



Advent

A Four-Week Study for the Advent Season.

Hope Peace

Joy Love

Christ

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 **firstCENTRAL**
BIBLE CHURCH

ADVENT



Using This Guide at Home

The time leading up to the celebration of Christ's birth should be one of excitement and great expectation. The purpose of this study is to focus your attention on Christ in the weeks prior to Christmas. While this study is intended for use in Sunday School, it can also be used in small groups or even as a weekly family devotion. I recommend it be used at dinner each Sunday. If you don't normally eat together, this would be a good reason to begin.

When everyone is gathered at the table, get their attention and begin using the devotional with the following format. It's a good idea to let various people lead each part so everyone is involved:

- Scripture reading
- Light that night's candle (Light the previous week's candle before the scripture reading.)
- Devotion (Optional: discuss what you read)
- Pray
- Sing (I've included lyrics to several songs and links to YouTube videos for those songs.)

**Don't overcomplicate the Advent celebration:
Read, Reflect, Rejoice.**

Dec 2: HOPE

Jesus Christ is our Hope. He came in a real, physical body. He was fully God and fully man. The death He died was a real physical death, and his resurrection a true, physical resurrection from the dead. The resurrection gives us a sure hope of our own resurrection and eternal life.

Dec 9: PEACE

"Peace is the birthright of every believer in all circumstances. It is found only in God and is maintained through having a close relationship with him." Through Christ we have peace with God and peace in our lives because Christ has put his Holy Spirit in us.

Dec 16: JOY

Jesus isn't a burdensome taskmaster. He said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." He calls us to follow his example and to obedience because there is joy in obedience.

Dec 23: LOVE

God's love is not merely an emotional affection for us; it is a humble, sacrificial, life-giving action meant to bring us to repentance and to give us eternal life. Christ did not come because we love him, but because he loves us. Jesus died for his enemies. How great a love that is!

What is Advent?

The word advent comes from a Latin word which means “coming” or “arrival.” Celebrated on the four Sundays prior to Christmas, Advent is practiced by various Christian denominations as a way of looking back on Christ’s first advent (his birth) and looking forward to his second advent (his second coming). This Advent devotional will be used to celebrate by looking at the resurrection, death, life, and birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Originally it was a time associated with fasting and penitence, but Advent’s celebration eventually became a time of great expectation. It helps us to prepare for the Christmas time celebration of Christ’s birth. This practice is great for congregations, but can also be done at home, teaching the children and reminding the adults that Christmas is about celebrating God having come to dwell among his people. But the Christ child did not remain as a baby; he grew up and began a three-year ministry that changed the world forever, reconciling sinful man with Holy God.

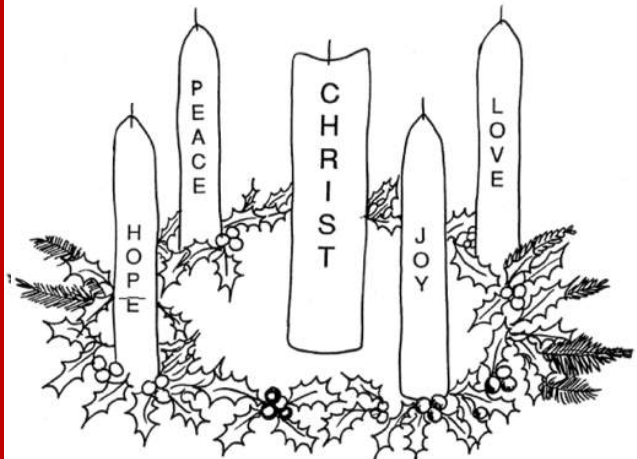
The Advent tradition is celebrated in various ways by the different denominations that practice it, but the common elements include: Lighting of candles, prayer, and scripture reading. At the Gilbert household, we make an advent wreath, complete with evergreen branches, holly leaves and berries, and five candles. Let me explain the traditional elements and their symbolism:

The **wreath** is a circle made from evergreen branches. The circle has no beginning and no end; it represents God’s eternal nature.

Likewise, the **evergreens** are symbolic because they are “ever-alive.” They are symbolic of Christ, who died, was buried, resurrected, and will live forever, never to die again.

Spread about within the evergreen branches are **red holly berries**. These represent drops of blood and remind us that Christ’s blood was shed for us on the cross so that we might have eternal life and be reconciled to God. In the Gilbert household, we also add holly leaves. This symbolizes the crown of thorns that our savior wore.

The **four candles** represent the Ideas of *hope, peace, joy, love*, and the **fifth candle** represents *Christ* and is lit on Christmas day. On the first Sunday of advent, the **hope candle (purple, representing that Christ is King.)** is lit, a scripture reading and/or devotional is given, and then a prayer is given. Each week the previous week’s candle is lit followed by that week’s candle, then by a scripture reading/devotional and a prayer.



SONGS FOR ADVENT

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
(This is a GREAT rendition of Charles Wesley's song: <https://goo.gl/jWQJBy>)

O Come O Come Emmanuel
(Aaron Shust's rendition, and it's my favorite:
<https://goo.gl/pjShtH>)

O Come Let Us Adore Him
(A non-traditional cover by The Crown Church Band.
This song looks at Christ's incarnation, resurrection, and second coming. It uses the chorus & tune of the original. It's nice.
<https://goo.gl/xE5r1c>)

Joy to the World
(This is a cover done by Bebo Norman. It's a contemporary rendition faithful to the original
<https://goo.gl/Q8JJ5K>

These songs can be found on YouTube by searching by the title or artist name on the YouTube website. You can also type out the address above or use your smartphone to scan the QR codes on the lyrics page for the song you want to find.



In the Gilbert household, we often add to this a song of some sort at the end of the prayer or at the end of our meal (We do the lighting at the beginning of Sunday dinner). The **light** is a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world, who came down into darkness, and that the darkness did not overcome him. As his people, we are called also to be a light to the world, and to walk in the light as he is in the light. (John 1:4-5, John 8:12,1 John 1:7)

Families with children will find this a helpful teaching tool. This tradition involves multiple senses and can serve as a springboard for questions and conversations about Christmas, Christ, and why he came. No matter how you do it, make it enjoyable for everyone there, especially the children. This is a special time as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Emmanuel, God with Us.



DIY: Your wreath does not have to be complicated, just make the essential elements, display, and enjoy. Scan the QR Code or visit <https://goo.gl/V94irp> for a video tutorial. You can also purchase Advent wreaths online.

Text: READ 1 Corinthians 15:12–20 ESV

Light first candle: **The Hope Candle**

Devotion:

All too often, hope is pessimistically defined as the little boy did when he said: “Hope is wishing for something you know ain’t gonna happen.”¹ That is not the hope we are shown in the Bible. The biblical concept of hope is completely different from how the world speaks of hope. Biblical hope is a sure thing, a done deal; biblical hope says, “you can count on it.”

In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul speaks about the historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ as a matter “of first importance.”² Paul says that if we place our hope in Jesus’ resurrection, but if it did not happen, then we have no hope because our hope is based on lies. Yet, this is not the case because **“in fact Christ has been raised from the dead!”** Paul tells us that Jesus not only rose victoriously from death, but did so publicly, appearing to hundreds of people.

Christ came that we might be reconciled to God (Rom 5:10), that we might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10). God sent his son so that those who place their trust in him would not perish, but live (John 3:16-17). He came that we might have victory over sin and death (1 Cor. 15:54–57). He has promised that one day he would come back for his people, both the living and the dead (1 Cor. 15:23) and that our perishable bodies would be transformed into new, imperishable bodies, glorified by God himself (1 Cor. 15:42–44), and then we will finally be like him, just as he intended us to be from the beginning (1 John 3:1-3). All of this is based on the fact and power of the resurrection. The resurrection is our Hope.

Questions to consider:

1. According to 1 Cor. 15:12-20, how important is the historical, physical resurrection of Jesus? What is at stake if the resurrection were not a historical fact?
2. Why does Paul say that we are to be pitied if our hope in Christ is only on this earth? Consider both the life we are called to live and the debt we owed to God as sinners.
3. Jesus is the “firstfruits” of the dead. Why is this a hope filled promise for Christians? What does it tell us about our own resurrection and hope of eternal life? (C.f. 15:23)
4. When we share the Gospel we often talk about Jesus’ death. How can the resurrection be used to share the hope that we have in Christ with others?

Scripture used in prayer this week: 1 Corinthians 15:19–20

Pray through this scripture this week then send it to a friend. (See Post Card in appendix)

¹ Michael P. Green, *1500 Illustrations for Biblical Preaching* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), 194.

² (1 Corinthians 15:3–5 NIV11-GK)





HOPE

Concert of Prayer

Read & Pray through these scriptures
in light of the Advent season.

“Hope means more than a vague wish that something will happen. It is a sure and confident expectation in God’s future faithfulness and presence. The horizon of Christian hope extends beyond death into an eternity prepared by God himself, the reality of which is guaranteed by Jesus Christ.” Use this guide to pray thanks to God for your hope in Christ.

“For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.” (Psalms 71:5)

Confess your trust in God, acknowledging his lifelong faithfulness, even before you knew him.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” (Romans 15:13 ESV)

Ask God to help you to realize the greatness of the hope you have in Christ, and that you may feel that hope and the joy of Christ through the power of his Holy Spirit.

“[Jesus] was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.” (1 Peter 1:20–21 ESV)

Thank God for his eternal plan of salvation through Jesus Christ, whom he sent for your sake. Pray that God will help you to focus on your faith and hope in Christ during times of trial.

“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 Corinthians 15:19–20 ESV)

Thank God for the sure hope of the resurrection, and for proving to us through Jesus’ resurrection that we can know that we too will rise again to eternal life and healing.

Light last week's candle: **The Hope Candle**

Text: Read Colossians 1:19–20; Romans 5:1 ESV

Light the second candle: **The Peace Candle**

Devotion:

The resurrection was the vindication of everything Christ said and did, proving that he was indeed the fulfillment of the law and that he did not die in vain. But why did he die? Was his death actually necessary? YES! Because of Adam's sin in the garden of Eden, we have all been found guilty (Rom. 5:11–21). More than that, each of us as individuals sin because of our own evil desires (Rom. 3:23, James 1:13–14, 1 Jn 1:8), and the consequence for sinning against God is death (Rom. 6:23). Because of sin, we are actually objects of God's just and holy wrath (Eph. 2:1–3). God is holy and will not tolerate sin, but he is also merciful.

That's why the Gospel is good news for those who place their trust in Christ. We could never have earned our way back to God, but because of his great grace and his love for us, he sent Jesus Christ to die on the cross, taking on the punishment for our sins, and reconciling us to himself (John 3:15-17; Ephesians 2:4-5). Because Jesus died for us, when we place our faith in Him we are justified by faith (that is to say we are made acceptable in his sight), giving us **PEACE** with God and removing his wrath from us. But even better than this, we have become God's children through faith (trust) in Jesus Christ (John 1:12-13).

Last week we saw how the resurrection of Christ brings a real **HOPE**. The hope we have through Christ's resurrection stems from the peace we have because of his death on our behalf. As we light this week's candle, notice that the light increases with the lighting of the second candle. May our anticipation increase as the light increases. It is my prayer that we see the significance of his sacrifice, and that our excitement and anticipation build as we reflect on the hope and peace we have through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions to consider:

1. Jesus "made peace [between us and God] by the blood of his cross." Why was such violence necessary to bring peace with God? Could God have just forgiven us? (Heb. 9:22)
2. Many people claim that there are many ways to know God. How does this philosophy compare with God's design for forgiveness and peace with God in Colossians 1:20?
3. There are others who claim that Jesus' death has already united all people to God. How does Romans 5:1 say that we actually receive this peace? What does Paul mean by faith?
4. Read Romans 5:1-5. What affect does this peace with God have on our lives in the mindset of suffering? How does this challenge the idea that Christianity is of no use in our lives?

Scripture used in prayer this week: Romans 5:1

Pray through this scripture this week then send it to a friend. (See Post Card in appendix)





PEACE

Concert of Prayer

Read & Pray through these scriptures
in light of the Advent season.

“Peace is the birthright of every believer in all circumstances. It is found only in God and is maintained through having a close relationship with him.”³ Through Christ we have peace with God (the removal of God’s wrath from us through forgiveness) and peace in our lives because Christ has put his Holy Spirit in us. Use this guide to thank God for peace through Jesus Christ.

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

Thank God for the salvation and peace you have in Jesus Christ.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:3–5 ESV)

Thank God for the fact that not only did you not earn your salvation, but that it is he who keeps and guarantees your salvation.

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Pray that God will help you to trust in him, having peace that He is with you even in hardship.

“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” (Romans 12:17–19 ESV)

Pray that God will help you be a peace maker. That you’ll share & promote peace with others.

³ Bible Themes Dictionary, paragraph 147802.

Light the first two candles: **The Hope & Peace candles**

Text: READ John 15:1-17 ESV

Light the third candle: **The Joy Candle**

Devotion:

Our Advent celebration began by looking at the resurrection **Hope** of Christ, and the **Peace** we have with God which came through Jesus' death. This week the light of celebration glows brighter as we look to Jesus' life and celebrate the **Joy** we have in him.

Christ did what we could not do. He came and lived a life of perfection, submitting himself to the Father's will, obeying him perfectly, thus fulfilling the law of God.⁴ In his life Christ obeyed the Father without fault, and he is our example. It would be overwhelming if we were to think we could perfectly copy his holiness this side of heaven, but that is not the point. The Father loves the Son, and that love is unconditional and complete. Jesus loves us with this same kind of love. He calls us His friends beckons us to follow his example by loving one another as he loves us: unconditionally.

So, as we continually look to Christ and learn from him,⁵ we become like him all the more. This should be a source of great joy in our lives, because it is the fruit of those who abide in Christ. We are loved with a perfect and complete love. We demonstrate God's love is in us—and our love for him—by laying down our self-sufficiency and our own agendas to follow Christ. He does not intend to weigh us down with burdens, but to give us complete joy; this is why he said, *"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."* Because of this, our joy is full, and we can agree enthusiastically with Peter when he says in 1 Peter 1:8 "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."

Questions to consider:

1. It's often said that nobody is perfect, Yet Jesus was, and is, perfect. Jesus now calls his followers to fruitfulness. Read John 15:3-5. Why should we be encouraged by this call?
2. Jesus isn't calling us to be martyrs, but to "laydown our lives" through obedience to him and through loving others. How do we do this and why does it produce joy in our lives?
3. Read John 15:16. We are Christians because Jesus chose us. What else did Jesus choose (appoint) for us? What does this tell us about the importance of living our lives for Him.
4. Jesus took joy in serving the Father and calls us to obey Him for our own joy. What does this teach us about the role of the joy of obedience in killing our sin? (Ps 37:4, Rm 8:13)

Scripture used in prayer this week: 1 Peter 1:8-9

Pray through this scripture this week then send it to a friend. (See Post Card in appendix)

⁴ Romans 8:3, Matthew 5:17-18

⁵ Matt 11:28-30





JOY

concert

of Prayer

Read & Pray through these scriptures
in light of the Advent season.

Jesus is not a burdensome taskmaster. He said, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:29–30 ESV) He calls us to follow his example and to obedience because there is joy in knowing Christ and in following his word. Use this guide to thank God for the joy of knowing Christ, and for the strength to lay down your life for him.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” (John 15:9–11 ESV)

Thank Christ for the love that he has shown you. Ask Him to help this be a constant source of joy in your life that would fuel the desire to follow Him all the more.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5 ESV)

Thank Christ for choosing you to be in him. Acknowledge that you can do nothing without him that will last and ask him to strengthen you always to follow him.

**“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”
(John 15:12 ESV)**

Pray that Christ would strengthen you through his Holy Spirit to show real, Christ-centered love for others. Pray also for unity and others-focused love within the Church.

“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)

Thank God for the promise of salvation and ask Him to help you to wait patiently as we await Christ’s return.

Light the first three candles: **The Hope, Peace & Joy candles**

Text: READ Luke 2:8–14, John 3:16 ESV

Light the third candle: **The Love Candle**

Devotion:

In this fourth and last week before Christmas, we light the **love** candle and the light of our celebration is almost complete. We have seen that in Christ we have **hope, peace, and joy**, all of which flow from what Christ has done because of his great love for us. As we reflect on this it should likewise cause our love for him to grow as well.

In the passage from Luke we see that Christ's birth was announced with glorious, angelic fanfare and praise for God. This is appropriate because this great king's coming was long awaited and foretold by the scriptures: it really is good news. The shepherds fear gave way to the great joy of such wonderful news. The wait for Israel's Messiah was over, the king had finally arrived, and they could go and see him!

Christ came because God wanted to restore man's relationship with himself. Not just Israel, but the whole world. Why would He want to do that? He is holy; we are sinful. He is faithful; we have all turned away from him and gone our own way. The reason he did this was because he loves us, and it glorifies His great name to show His love through forgiveness.

John 3:16 tells us God sent his Son to die in our place because of his great love for us. Because Jesus faithfully and willingly died in our place, we who trust in him no longer have reason to fear. Our fear should give way to great joy. Our Lord has come, and though he died, we know that he rose again and lives forever. Our God is here now, and we can approach him because of His great love for us. So, let's praise God with the angels by saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Questions to consider:

1. How does the incarnation (Jesus being born as a human) demonstrate his love for us?
2. "For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son." (John 3:16 NET) What does this teach us about how God views love? Is it purely emotion?
3. God "gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." What was God's love meant to produce in us? Can we say we love God without His intended response?
4. Read Romans 5:8. Who was it that God sent His Son to save? What makes this kind of love different than the love the world typically shows? How do we emulate God's love?

Scripture used in prayer this week: Romans 5:1

Pray through this scripture this week then send it to a friend. (See Post Card in appendix)





God’s love is not merely an emotional affection for us; it is a humble, sacrificial, life-giving action meant to bring us to repentance and to give us eternal life. Christ did not come because we love him, but because he loves us. Jesus died for his enemies. How great a love that is! Use this guide to praise God for sending His Son to die so that we may live.

“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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10–11 ESV)

Thank God for the love of Christ that casts out all fear of judgment and wrath.

“And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:12 ESV)

Give thanks to Christ for humbling himself by taking on human form, even though he is God and worthy of worship. Give your worship to him now as you ponder the mystery of the God/Man.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” (Luke 2:14 ESV)

Take a moment to thank Jesus for making peace between God and those who trust him. Give God praise for sending His Son to save us, even while we were his enemies.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:16–17 ESV)

If you haven’t yet accepted Jesus as Lord of your life, would you do so now, having seen all He has done for you? If you are a Christian, thank God for your salvation and pray that many more will come to faith. Ask God to help you share your faith boldly, as you ought to do.

Light the first four candles: Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love

Text: Read the Birth announcement from Luke 1:26–38; Luke 2:1–20

“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.” 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.”

“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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. 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Pause and light the Christ Candle, then continue.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” 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.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

Pray: Praise God for sending Jesus. Thank Jesus for his great sacrifice on our behalf. Thank the Holy Spirit for his constant presence with and in us.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Author: Charles Wesley

Scripture: Is 7:14–17; Matt 1:22–23; Hosea 13:14

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee:
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the saints thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born, thy people to deliver;
Born a child, and yet a King!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy precious kingdom bring:
By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.⁶

<https://goo.gl/mbxeBJ>



Come, thou
long-expected
Jesus

⁶ *Logos Hymnal*, 1st edition. (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1995).

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Author: Latin hymn, 12th century
Composer: Plainsong, 13th century
Tune: Veni, Emmanuel (PS)
Scripture: Isaiah 59:20

Veni veni, Emmanuel
captivum solve Israel,
qui gemit in exilio,
privatus Dei Filio.
Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel,
nascetur pro te Israel!

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel

FYI:

This text is Latin, and this whole song used to be written in Latin. I put it here so that you could understand what was being said if you listen to the version I included. The Latin verse is the same as the first English verse.

<https://goo.gl/rA8SyL>



O come,
O come,
Emmanuel

O Come, Let Us Adore Him (A contemporary re-write)

Author: Latin hymn, 18th century
Composer: John Francis Wade's "Cantus Diversi", 1751
Re-write: The Crown Church Band (From 'All eyes on Him' the debut EP)

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord

The Alpha and Omega,
Magnificent Creator
The risen, conquering Savior,
Christ the Lord

The Alpha and Omega,
Magnificent Creator
The risen, conquering Savior,
Christ the Lord

He'll come again in glory,
and all will bow before Him
Forever we'll adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

He'll come again in glory,
and all will bow before Him
Forever we'll adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Christ the Lord.

Christ the Lord.

<https://goo.gl/mpwpAb>



O come let us
adore Him

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
And joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King

Author: Isaac Watts
Composer: George Frederick Handel
Scripture: Ps 98; Luke 2:10

Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing

And joy to the earth, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
And joy to the earth, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy

And Hallelujah for the Lord is come
And Hallelujah, Hallelujah, the Lord is come

And no more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
And no more let sins and sorrows 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

And He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove

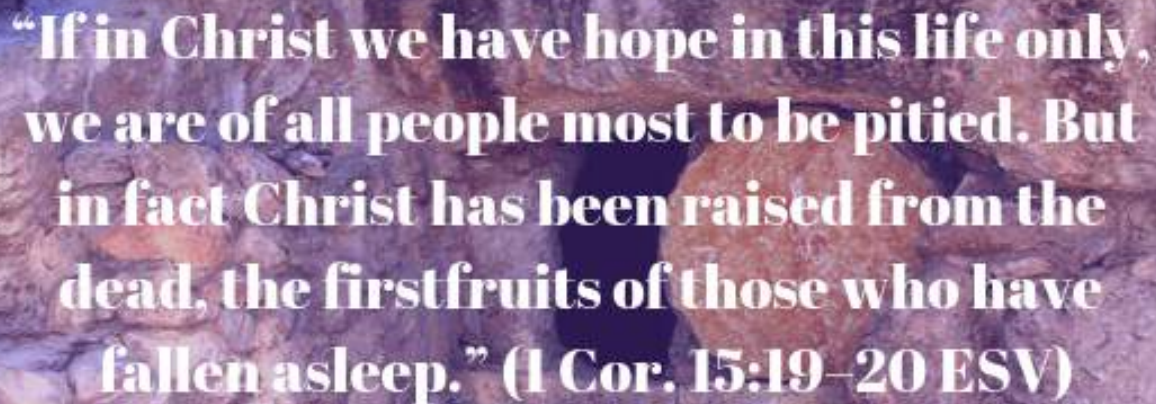
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love

Hallelujah for the Lord is come
And Hallelujah, Hallelujah the Lord is come

<https://goo.gl/diKMWF>



Joy to the
world



“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.



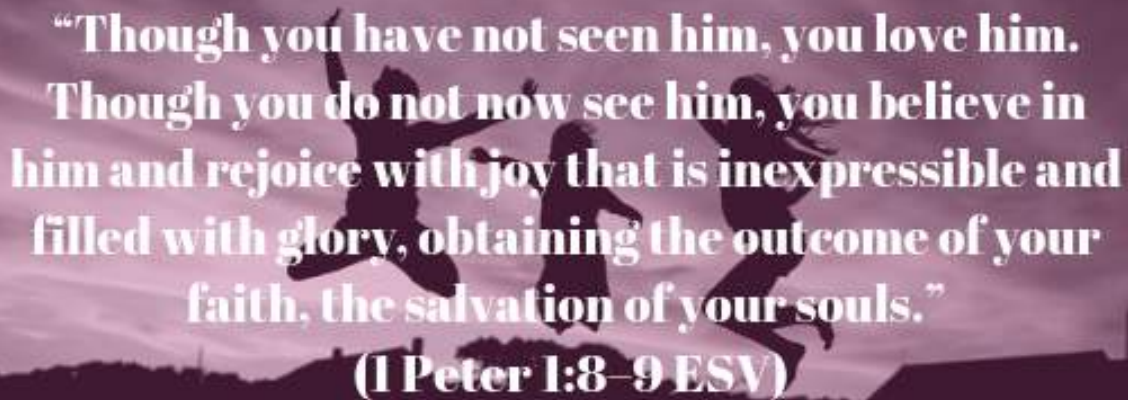
HOPE

You can read about the sure
HOPE of resurrection in
1 Corinthians 15.



PEACE

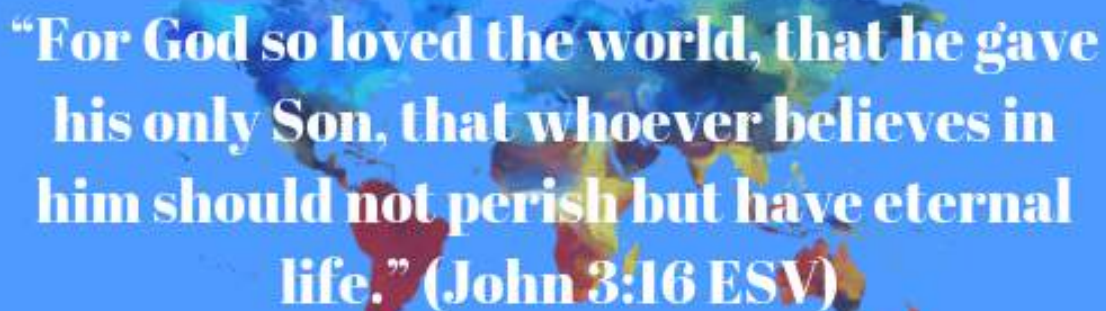
You can read about PEACE
with God in Romans 5
and Ephesians 2.



**“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.



JOY

You can read about
JOY in Christ in
John 15 and 1 Peter 1.



LOVE

You can read about the LOVE
of God in John 3 and Luke 2.

Bibliography

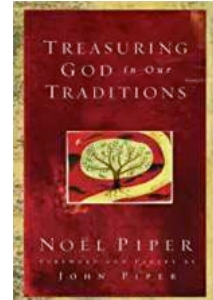
Here are some books that you can pick up for free on the internet that might help you in creating Christmas advent traditions.

Treasuring God in Our Traditions

Free PDF <https://goo.gl/ZwKgTV>

Hardcopy <https://goo.gl/M93S3j>

This book talks about establishing traditions in the family in order to drive home the spiritual lessons we teach our children. This is a great book and covers a wide area of topics, including Advent and Christmas.



Good News of Great Joy: Daily Readings for Advent

Free PDF or eBook: <https://goo.gl/vWnrSX>

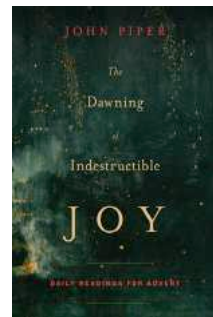
Kindle or paperback: <https://goo.gl/gxNX8v>

The Dawning of Indestructible Joy: Daily Readings for Advent

Free PDF or eBook: <https://goo.gl/NRg36A>

Kindle, paperback, audiobook: <https://goo.gl/79uyw2>

These 25 brief devotional readings from John Piper begin on December 1 and carry us to Christmas Day. Our prayer is that God would use these readings to deepen and sweeten your adoration of Jesus this December and keep him as the center and greatest treasure of your Christmas season. The candles and candies have their place, but we want to make sure that in all the Christmas rush and hubbub, we adore Jesus above all.



Jotham's Journey: A Storybook for Advent

(Kindle, hardcover, paperback) <https://goo.gl/FCspMa>

In this widely popular, exciting story for the advent season, readers follow ten-year-old Jotham across Israel as he searches for his family. Though he faces thieves, robbers, and kidnappers, Jotham also encounters the wise men, shepherds, and innkeepers until, at last, he finds his way to the Savior born in Bethlehem.

