

CITY PRES ABQ

# ADVENT GUIDE

2024



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	2
ADVENT 1, STARTING DECEMBER 1 .....	7
ADVENT 2, STARTING DECEMBER 8 .....	9
ADVENT 3, STARTING DECEMBER 15 .....	11
ADVENT 4, CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24 .....	13
12 DAYS CHRISTMAS, STARTING DECEMBER 25 ..	14
APPENDIX .....	16

## THE CHURCH YEAR

As another calendar year draws to a close, a new church, or liturgical year is just beginning. The liturgical year was developed during the first centuries of the early church as a tool to help the people of God remember and celebrate the full mystery of the good news of Jesus Christ. Thus, each season of the liturgical year calls us to focus on different aspects of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, as well as his ascension, the day of Pentecost and his promised return. To that end, each season has its own colors, prayers, rituals and moods to aid in our remembrance and celebration. By marking the passage of time redemptively, the liturgical year reminds us that God has acted and continues to act in history, redeeming for himself his people. Taken altogether, we see that the liturgical year acts in concert with Scripture and our weekly and daily worship, amplifying the invitation to lose ourselves in the good news of Jesus so that we might truly find ourselves and live.

### ADVENT

The four-week season of Advent starts the new church year, preparing the people of God for the celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany. Advent means coming and its mood is that of longing, expectation and waiting. The color purple is used because of its association with repentance, preparation and sacrifice.

Appropriately during this time, the church remembers Jesus first coming and anticipates his coming again. This world is broken, and so we yearn for Jesus to come back as our king and to make all things new. The cry of Advent is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin. It is the cry from those who still have hope of deliverance because they believe in a God who hears the cries of the oppressed and delivers them. Of course, Scripture teaches us that we need redemption from our broken world because we broke it. Advent calls us to wait and prepare for Jesus' return by repenting and believing. We are to turn away from the false hopes and desires that twist our hearts and destroy our relationships. Instead, we are to turn toward Jesus, who frees us so that we may serve one another in grace and truth. Just as John the Baptist was born to prepare the way for Jesus' first coming, so we are given to each other in the community of the church to encourage each other and challenge the world around us to prepare for his coming again.

So, what do we exactly do during Advent? We wait and prepare by recommitting ourselves to the Christian practices weekly worship, daily prayer, gathering with brothers and sisters in Christ for mutual encouragement, hospitality and sacrificial giving, and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. We recommit to experiencing God anew and to praying with new hope the final prayer of the Bible: “Come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:0).

## CHRISTMAS

At Christmas, we remember the birth of Jesus. Derived from “Christ Mass,” Christmas is a feast of fulfillment and future fulfillment. The mood is that of celebration. The colors white and gold are used because of its association with the glory, royalty, joy, holiness and light of God.

With all of our past, present and future waiting answered in Jesus, we continue the song sung by the chorus of angels present at Jesus’ birth: “Glory to God in the highest!” (Luke 2:14). And it’s not a one-day affair. It’s actually a twelve-day celebration beginning at sunset on Christmas Eve! How could it not be a multi-day, extravagant and joyous feast when the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace, Creator and Redeemer has come to make the world and us new and is coming again?

So what do we do during Christmas? We rejoice, celebrate and give gifts. In some traditions, gift giving occurs on each of the twelve days of Christmas. Regardless of your gift giving practice, it is one that emulates and points to God’s great sacrificial generosity towards us. Thus, celebrating Christmas is an exercise in humility and care of others. As Paul says, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit...In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness” (Philippians 2).

So while we celebrate, we also look for ways to be united with Jesus in his humiliation so that others in our lives can know the joy of the Incarnation, God with us. In other words, we continue to cultivate the Christian practices to be shaped into the people of God. We are to turn away from the false hopes and desires that twist our hearts and destroy our relationships. Instead, we are to turn toward Jesus, who frees us so that we may serve one another in grace and truth. Just as John the Baptist was born to prepare the way for Jesus’ first coming, so we are given to each other in the community of the church to encourage each other and challenge the world around us to prepare for his coming again.

## THE ADVENT WREATH AND THE PRAYER GUIDE

Many celebrations of Advent include the use of an Advent wreath. The Advent wreath is a relatively new tradition (19th century), but an increasingly popular one. The wreath consists of evergreen boughs encircling five candles. Four candles represent each week of Advent and the fifth represents Christmas. One candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent. Two are lit on the second Sunday, and so on. All four candles and the remaining fifth candle are lit either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

We recommend using the wreath because it offers a visual way to mark our Advent waiting and the fulfillment of our expectations in Jesus Christ. Lighting the candles also offers a moment in our busy days, whether we are alone or with others, to pause and to reflect on our longings and to offer them to the one who created us, knows us and comes to us.

This daily guide offers prayers, hymns and readings for Advent and Christmas. The prayers and hymns change weekly, while daily readings are provided. The 25 readings throughout Advent are based on the tradition of the Jesse Tree and walk us through the major biblical stories from Creation all the way to the birth of Jesus Christ. The Christmas readings will draw our attention to the hope we have now as we wait for Jesus' return.

We believe this guide, along with the wreath, will help you as individuals, roommates, groups, and families to enter into the story of the gospel in new and deeper ways. Our goal is not to load you down with more tasks in an already busy life, but rather to provide you with tools to help you experience God's goodness more fully this season and beyond.

---

**\* This guide has been adapted from materials from our friends at Resurrection Brooklyn.**



O COME, THOU  
Day-spring





## ADVENT 1 / STARTING DECEMBER 1

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE 1

After lighting the first candle, say: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor. We light this candle as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us and grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

### READINGS FOR WEEK 1

Sunday	Creation	Genesis 1:1; 2:5-8
Monday	The First Sin	Genesis 3:1-10, 23
Tuesday	Noah's Ark	Genesis 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 9:16
Wednesday	The Promise to Abraham	Genesis 12:1-7
Thursday	Isaac and the Ram	Genesis 22:1-13
Friday	Jacob's Ladder	Genesis 28:10-17
Saturday	Joseph's Coat	Genesis 37:3-36, 50:18-21

### PRAYER OF FAITH

The Lord's Prayer or The Apostles' Creed

SONG FOR THE WEEK:           Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

### CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



DISPERSE THE  
*gloomy clouds*  
OF NIGHT

## ADVENT 2 / STARTING DECEMBER 8

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE 1-2

After lighting 2 Advent candles, say: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. We light these candles as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

### READINGS FOR WEEK 2

Sunday	Moses and the 10 Commandments	Exodus 20:1-2
Monday	Joshua and the Promised Land	Numbers 13:1-2, 17-23, 27
Tuesday	Ruth and Boaz	Ruth 1:1-10, 4:13-17
Wednesday	The Promise to Jesse	Isaiah 11:1-10
Thursday	The Promise to King David	1 Chronicles 17:7-15
Friday	Jonah and the Fish	Jonah 1:1-6; 11-17
Saturday	The Lion and the Lamb	Isaiah 11:6-10

### PRAYER OF FAITH

The Lord's Prayer or The Apostles' Creed

SONG FOR THE WEEK:           Come Thou Fount

### CLOSING PRAYER

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O COME, O COME  
THOU LORD  
OF MIGHT.

## ADVENT 3 / STARTING DECEMBER 15

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE 1-3

After lighting three candles, say: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father. We light as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

While we have been busy preparing for Christmas, we confess we have done little to prepare our hearts for your coming. Forgive us Lord, for not bending the knee, for not reading your Word, for not searching our hearts, for not facing our sins. Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God! Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have a fresh sense of your presence and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's glory. Amen.

### READINGS FOR WEEK 2

Sunday	The Promised Prince of Peace	Isaiah 9:6-7
Monday	The Promised Good Shepherd	Isaiah 40:9-11, Psalm 23:1
Tuesday	The Promised Servant of All	Isaiah 53:1-6
Wednesday	The Promise of New Life	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Thursday	The Town of the Savior	Micah 5:2
Friday	John the Baptist & his Family	Luke 1:5-25
Saturday	Gabriel & Mary	Luke 1:26-38

### PRAYER OF FAITH

The Lord's Prayer or The Apostles' Creed

SONG FOR THE WEEK : Hail to the Lord's Anointed

### CLOSING PRAYER

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.



O COME, O COME  
Emmanuel



## ADVENT 4 / CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE 1-4

After lighting four candles, say: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father. We light as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have wrought discord, O God. Each of us, in our own way, has locked ourselves out of relationships and we have filled our lives and world with darkness because we lack love. All too often, we have put our own judgment and desires before yours. Come, Lord Jesus. Forgive and restore us. Guide and deliver us. Renew our love. Amen.

### READINGS FOR ADVENT 4

Morning	Joseph	Matthew 1:18-25
Evening	The Shepherds and the Birth of Jesus	Luke 2:1-21

### PRAYER OF FAITH

The Lord's Prayer or The Apostles' Creed

SONG FOR THE WEEK: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

### CLOSING PRAYER

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS/ *STARTING DECEMBER 25*

### LIGHTING OF ALL ADVENT CANDLES + THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

After lighting the candles, say: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father. We light as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen.

### PRAAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you sent a star to guide the Magi to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world or trusted your good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

### 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS:

Christmas Day	The Star	Matthew 2:1-2
Thursday	Christmas 2	John 3:34-36
Friday	Christmas 3	Psalms 118:25-29
Saturday	Christmas 4	1 John 5:1-12
Sunday	Christmas 5	Mark 10:13-16
Monday	Christmas 6	Psalms 23
Tuesday	Christmas 7	Revelation 7:9
Wednesday	Christmas 8	Colossians 1:1-15
Thursday	Christmas 9	Hebrews 13:8
Friday	Christmas 10	Romans 5:1-5
Saturday	Christmas 11	Ephesians 2:4-9
Sunday	Christmas 12	Revelation 19:6-9



## PRAYER OF FAITH AND RESPONSE

The Lord's Prayer or the Apostles' Creed

## SONGS FOR CHRISTMAS

Joy to the World; or  
Come All Ye Faithful; or  
Go Tell it on the Mountain; or  
Angels We Have Heard on High

## CLOSING PRAYER

od, we are as confounded as Joseph and Mary,  
as busy as the innkeepers, as lonely as the shepherds, as  
frightened as Herod, as wayfaring as the Magi.  
Turn us again to the place where, with quietness,  
you wrap up your truth and promise,  
your love and salvation in the child born in a crude barn.  
We ponder these things as the noise  
and clamor of the world are stilled for a time,  
and there is a peace that settles deep within us.  
Bring us to Bethlehem,  
to the place where Jesus was homeless,  
but where we are truly at home. Amen.

## APPENDIX

### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And  
lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil;  
for thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.



**CITY**  
**PRES ABQ**

