealed will?

## PRAYER

- Persecuted Christians: Pray for courage, protection, perseverance in their faith, and for the Immanuel (God with us) to be tangible in their hardship.
- Families separated by conflict or immigration— Pray for reunification, safe passage, and for comfort in the painful loneliness of absence.

## BENEDICTION

**The Lord is our light and our protector. He gives us grace and glory.  
No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who do what is right.  
Blessed are those who trust in him.**

*Psalm 84:11-12*

## END OF THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

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## FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

### REFLECTION

[To the Serpent] And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

*Genesis 3:15*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Stand in awe before the Lord,  
for the Lord himself will give you a sign.  
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and shall call His name Immanuel.

*Isaiah 7:14*

### SONG

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

### CROSSROADS KIDS

In response to God’s blessing, Mary rejoices in God. What are two things that happened this week that you can rejoice to God for?

### ADVENT READING

Luke 1:39–56

*Mary’s Song*

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

## ADVENT READING

Luke 1:39–56

*Mary's Song*

46 And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” 56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

## DISCUSS

Mary's song is a beautiful prayer where she praises God for what He has done. She says, “My soul magnifies the Lord.” Why does Mary magnify the Lord? What does it mean to magnify something? How does praising God help you see Him as bigger and more wonderful?

## PRAYER

- The Elderly or those in care facilities— pray for companionship, dignity, freedom from loneliness, and for comfort in these latter years.
- For opportunities to welcome strangers and show the love of Christ this Christmas.
- Pray for church unity across denominations and for a truthful witness until He returns.

## BENEDICTION

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

*1 John 5:20*

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## FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

### REFLECTION

There is nothing so secular that it cannot be sacred, and that is one of the deepest messages of the incarnation.

*Madeleine L'Engle, 20th century*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,  
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good.

*Psalms 103:1–5*

### SONG

Of The Father's Love Begotten

### CROSSROADS KIDS

Imagine being a king who is soon to be presented to all of the people. What kinds of things would you expect the people to have ready for you as you make your grand entrance? Pay attention to the reading and think about Jesus' entrance into the world. What is surprising about the way he comes?

## ADVENT READING

Luke 2:1–7

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 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, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## DISCUSS

The incarnation of Jesus shows us that there is nowhere that God cannot show up. He condescends to be “with” us in Jesus and now by his Holy Spirit. In what places of weakness or simplicity in your life do you long to experience God’s presence?

## PRAYER

- Educators/school administrators— pray for patience, wisdom in handling complex challenges, and energy to pour into the next generation.
- Stephen & Audrey Moss (Harvest USA) – Pray for focus and wisdom as Stephen writes *The Story of Sex* for high school students. Ask that he would be diligent, resist perfectionism, and rely on the Lord. Pray also for Audrey and their daughters—that God would be near them while Stephen travels and help him be fully present at home.

## BENEDICTION

**And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.**

*1 John 5:20*

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## FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

### REFLECTION

Man's maker was made man,  
that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast;  
that the Bread might hunger,  
the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep,  
the Way be tired on its journey;  
that the Truth might be accused of false witness,  
the Teacher be beaten with whips,  
the Foundation be suspended on wood;  
that Strength might grow weak;  
that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die.

*Augustine, 5th century*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,  
and they shall call His name Immanuel.

*Matthew 1*

### SONG

Silent Night

### CROSSROADS KIDS

In the time when Jesus was born, shepherds weren't very popular. In fact, they were looked down upon! Pay attention to what role the shepherds play in the story we are about to read. Is it a big role or a small role? How do you think the lowly shepherds felt after hearing from God?

### ADVENT READING

Luke 2:8–20

*The Shepherd worship the Messiah*

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 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. 11 For



## ADVENT READING

Luke 2:8–20

*The Shepherd worship the Messiah*

unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## DISCUSS

The angel’s message begins with joy that is meant for all people. What is preventing you from experiencing joy today? In what ways might God be inviting you to make room for the joy he offers, even amid fear, uncertainty, or busyness this season?

## PRAYER

- For our Crossroads to be a place where anyone in society can be known, cared for, and loved.
- Deacons/Elders — Pray for wisdom, unity, and a clear vision for shepherding the congregation into deeper relationship with Christ.

## BENEDICTION

**And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.**

*1 John 5:20*

**END OF FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT**

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# CHRISTMAS DAY

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

## REFLECTION

We preach not one coming only of Jesus Christ, but a second also, far more glorious than the first...In His first coming He was wrapped in swaddling clothes in the manger. In His second coming He is clothed with light as with a garment. In His first coming he bore the Cross, despising its shame; He will come a second time in glory accompanied by the hosts of angels.

*Cyril of Jerusalem, 4th century*

## CALL TO PRAYER

Come and see what God has done:  
He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.  
Shout for joy to God, all the earth;  
sing the glory of His name;  
give to Him glorious praise!

*Psalm 66:5, 1–2*

## SONG

Joy to the World

## CROSSROADS KIDS

Stand really far away from your kids out of eyesight and ask them about their day. After a couple of questions, come close to them and try again. Which way was better? Remember that God comes close to you in Jesus so that you can see Him and know Him.

## CHRISTMAS READING

John 1:1–18

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a

## CHRISTMAS READING

John 1:1–18

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation*

witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) 16 And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

## DISCUSS

In this passage where do you see God’s grace and love for you in Christ?

## PRAYER

- Give thanks for the gift of God’s grace in Jesus.
- Ask for the joy of Christ to penetrate a world of sorrow.

## BENEDICTION

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

*1 John 5:20*

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# Songbook

All Glory Be To Christ  
Angels We Have Heard On High  
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus  
Hark The Herald Angels Sing  
It Came Upon A Midnight Clear  
Joy To The World  
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence  
O Come, All Ye Faithful  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
O Day Of Peace  
Of The Father's Love Begotten  
O Holy Night  
Silent Night  
The First Noel

# All Glory Be To Christ

By Dustin Kensrue

Should nothing of our efforts stand  
No legacy survive  
Unless the Lord does raise the house  
In vain its builders strive

To you who boast tomorrow's gain  
Tell me what is your life  
A mist that vanishes at dawn  
All glory be to Christ!

*All glory be to Christ our King!*  
*All glory be to Christ!*  
*His rule and reign we'll ever sing,*  
*All glory be to Christ!*

His will be done His kingdom come  
On earth as is above  
Who is Himself our daily bread  
Praise Him the Lord of love

Let living water satisfy  
The thirsty without price  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
All glory be to Christ!

## Chorus

When on the day the great I am  
The faithful and the true  
The Lamb who was for sinners slain  
Is making all things new  
Behold our God shall live with us  
And be our steadfast light  
And we shall ere his people be  
All glory be to Christ!

*All glory be to Christ our King!*  
*All glory be to Christ!*  
*His rule and reign we'll ever sing,*  
*All glory be to Christ!*

# Angels We Have Heard On High

E                      A  
Angels we have heard on high  
C#m                      A  
Sweetly singing ore the plains  
E                      A  
And the mountains in reply  
C#m                      A  
Echoing their joyous strains

E    A   C#m    A    E B E A E B  
Glo-----ria    in excelsis Deo  
E    A   C#m    A    E B E A E B  
Glo-----ria    in excelsis Deo

E                      A  
Come to Bethlehem and see  
C#m                      A  
Him whose birth the angels sing  
E                      A  
Come adore on bended knee  
C#m                      A  
Christ the Lord the newborn King

E    A   C#m    A    E B E A E B  
Glo-----ria    in excelsis Deo  
E    A   C#m    A    E B E A E B  
Glo-----ria    in excelsis Deo

C#m                      B  
See him in a manger laid  
A                      E/G#  
Whom the choirs of angels praise  
C#m                      B  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid  
F#m                      E/G#    A                      B  
While our hearts in love we raise

E    A   C#m    A    E B E A E B  
Glo-----ria    in excelsis Deo  
E    A   C#m    A    E B E A E B  
Glo-----ria    in excelsis Deo

# Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

*By Charles Wesley*

F            Dm    Gm    C        Am    Dm    Bb    F  
Come, Thou long-expected Je - sus, born to set Thy people free  
F            Dm            Gm    C            Am    Dm    Bb    F  
From our fears and sins release us... Let us find our rest in Thee  
Am        Dm                Gm    C        Am    Dm    Gm        C  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art  
F    Gm        F/A    Bb        F/A    Bb    C        F  
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart

F        Dm        Gm    C            Am            Dm    Bb    F  
Joy to those who long to see thee... Day-spring from on high appear  
F            Dm        Gm    C        Am    Dm    Bb    F  
Come thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear  
Am        Dm        Gm    C        Am            Dm    Gm    C  
O'er the hills the angels singing news glad tidings of a birth  
F    Gm            F/A    Bb            F/A        Bb        C        F  
Go to him your praises bringing, Christ the Lord has come to earth

F            Dm    Gm        C        Am            Dm    Bb        F  
Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end  
F        Dm        Gm        C        Am    Dm    Bb        F  
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer Shepherd Friend  
Am        Dm        Gm    C        Am    Dm    Gm    C  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall  
F        Gm        F/A    Bb            F/A        Bb        C        F  
This the ever - lasting wonder... Christ was born the Lord of all

F            Dm    Gm    C        Am    Dm    Bb    F  
Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King  
F        Dm        Gm    C        Am            Dm    Bb    F  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring  
Am        Dm        Gm    C        Am    Dm    Gm    C  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone  
F        Gm        F/A    Bb    F/A    Bb    C        F  
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne



# Hark The Herald Angels Sing

*By Charles Wesley*

D                      A/C#  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Bm                      A  
"Glory to the newborn King!"  
D                      A/C#  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
Bm                      A  
God and sinners reconciled"  
D                      G                      A  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
D                      G                      A  
Join the triumph of the skies  
G                      G D/F#    Em    D/F#    Em  
With the angelic host proclaim:  
A                      D/F#    G                      D  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
G                      G D/F#    Em D/F#    Em  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
A    D/F#    A                      D  
Glory to the new-born King!"

D                      A/C#  
Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Bm                      A  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
D                      A/C#  
Late in time behold Him come  
Bm                      A  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb  
D                      G                      A  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
D                      G                      A  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
G                      G D/F#    Em D/F#    Em  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
A                      D/F#    G                      D  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
G                      G D/F#    Em D/F#    Em  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
A    D/F#    A                      D  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

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

D                      A/C#  
Come, Desire of nations, come!  
Bm                      A  
Fix in us Thy humble home:  
D                      A/C#  
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring seed,  
Bm                      A  
Bruise in us the serpent's head;  
D                      G                      A  
Adam's likeness now efface,  
D                      G                      A  
Stamp Thine image in its place:  
G                      G D/F#    Em D/F#    Em  
Final Adam from above,  
A                      D/F#    G                      D  
Reinstate us in Thy love.  
G                      G D/F#    Em D/F#    Em  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
A    D/F#    A                      D  
"Glory to the new-born King!"

# It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

*By Edmund H. Sears*

G C G  
It came upon the midnight clear  
C A7 D  
That glorious song of old  
G C G  
From angels bending near the earth  
C D G  
To touch their harps of gold  
B7 Em  
Peace on the earth good will to men  
A7 D D7  
From heaven's all gracious King  
G C G  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
C D G  
To hear the angels sing

G C G  
And ye beneath life's crushing load  
C A7 D  
Whose forms are bending low  
G C G  
Who toil along the climbing way  
C D G  
With painful steps and slow  
B7 Em  
Look now for glad and golden hours  
A7 D D7  
Come swiftly on the wing  
G C G  
O rest beside the weary road  
C D G  
And hear the angels sing

G C G  
For lo the days are hastening on  
C A7 D  
By prophet bards foretold  
G C G  
When with the ever-circling years  
C D G  
Comes round the age of gold  
B7 Em  
When peace shall over all the earth  
A7 D D7  
Its ancient splendors fling  
G C G  
And the whole world give back the song  
C D G  
Which now the angels sing

G C G  
Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
C A7 D D7  
The world has suffered long  
G C G  
Beneath the angel strain have rolled  
C D G  
Two thousand years of wrong  
B7 Em  
And man at war with man hears not  
A7 D D7  
The love song which they bring  
G C G  
O hush the noise ye men of strife  
C D G  
And hear the angels sing  
G C G  
O hush the noise ye men of strife  
C D G  
And hear the angels sing

# Joy To The World

*By Isaac Watts*

C G C  
Joy to the world the Lord is come  
F G C  
Let earth receive her King  
C C  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
C G  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing  
C Am F G | C // C sus | C |  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing

C G C  
Joy to the earth the Savior reigns  
F G C  
Let men their songs employ  
C C  
While fields and floods, Rocks hills and plains  
C G  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy  
C Am F G | C // C sus | C |  
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Am G C  
No more let sins and sorrows grow  
F G Am  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
C C  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
C G  
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found  
Am C F G | Am | Am G/B |  
Far as far as the curse is found

C G C  
He rules the world with truth and grace  
F G Am  
And makes the nations prove  
C C  
The glories of His righteousness  
C G  
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love  
C Am F G | C | C sus | C | C sus | C |  
And wonders wonders of His love

# Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*From the Liturgy of St. James*

Dm C Bbmaj7 A  
Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand  
Dm C Bbmaj7 Asus A  
ponder nothing earthly minded for with blessing in his hand  
Dm Gm Dm Am7 Bbmaj7 C Dm  
Christ our God to Earth de-scend-eth our full homage to de-mand

Dm C Bbmaj7 A  
King of kings yet born of Mary As of old on Earth he stood  
Dm C Bbmaj7 Asus A  
Lord of Lords in human vesture In the body and the blood  
Dm Gm Dm Am7 Bbmaj7 C Dm  
He will give to all the faith--ful His own self for heavenly food

Dm C Bbmaj7 A  
Rank on rank the hosts of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way  
Dm C Bbmaj7 Asus A  
As the light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day.  
Dm Gm Dm Am7 Bbmaj7 C Dm  
That the powers of hell may van---ish as the darkness clears away

Dm C Bbmaj7 A  
At his feet the six wing-ed seraph Cherubim with sleepless eye  
Dm C Bbmaj7 Asus A  
Veil their faces to his presence as with ceaseless voice they cry  
Dm Gm Dm Am7 Bbmaj7 C Dm  
Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia Lord most high  
Dm Gm Dm Am7 Bbmaj7 C Dm  
Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia Lord most high

# O Come All Ye Faithful

*By John Francis Wade*

G D G D  
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
Em D/F# Asus A D D/F#  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
G C G D/F# Em D  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

G G D  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
C G/B D/F# G C G D G  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

G D G D  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
Em D/F# Asus A D D/F#  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
G C G D/F# Em D  
Glory to God, glory in the highest;

G G D  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
C G/B D/F# G C G D G  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

G D G D  
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;  
Em D/F# Asus A D D/F#  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
G C G D/F# Em D  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

G G D  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
C G/B D/F# G C G D G  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

G G D  
For You alone are worthy, For You alone are worthy,  
C G/B D/F# G C G D G  
For You alone are worthy, Christ the Lord.

G G D  
We'll praise your name forever, We'll praise your name forever  
C G/B D/F# G C G D G  
We'll praise your name forever, Christ the Lord

# O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Em Am Bm G  
O come, O come, Emmanuel  
C D Em  
And ransom captive Israel  
Am G D  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Em Am Bm G  
Until the Son of God appear

[illegible]

Em Am Bm G  
O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
C D Em  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Am G D  
And drive away the shades of night  
Em Am Bm G  
And pierce the clouds and bring us light

[illegible]

Em Am Bm G  
O come, desire of nations, bind  
C D Em  
In one the hearts of all mankind  
Am G D  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease  
Em Am Bm G  
And be Thyself our King of peace

# O Day Of Peace

*By Carl P. Daw Jr. and Josh Garrels*

Bb Ab Eb  
O day of peace that dimly shines  
Bb Fm Eb  
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
Bb Ab Eb  
Guide us to justice, truth, and love,  
Bb F Bb  
Delivered from our selfish schemes.

Gm Bb Eb  
May swords of hate fall from our hands,  
Gm Bb Eb  
Our hearts from envy find release,  
Gm Fm Eb  
Till by God's grace our warring world  
Bb F Bb  
Shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Bb Ab Eb  
Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
Bb Fm Eb  
Nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
Bb Ab Eb  
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
Bb F Bb  
A little child shall lead them all.

Gm Bb7 Eb  
Then enemies shall learn to love,  
Gm Ab Eb  
All creatures find their true accord;  
Bb Fm Eb  
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
Bb F Bb  
For all the earth shall know the Lord.

# Of The Father's Love Begotten

*By Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, H. W. Baker, J. M. Neale*

E Esus E  
Of the Father's love begotten  
E/G# B  
ere the worlds began to be,  
A B C#m  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
E B E  
he the source, the ending he,  
E E/G# B  
of the things that are, that have been,  
A B  
and that future years shall see  
C#m A B E  
evermore and evermore.

E Esus E  
Let the heights of heav'n adore him,  
E/G# B  
angel hosts his praises sing,  
A B C#m  
pow'rs, dominions bow before him  
E B E  
and extol our God and King.  
E E/G# B  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
A B  
ev'ry voice in concert ring  
C#m A B E  
evermore and evermore.

E Esus E  
Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
E/G# B  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee  
A B C#m  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
E B E  
and unending praises be,  
E E/G# B  
honor, glory, and dominion  
A B  
and eternal victory  
C#m A B E  
evermore and evermore.



# O Holy Night

*By Placide Cappeau*

C F C  
O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining  
C G C  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth  
C F C  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
Em B7 Em  
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth  
G C/G  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
G C/G  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Am Em  
Fall on your knees  
Dm Am  
O hear the angel voices  
C G Am F  
O night divine!  
C G C  
O night when Christ was born

C F C  
Truly He taught us to love one another,  
C G C  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
C F C  
Chains He shall break, for the slave is our brother.  
Em B7 Em  
And in His name, all oppression shall cease  
G C/G  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
G C/G  
Let all within us praise His holy name

Am Em  
Christ is the Lord!  
Dm Am  
Oh Praise his name forever  
C G Am F  
O night divine!  
C G C  
O night when Christ was born  
G Am F  
O night divine!  
C G C  
O night, when Christ was born

# Silent Night

*By Franz Xaver Gruber, Joseph Mohr, and John Freeman Young*

D F#m G D  
Silent night, holy night!  
A A/C# Bm D/F#  
All is calm, all is bright.  
G Em D D/F#  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.  
G Em D D/F#  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
A Gm/Bb Bm E7  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
D A D  
Sleep in heavenly peace

D F#m G D  
Silent night, holy night!  
A A/C# Bm D/F#  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
G Em D D/F#  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
G Em D D/F#  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
A Gm/Bb Bm E7  
Christ the Savior is born!  
D A D  
Christ the Savior is born

D F#m G D  
Silent night, holy night!  
A A/C# Bm D/F#  
Son of God love's pure light.  
G Em D D/F#  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
G Em D D/F#  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
A Gm/Bb Bm E7  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
D A D  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

# The First Noel

G D C G/B  
The First Noel, the Angels did say  
C G/B Am G  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
G D C G  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
Em D/F# C G  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

G D/F# Em Bm  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
C G/B Am G  
Born is the King of Israel!

G D C G/B  
They looked, they looked up, and saw a star  
C G/B Am G  
Shining in the the East Beyond them far  
G D C G  
And to the earth It gave great light  
Em D/F# C G  
And so it continued Both day and night

G D C G/B  
Then let us all with one accord  
C G/B Am G  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
G D C G  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
Em D/F# C G  
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

G D/F# Em Bm  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
C G/B  
Born is the King  
C G/B  
Born is the King  
C G/B Am G  
Born is the King of Israel!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00 + 6:00