"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." (1 Cor. 15:19–20 ESV)

## Advent, week 1: HOPE through Christ's Resurrection

Father God, I thank you for sending your Son to die in my place. I was your enemy, yet you showed your great love for my sins by forgiving me through faith in Christ. Now, because of Jesus' resurrection, I too have a sure hope that death can not destroy me, and that I will be raised to live with my Lord forever.

Thank you for the hope of the resurrection. AMEN.

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1 ESV)

## Advent, week 2: PEACE with God through Jesus' death.

Lord Jesus, I once lived for myself and gave no thought to God. I was following the way of the world, following the desires of the body and mind. I was an object of God's holy wrath. But you died in my place and gave me eternal life. I got your righteousness before God, and you paid my penalty. Now because of you, I have peace with God and am free to live my life for him. Thank you, Jesus, for all of this. AMEN.

| HOPE                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------|
| You can read about the sure<br>HOPE of resurrection in |
| I Corinthians 15.                                      |
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| PEACE                                                  |
|                                                        |
| You can read about PEACE with God in Romans 5          |

"Though you have not seen him, you love him.
Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

(1 Peter 1:8–9 ESV)

## Advent, week 3: Joy in Christ's life.

Dear God, you told us that there would be hard times in this world. I have experienced them, and sometimes feel the weight of worry. Yet, you have also said that you came and spoke to us that we would have your joy in us and have it to the fullest. Because you live (and live in me) I know that no matter what I face I am not alone. Your joy goes far beyond fleeting feelings. You are my Joy, Lord Jesus. AMEN.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 ESV)

## Advent, week 4: LOVE shown through Christ's birth.

Father God, your Word tells us that you are love. I know that you love me and the people of the world. You showed your love in this way, that you sent your Son to take on the form of a servant and to bring us back to you through him. Jesus, thank you for humbling yourself and coming to earth, born as one of us so that you could sympathize with our need, and through your death, unite us with God. AMEN.

