

Prayers for Advent

Advent, which means "coming," begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Marked by a spirit of expectation, Advent prepares us to celebrate the birth of Christ. In his article entitled, "*Christmas Before and After: Celebrating the Journey*," General Board of Discipleship Director of Music Resources, Dean B. McIntyre, writes, "The days can be much richer and more meaningful if we find ways to mark the time, to celebrate the themes, to explore as individuals, families, and churches what it means for God to be born in human flesh."

Here are 6 ways to enhance your faith journey.

1. Gather the family together to read classics such as Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.
2. Make an Advent wreath. Read Scripture, pray, and sing carols before lighting the candle each week.
3. Focus on inward disciplines such as meditation, prayer, fasting, and Bible study.
4. Go caroling at a nursing home, volunteer in the community, or collect goods for the food pantry.
5. Visit someone that is mourning the loss of a loved one or coping with divorce, job loss, or sickness.
6. Come to our Birthday Party for Jesus, December 17th, from 6-8pm.
7. Join the Adam Hamilton study, *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. Mondays at 10am or 7pm.

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*"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21*

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<p>God, prepare our hearts to embrace this miraculous season with a spirit of holy expectation. <i>Mark 13:24-37</i></p>	<p>God, only you know the exact day Christ will come. Keep us alert and vigilant. <i>Mark 13:24-37</i></p>	<p>God, may meditation, prayer, fasting and Bible study bring the true meaning of Advent to life. <i>Ps. 119</i></p>	<p>God, you are the potter, we are the clay, mold us, make us, this is what we pray. <i>Isa. 64:1-9</i></p>	<p>God, thank you for the grace given to us as we wait for the revealing of Jesus Christ. <i>1 Cor. 1:3-9</i></p>	<p>God, restore us, let your face shine upon us, that we may be saved. <i>Ps. 80:19</i></p>	<p>God, forgive us when we fail to see the signs of your presence in our everyday lives. <i>Dan. 4:2-3</i></p>
<p>God, empower us to lead lives devoted to holiness and godliness. <i>2 Pet. 3:11</i></p>	<p>God, enable us to prepare a straight path for the Lord, removing all obstacles that stand in his way. <i>Isa. 40:1-11</i></p>	<p>God, forgive our inequities. Pardon our sins. May your glory dwell in our land. <i>Ps. 85:1-2</i></p>	<p>God, we pray for righteousness to reign in our relationships, homes, communities, nation and world. <i>Ps. 85:11</i></p>	<p>God, teach us to wait patiently for a new heaven and earth where righteousness dwells. <i>2 Pet. 3:8-13</i></p>	<p>God, during this time of waiting, we pray all will come to repentance and salvation. <i>2 Pet. 3:14-15</i></p>	<p>God, enable us to confront, confess and turn away from our sins in an attitude of sincere repentance. <i>Mark 1:1-4</i></p>
<p>God, may we be joyful always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances. <i>1 Thess. 5:16-18</i></p>	<p>God, teach us to test everything, to hold on to good and to avoid every kind of evil. <i>1 Thess. 5:19-22</i></p>	<p>God, sanctify us. Keep our spirits, souls and bodies blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <i>1 Thess. 5:23-24</i></p>	<p>God, give us a burden to preach the good news to the poor and to bind up the brokenhearted. <i>Isa. 61:1</i></p>	<p>God, may we reverse devastation, causing righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations. <i>Isa. 61:4, 11</i></p>	<p>God, may we serve as witnesses that testify to the light so that through us all might believe. <i>John 1:6-8, 19-28</i></p>	<p>God, fill us with laughter and songs of joy as we marvel at your majesty. <i>Ps. 126</i></p>
<p>God, forgive us when we interfere with the plans you have made for us. <i>2 Sam. 7:1-7</i></p>	<p>God, thank you for the Davidic Covenant, fulfilled in Christ, which establishes his dynasty forever. <i>2 Sam. 7:8-16</i></p>	<p>God, like Jesus' blessed mother, Mary, may our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in our Savior. <i>Luke 1:46-49</i></p>	<p>God, thank you for your mercy. May generation after generation fear and give reverence to our Lord. <i>Luke 1:50-55</i></p>	<p>God, thank you for the Gospel, which gives purpose, stability and meaning to our lives. <i>Rom. 16:25-27</i></p>	<p>God, strengthen our desire to develop a dynamic, powerful and personal living relationship with Jesus Christ. <i>Rom. 16:25-27</i></p>	<p>God, thank you for the birth of Christ, who bears authority and will end oppression and establish peace. <i>Isa. 9:2-7</i></p>
<p>God, thank you for Jesus, the Word that became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth. <i>John 1:1-14</i></p>	<p>God, we praise you for our Savior Jesus Christ, who brings peace, good news and salvation to all who believe. <i>Isa. 52:7-10</i></p>	<p>God, may we honor our Lord who is coming to judge the world with righteousness and the people with equity. <i>Ps. 98</i></p>	<p>God, teach us to follow in Jesus' holy footsteps so that we may glorify your name. <i>Heb. 1:1-12</i></p>	<p>God, train us to renounce impiety and worldly passions so that we may live self-controlled, upright and godly lives. <i>Titus 2:11-14</i></p>	<p>God, help us live our lives in a manner worthy of your love. <i>Mark 13:24-37</i></p>	