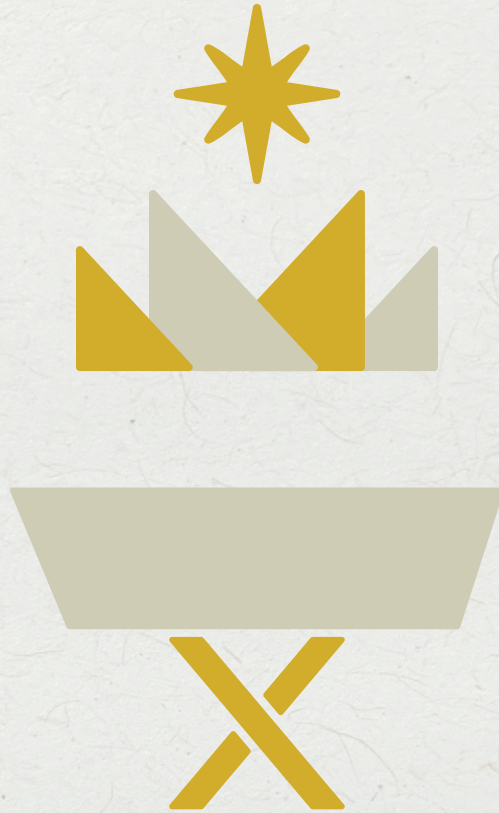


✦ FRONTLINE



*Advent  
Journal*

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## *Week of Prayer & Fasting Guide*

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The prayer life of the Church is one of the primary ways God's people labor with God to shape history and the world, right injustice, demonstrate his power, and bring salvation to those far from him. We have many rhythms of prayer in the life of Frontline Church, but there are seasons where we call the church to slow down, pause, fast, and pray. The Week of Prayer and Fasting is an invitation to join God's heart and mission and to have intentional space to pray together for God's church and our cities.

We invite everyone to join together as families, community groups, and discipleship groups to gather and pray during the Week of Prayer and Fasting. There will be gathering times from 12 PM - 1 PM at each congregation to join others in prayer. A prayer guide is offered to all those who are unable to attend noon prayer.

We are asking, seeking, and knocking on the door of Jesus, the King of the kingdom without end. He is Christ crucified and Christ resurrected. He lives, moves, works, and never sleeps. Please consider adjusting your schedules to join us in prayer!



# Advent Week of Prayer

---

## Day 1

*Morning Meditation:* Psalm 42

Listen and ask God what he's saying to you.  
Allow for silence to listen to the Holy Spirit.

*Noon Prayer:* Hope for the Nations  
(Matthew 12:18-21)

Pray for:

- Justice and righteousness in our nation and the world
- People everywhere to place their hope in Jesus

*Night Meditation:* A Carol of Blessing (Luke 1:46-56)

## Day 2

*Morning Meditation:* Psalm 63

Listen and ask God what he's saying to you.  
Allow for silence to listen to the Holy Spirit.

*Noon Prayer:* Peace to a Broken Place  
(John 14:27)

Pray for:

- True peace in our city and the world

*Night Meditation:* A Carol of Rescue  
(Luke 1: 67-80)

## Day 3

*Morning Meditation:* Psalm 84

Listen and ask God what he's saying to you.  
Allow for silence to listen to the Holy Spirit.

*Noon Prayer:* Joy to the World (Psalm 16:9-11)

Pray for:

- Those searching for joy in empty places to find lasting joy in Jesus

*Night Meditation:* A Carol of Glory  
(Luke 2:8-21)

## Day 4

*Morning Meditation:* Psalm 130

Listen and ask God what he's saying to you.  
Allow for silence to listen to the Holy Spirit.

*Noon Prayer:* Love for God and People  
(1 John 4)

Pray for:

- God's love to be received deeply in our church
- The ability to love one another with sincerity and grace

*Night Meditation:* A Carol of Rescue  
(Luke 1: 67-80)

# *Advent Week I*

## The Return of Jesus

---

As Christians living in the world today, we stand in between the past and future advent of Jesus. We long for the return of Jesus in a similar way to the Old Testament saints who longed for the arrival of the promised deliverer. In this season, we celebrate the birth of Jesus and look expectantly toward his second arrival as the conquering king.

Hebrews 9:27–28

*“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.”*

For further reading - *John 14:1-4, Romans 8:18-25*

## Advent Prayer

---

Merciful God, who is always with us;  
Who was, and is, and is to come:  
we confess that we lose faith in your promise to meet us in our troubles;  
In our impatience, we reject your promise for a better kingdom and set up our very own.  
We confess that we have forgotten how to hope in miracles;  
Our hearts have grown calloused and are more drawn toward sentimentality than the beauty of your incarnation.

O God, forgive us and awaken our hearts to waiting and wonder.  
We wait for your coming, and remind our hearts of the good news:  
That you, Jesus Christ, son of God, born of the virgin Mary  
were offered once to bear the sins of many, and will appear a second time,  
not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

As the resurrected king You meet us in our trial and doubt,  
even defeating our enemies of satan, sin and death.  
The first time you came as a lamb; the second time you will come as the lion of Judah.  
The first time you came to redeem; the second time you will come to reign.  
The first time you came in meekness; the second time you will come in majesty.

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
whose first coming brought joy to your waiting people,  
keep us in faith and hope as we eagerly await your coming again.  
Thanks be to God!

## Meditation

*Isaiah 2:2-3:5*

---

It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the  
LORD  
shall be established as the highest of the  
mountains,  
and shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and all the nations shall flow to it,  
and many peoples shall come, and say:  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the  
LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths...”

O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD.

## Proclamation

*based on Revelation 22:20-21*

---

Surely you are coming soon.  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!  
The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.  
Amen.

## Intercession

*Hope for the nations*

---

“We bring all of our desire for true hope  
today, and remember there is coming a day  
when all of our longing for hope will be met in  
Jesus”

*Matthew 12:18-21*

The words of the prophet Isaiah:

“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my  
beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.  
I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will  
proclaim justice to the nations.  
He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will  
anyone hear his voice in the streets;  
a bruised reed he will not break, and a  
smoldering wick he will not quench, until he  
brings justice to victory; and in his name the  
nations will hope.”

Pray: For justice and righteousness in our  
nation and in our world, pray that more and  
more people across the nations would lift  
their eyes to see and put their hope in Jesus.

## Carol

### *Joyful, Joyful*

---

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
Opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Singing bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Joyful joyful! We adore thee!  
Joyful joyful! We adore thee!

### *Song Story:*

Magnification is the only response when we look on Jesus. When we sing this hymn, whether in our car, around the dinner table at Christmas time, or standing next to our brothers and sisters on a Sunday morning, we are joining our voices together to sing a song that is ancient and beautiful. It has been sung since the dawn of creation when the Creator first breathed life into the world; sung by the mountains, forests, and meadows. It is a carol sung by every bird, blooming flower, and rustling leaf. All of creation lifts its voice to sing the praise of the one who made them! “The mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”

(Isaiah 55:12)

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[illegible]



# Family Advent Guide

## Words of the Week:

- Prophet - a messenger who shares the will or words of God
- Hope - to expect with confidence, or knowing something will happen

## Weekly Readings:

- Jesus Storybook Bible - The Terrible Lie pg. 28, Get Ready pg. 170
- Isaiah 9:1-7
- Micah 7:7

## Memory Verse:

*"For unto 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."* - Isaiah 9:6

## Devotional:

What does it mean to hope for something? Maybe you are hoping for a certain gift for Christmas or hoping to have ice cream after dinner. Those are exciting things, but during this season of Advent, we get to focus on the hope of a coming savior, something that changes our lives forever.

The Old Testament is full of God's people hoping for a savior. In Genesis 3, sin enters the world and separates us from God. God set his great rescue plan in motion to get his children back. God's people have left him a lot of times to follow themselves, but he never gave up on them. God sent prophets to help tell his people that a rescuer was coming. This gave his people hope for a long time!

God kept that promise to send Jesus. We also can have hope that Jesus is coming again! During Advent, we can feel both excitement and joy because Jesus came and longing for him to come again.

Pray and thank God for the gift of Jesus!

## Family Activity:

This week spend some time as a family cooking or baking something together. Christmas cookies, brownies, a special dinner, whatever you have on hand. Take a moment to help your kids engage the feelings of waiting and hoping for an outcome while you cook. Remind them that in hope we prepare for the coming savior!

# *Advent Week II*

## The Resurrection of the Dead

---

Resurrection is often thought of as a theme reserved solely for Easter. Instead, our Easter hope is meant to fill the rest of the year and the rest of our days. Advent and Easter go hand-in-hand to proclaim to us that sin and death don't get the final word. In the birth of Jesus, we see the in-breaking of God in our world. In his rising, we see the victory of God and his offer of life to all who would look on his Son.

1 Corinthians 15:12-25

*Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

*But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*

For further reading - John 5:24-29, Ez. 37:1-10, 1 Thess. 4:13-18

## Advent Prayer

---

God, you are light in the darkness, a humble and mighty king.  
We are a world at war. We need your justice. We wait for your kingdom of peace.  
We cannot conquer the tyrants of sin and death without you.  
We stand longing in the ache of advent, groaning with creation  
for your return to make all things right and all things new.

But merciful God, always with us, and always coming:  
we confess that in the waiting our hearts are  
drawn away from you.  
Forgive us Lord for not bending our knee to you,  
not meditating on your word, and not facing our sins against one another..  
These omissions have caused us to yield to the ways of the world, the desires of our flesh, and  
the enemy of our souls.  
Have mercy on us and teach us to stand in awe of the wonders of your love and reign.

We are the children of God, because of his love for us:  
Jesus, you left the glory of heaven, became flesh, and dwelt among us.  
You lived a perfect life, died a perfect death, and rose again in power and authority.  
Jesus, you have become our righteousness.  
While we watch for the light, you now stand at the right hand of God praying for us,  
ruling with justice and righteousness now and forevermore.  
You are coming again. You will fulfill every promise.  
You will govern us with peace. You will wipe away every tear.  
You are making all things new.  
The Spirit and the Bride groans along with creation—come Lord Jesus!  
Thanks be to God!

## Meditation

*Psalm 130:5-8*

---

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

## Proclamation

*Revelation 21:3-5*

---

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

## Intercession

*Peace to a broken place*

---

“We bring all of our desire for true peace today, and remember there is coming a day when Jesus will give us His true peace”

*John 14:27*

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Pray: For people in our city and in our world to know true peace in the midst of anxious times, not the world's peace but the peace that Jesus offers.

## Carol

### *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

---

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria in Excelsis Deo  
Shepherds why this jubilee  
Why your joyous strains prolong  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song  
Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord the newborn King

### *Song Story:*

“Glory to God in the Highest.” Here too, we find a rich heritage of praise. This common Latin phrase has been in use by the Church since her inception, even to the humble shepherds it was heralded. As the angels proclaimed the splendor and wonder of a messiah come to earth to rescue mankind and to establish peace between God and man, so, too, the creation itself is reverberating with the good news: “And the mountains in the reply, echoing their joyous strains!” What is happening here? Something more than the physical birth of a child, something mysterious and indescribable...



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[illegible]

# Family Advent Guide

## Words of the Week:

- Emmanuel - God is with us
- Rejoice - to feel or show great joy

## Weekly Readings:

- Jesus Storybook Bible - He's Here pg. 176
- Luke 1:26-38
- Luke 1:45-55

## Memory Verse:

*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."*  
Luke 1:46-47

## Devotional:

We learned last week that waiting for a Rescuer was hard for God's people. Waiting is hard, especially waiting for a long time. When all hope seemed far away, the savior was going to come. One day an angel came to a young girl named Mary and gave her the best news of all time. God's promise was coming true. Everything was changing. She was going to have a baby and he would be God in the flesh! He was the one that was promised all those years ago. Mary sang a song and rejoiced, praising God for who He is. We can praise God just like Mary as we celebrate Advent and Jesus coming to be with us.

Spend time as a family this week naming the ways that God keeps his promises. Thank him for his faithfulness and kindness to his people.

## Family Activity:

Supplies - Vinegar, baking soda, water bottle, balloon

1. Pour vinegar into the water bottle filling it about halfway.
2. Put some baking soda into the balloon (do this where your kids can't see).
3. Attach the balloon to the water bottle. Be careful not to get any baking soda in the bottle.
4. Remind the kids about the waiting and hope that we talked about last week. The vinegar in the bottle is like God's people waiting for a savior. Nothing happened for many years and people grew tired of waiting.
5. Read together the first page of "He's Here" from the Jesus Storybook Bible. Dump the baking soda into the bottle and watch the balloon inflate.

God's plan was in motion even while his people were waiting. When Jesus came, they could see the good news coming true, just like you can see your balloon blowing.

# *Advent Week III*

## Final Judgement

---

Advent means God isn't going to leave the world to itself, but he will make good on his promise to crush the head of the ancient serpent. Judgment hardly hits us as a theme to be taken up during the holidays. Yet, it's actually a source of great hope for Christians. The coming judgment of God means evil is on a leash and will one day be brought to perfect justice. The birth of Jesus means that evil and chaos won't win, but God does and will.

Acts 17:29-32

*Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this."*

For further reading - Revelation 20:11-15, 1 Thess. 5:1-11

## Advent Prayer

---

Merciful God, the one who is always with us, and who will return again:  
We confess we have forgotten how to place our longing and hope in you, above all else.  
Instead, we've hoped in this world, and our ability to meet our own needs.  
We have lost sight of the beauty of your birth  
and we have ignored the promise of your kingdom.  
Forgive us, God, and teach us to hope in you alone.

Now in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for your coming. Amen.

We receive you and believe in your name, reminding ourselves of the good news!  
Jesus, you have broken the curse of sin by becoming the curse in our place.  
Jesus, you are the promised one and were nailed to the cross, died, and rose again.  
Giving us the right to become children of God.

Jesus, you are the long-expected savior, born to set us free.  
You release us from our fears and bring your kingdom of peace.  
O Jesus, you are the joy of every longing heart, so let every heart prepare you room.  
Thanks be to God!

## Meditation

*John 1:14*

---

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.

## Proclamation

*Luke 2:10-11, 14*

---

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Merciful God,  
always with us, always coming:  
We confess that we do not know how to  
prepare for your Advent.  
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;  
We have obscured the beauty of your  
incarnation;  
We have ignored the promise of your  
kingdom.  
Forgive us, God.

Now, in the quiet of our hearts,  
we ask you to make us ready for your coming.  
Amen.

## Intercession

*Joy to the world*

---

"We bring all of our desire for joy in our lives today, and remember there is coming a day when all we will ever know again is the joy we have in Jesus"

*Psalm 16:9-11*

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

my flesh also dwells secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures  
forevermore.

Pray: For the people in our lives that we know are seeking joy in empty wells to be filled up with the fullness of joy in Jesus.

## Carol

### *Joy to the World*

---

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her king  
Let every heart prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world, the savior reigns  
Let men his songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sin, nor sorrow grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as, the curse is found

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

### *Song Story:*

While our words may fall short to describe and understand the puzzle of God becoming man, we can see, inhabit, and proclaim the benefits of his Advent. “No more let sin and sorrow grow, Nor thorns infest the ground: He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found.” He has come to reign, he has come to wipe every tear away, he has come to set things as they are supposed to be.



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[illegible]

# Family Advent Guide

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## Words of the Week:

- Impossible – not able to happen
- Glorify – to see something for how big or valuable it is and honor it

## Weekly Readings:

- Jesus Storybook Bible - Light of the Whole World p. 184
- King of All Kings p. 192

## Memory Verse:

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among those whom he is pleased. Luke 2:14*

## Devotional:

Imagine what it would have been like to be Mary. She is young, like you guys (look at your kiddos) and she has been told she is going to have a baby and he will be the Savior that has been promised. What would you feel? Scared or excited? Would you want to hide or tell everyone? Mary felt all the things we would feel and she went to her cousin Elizabeth to visit. Elizabeth was pregnant too and as Mary came, the baby in Elizabeth jumped for joy at the presence of Jesus! The savior of the world is coming!

## Family Activity:

Supplies - Ziploc gallon bag filled with water, sharp pencil

Set up the activity by talking about the impossible. Ask your kiddos if they think you can put a hole in the bag without the water coming out.

1. Fill the Ziploc bag with water about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way full and seal the bag well.
2. To add to the illustration, ask the kids to hold the bag over their heads or laps and tell them you are going to put a hole in the bag.
3. Take the sharp pencil and plunge through the bag to come out the other side. If done correctly, the pencil should seal the holes and keep the water from coming out.

Remind your kids of the story you read and what seemed impossible for God to do. God was doing things that everyone thought were impossible. He was bringing the savior of the world to us! God does the impossible!

# *Advent Week IV*

## New Heavens and New Earth

---

If Jesus came the first time with a ministry of healing and authority, then how much more will that be true when we are gathered to him for all eternity? Creation will be restored, all sickness healed, sin gone forever, and death totally defeated. What was good in the garden at the beginning will be made perfect in the end. The birth of Jesus is the first fruits of a new creation. Advent points beyond itself to final fulfillment.

Revelation 21:1-7

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

*And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."*

For further reading - 2 Peter 3:8-15, 1 Cor. 15:51-58

## Advent Prayer

---

King Jesus,  
We are a lowly people; our sins separate us from you.  
We have found ourselves far and wandering from you.  
We've tried to clean ourselves up and we've failed.

There was no room or place of welcome for you that night,  
And we confess that we rarely make room for you in our hearts today.  
We have seen the weary, broken world that surrounds us and we have lost hope.  
We desperately need the increase of your rule and reign in our lives.  
Yet in our dark streets, let your light shine.  
In all of our hopes and fears, meet us in your coming.

Our hearts recall the good news!

We place our hope in you, God.  
Jesus, the long-expected savior, was born to set us free.  
You have broken the curse of sin,  
You have released us from our fears,  
You deliver us from death and invite us to rest in you.  
You have made your blessings flow—as far as the curse is found!

You are the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.  
You are the desire of every nation and the joy of every longing heart.  
You make straight all that is crooked.  
You have made your blessings flow— as far as the curse is found!

We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
To us a son is given, to us a child is born.  
The government rests on your shoulders, and you are our Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.  
You have made your blessings flow—as far as the curse is found!

Thanks be to God!

## Meditation

*Isaiah 9:2, 9:6-7*

---

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace! Of the increase of his government and of peace, there will be no end!”

## Proclamation

*Galatians 4:4-7*

---

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”

## Intercession

*Love for God and man*

---

“We bring all of our desire to love and be loved, and remember that God the Father has loved us perfectly by sending us the son.”

*1 John 4:10-11*

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

Pray: The love of God would be received in our churches and in our world in a genuine way that empowers us to have love for one another.



## Carol

### *O Come All Ye Faithful*

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O come all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him,  
Born the King of Angels;  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Highest, most holy  
Light of light eternal  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given  
Word of the Father;  
Now in flesh appearing  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

O sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens in heaven above  
Glory to God  
Glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Hail! Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
O Jesus! to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

We'll give you all the glory.  
We'll praise your name forever.

## *Song Story:*

And who might we be in this picture that's being painted before us? Indeed, we are the shepherds—on the outside, dirty and unclean, but visited by an angel with the promise of goodwill from God toward us. And we too are the wisemen, walking towards this king in faith with all in our possession ready to be laid at his feet. The word and promise of the Father is now in flesh appearing.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is a small yellow mark at the top left corner. The paper appears to be a standard notebook or worksheet.

# Family Advent Guide

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## Weekly Readings:

- Jesus Storybook Bible-A Little Girl and a Poor Frail Lady – p. 214
- Jesus Storybook Bible-The Sun Stops Shining – p. 302
- Jesus Storybook Bible-God’s Wonderful Surprise – p. 310
- Philippians 2:6–8
- Colossians 1:19–20

## Memory Verse:

*“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11*

## Devotional:

Jesus has come! He is here! We have spent this Advent season celebrating the good news that Jesus came to earth as a baby. But the good news doesn’t stop there. Jesus grew into a man and taught many people about who God is. He healed and cared for people. Jesus was arrested, beaten, and died on the cross to take away our sins. But, three days later he rose again and defeated death! He was the light that broke through the darkness. We can celebrate all year because we have hope that Jesus is coming again!

Thank God today for sending Jesus and for the hope we have through him.

## Family Activity:

As you wrap up this season of Advent, spend time as a family reflecting on what the Lord has done in this season and throughout the year. Thank him for his faithfulness in good and bad times. Then, look forward to the next year. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you identify goals for your family discipleship in the new year.

- Follow a daily Bible reading plan together
- Memorize scripture together
- Set a time for daily prayer
- Create a weekly time for family worship
- Set limits for screen time/other activities to create space for family discipleship

# *Christmas Blessing*

## Incarnation Meditation

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The impossible is about to happen in a stable.  
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has the light shined!

This is the evening when creation stood still and held its breath,  
for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous thing.  
This is the evening when God embraced humanity  
from the inside, as one of us, from birth to death.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory,  
full of grace and truth.

Amen!

## Proclamation

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Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God  
and the authority of his Christ have come. (Rev 12:10)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and his name shall be called,  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isa 9)