



A Weary World Rejoices
Advent Reader 2022

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Advent marks the dawn of a new church year. The word "advent" means "coming" and denotes the four-week period before Christmas when the church remembers Jesus' first coming and looks forward to his return.

Advent celebrates the mystery of God's incarnation in the person of Jesus Christ when, in the words of John's Gospel, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

The mood of Advent is that of longing, of expectation, and of waiting. Advent is a time when we yearn for Jesus as the world's anointed King to come back and make all things new. The cry of Advent is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of sin and injustice in a world under the curse, and yet who have hope in a God who hears their cries. It is a time of repentance and faith as we prepare for God to fully reorder His creation and redeem His people. We join the Apostle John in praying, "Come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

We have put together the following Advent guide to help you as individuals, small groups, and families to enter into the story of the Gospel in new and deep ways, remembering His faithfulness, clinging to His promises, turning from sin and yearning for His return. We hope that the Scripture readings, prayers, and hymns will lead you to great hope in the Lord.

May Christ grant us all a blessed Advent and Christmas!

A Daily Advent Meditation

- * Take a moment to consider who Christ is and who you are before him. Pray, "Come, Lord Jesus."
- * Meditate on the day's Scripture Lesson.
- * Respond to the Lesson with your own prayer, confessing sin and expressing longing for the Lord.
- * Sing a Hymn of Advent
- * Close in prayer, using one of the Psalms for Advent.

Scripture Lessons for Advent

Day	Week 1 Nov 27- Dec 3	Week 2 Dec 4-10	Week 3 Dec 11-17	Week 4 Dec 18-24
Sun	Isaiah 2.1-5	Isaiah 11.1-10	Isaiah 35.1-10	John 1:1-14
Mon	Zephaniah 3. 14-20	Romans 15:4-6	Matthew 2:1-12	Luke 1.5-25
Tue	Isaiah 9:1-7	Galatians 4:4-5	Matthew 2:13-15	Luke 1.26-38
Wed	Micah 5.1-5a	Philippians 2: 1-10	Jeremiah 31: 31-34	Luke 1.39-56
Thu	Isaiah 40:1-11	Colossians 1: 15-23	Jeremiah 33: 14-16	Luke 1.57-66
Fri	Isaiah 52:7-10	Titus 2:11-14	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1.67-80
Sat	Isaiah 62:1-12	Matthew 1:1-17	Hebrews 2:5-18	Luke 2.1-8

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day: Luke 2:9-20

Psalms for Advent

2, 8, 16, 22, 25, 41, 45, 72, 80, 84, 85, 89, 91, 96, 99, 109, 110, 118, 122, 126, 146

Hymns for Advent

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Words: John Neale; Music: Thomas Helmore

1. 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.

2. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave. Refrain

3. O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

4. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain

5. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Word: John Neal; Music: Thomas Helmore

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together,
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth!

3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Felix Mendelssohn

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Christ, by highest Heav'n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

Refrain

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Refrain

JOY TO THE WORLD

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: Lowell Mason

1. 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 Heaven, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

3. 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,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

4. 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.

Advent Calendar 2022

- November 27 - 1st Sunday of Advent
December 4 - 2nd Sunday of Advent
December 11 - 3rd Sunday of Advent
Midnight Clear Concert, 6pm
dessert reception following
December 18 - 4th Sunday of Advent, A Service of
Lessons and Carols, both services
December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service, 7pm, childcare provided (0-4)
December 25 - 1st Sunday of Christmastide,
only 1 service 10.15am, childcare provided (0-4)
January 1 - 2nd Sunday of Christmastide,
only 1 service at 10.15am, childcare provided(0-4)

