



ADVENT DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

Life In Between

2023

Introduction

This year, instead of Advent falling right after Thanksgiving, there was an extra week. Which led many of us to think we had plenty of time to prepare. But somehow, the time always slips away. And suddenly, the season has arrived and caught us unawares. This is the very story of Advent – waiting, staying awake, not allowing ourselves to fall into the thought that “there’s plenty of time,” but instead, preparing our hearts each year for the coming of our King. Our sermon series this season is entitled “Life in Between Two Advents.” That is the time in which we currently live. We live in the light of Christ’s first coming, the knowledge that all is being made right, and the hope of his final coming. This is an appropriate title for a year in which the fourth Sunday of Advent happens to also fall on Christmas Eve. We feel that tension as the season of waiting, of anticipation runs headlong into the season of celebration on the same day. We celebrate the first Advent as we continue to wait and prepare for the second. We celebrate new life and light, while at the same time witnessing the continuation of death and darkness in our world. We wait in hope and we celebrate in hope.

We create this prayer guide every year as a type of scaffolding or trellis to help form and cultivate your life of prayer in this waiting season. Each week of Advent has readings, prayers, and hymns for you to utilize on your own, with family, with friends, or with a formation group. We encourage you to pick a time, either in the morning or evening, to practice daily prayer that your heart and mind and soul might prepare Him room this Advent Season. And rejoice greatly in the knowledge that he who came once as an infant in a stable, will come again in power and might. It is he who is, even now, making all things new, and it is he who enables you to stand clothed in his righteousness on that last judgement day.

“We preach not one advent only of Christ, but a second also, far more glorious than the former..”

–Cyril of Jerusalem

Week 1: Dec 3–9

Annunciation *Scott Cairns*

Deep within the clay, and O my people
very deep within the wholly earthen
compound of our kind arrives of one clear,
star-illuminated evening a spark igniting
once again the tinder of our lately
banked noetic fire. She burns but she
is not consumed. The dew lights gently,
suffusing the pure fleece. The wall comes down.
And – do you feel the pulse? – we all become
the kindled kindred of a King whose birth
thereafter bears to all a bright nativity.

Practice of Daily Prayer

1

Gather for Prayer & Candle Lighting

Leader: Lord, Open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

People: Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Leader: Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together,

People: to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

Leader: For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

People: Amen.

(from Psalm 122)

Candle Lighting

Light the first Advent candle and sing verse 1 of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

*"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

Confess our Sins

Leader: God of power and might, you promised through the prophets that the day is coming when you will bring all nations under your rule.

People: We confess that we have not expected your coming kingdom. We live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit our neighbors, abuse your creation, resist your justice, and refuse your peace. In your mercy, forgive our wandering and rebellious hearts. Grant us the humility to return to you, the strength to walk in your way, and the wisdom to seek those things that will endure; for the sake of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ who will come again to judge the world in righteousness. Amen.

Leader: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

People: Amen.

Week One

3

Read & Reflect

Think deeply and personally about how God speaks to you through today's scripture passages.

4

Pray & Sing

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 for ever. Amen.

Personal prayers for yourself, others, and the world.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sing

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Daily Readings

Sunday AM

Ps. 146, 147
Amos 1:1-5, 13--2:8
1 Thess. 5:1-11

Sunday PM

Ps. 111, 112, 113
Luke 21:5-19

Monday AM

Ps. 1, 2, 3
Amos 2:6-16
2 Pet. 1:1-11

Monday PM

Ps. 4, 7
Matt. 21:1-11

Tuesday AM

Ps. 5, 6
Amos 3:1-11
2 Pet. 1:12-21

Tuesday PM

Ps. 10, 11
Matt. 21:12-22

Wednesday AM

Ps. 119:1-24
Amos 3:12--4:5
2 Pet. 3:1-10

Wednesday PM

Ps. 12, 13, 14
Matt. 21:23-32

Thursday AM

Ps. 18:1-20
Amos 4:6-13
2 Pet. 3:11-18

Thursday PM

Ps. 18:21-50
Matt. 21:33-46

Friday AM

Ps. 16, 17
Amos 5:1-17
Jude 1-16

Friday PM

Ps. 22
Matt. 22:-14

Saturday AM

Ps. 20, 21
Amos 5:18-27
Jude 17-25

Saturday PM

Ps. 110
Matt. 22:15-22

Music (Week One)

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL



O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra -
O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sin - ai's
O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's tyr - an -
O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spi - rits by thine ad - vent
O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our heav'n - ly

el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap -
height, in an - cient times didst give the law in cloud and maj - es - ty and
ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the
here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to
home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to mis - er -

pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
awe. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
y. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

(Words: trans. John Mason Neale; Music: arr. Thomas Helmore; CCLI license #2476739)

Music (Week One)

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS



1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy
2. Joy to those who long to see Thee, Day - spring from on
3. Born, Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and



peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
high ap - pear; come, Thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se,
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,



let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's Strength and
of Thy birth we long to hear! O'er the hills the
now Thy grac - ious king - dom bring. By Thine own e -



Con - so - la - tion, hope of all the saints Thou art;
ang - els sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion,
"Go to Him, your prais - es bring - ing;
by Thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it,



joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
Christ the Lord has come to earth!"
raise us to Thy glor - ious throne.

(Words: Charles Wesley, Mark E.Hunt Music: Rowland H. Prichard; CCLI license #2476739)

Week 2: Dec 10–16

Light of lights! All gloom dispelling,
Thou didst come to make thy dwelling
Here within our world of sight.
Lord, in pity and in power,
Thou didst in our darkest hour
Rend the clouds and show thy light.

Praise to thee in earth and heaven
Now and evermore be given,
Christ, who art our sun and shield.
Lord, for us thy life thou gavest,
Those who trust in thee thou savest,
All thy mercy stands revealed.

–Thomas Aquinas

Practice of Daily Prayer

1

Gather for Prayer & Candle Lighting

Leader: Lord, Open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

People: May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

Leader: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

People: In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

People: Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory!

Amen.

(from Psalm 72)

Candle Lighting

Light the first and second Advent candles and sing verse 2 of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

*"O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."*

2

Confess our Sins

Leader: God of power and might, you promised through the prophets that the day is coming when you will bring all nations under your rule.

People: We confess that we have not expected your coming kingdom. We live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit our neighbors, abuse your creation, resist your justice, and refuse your peace. In your mercy, forgive our wandering and rebellious hearts. Grant us the humility to return to you, the strength to walk in your way, and the wisdom to seek those things that will endure; for the sake of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ who will come again to judge the world in righteousness. Amen.

Leader: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

People: Amen.

Week Two

3

Read & Reflect

Think deeply and personally about how God speaks to you through today's scripture passages.

4

Pray & Sing

Merciful God, who 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 for ever. Amen.

Personal prayers for yourself, others, and the world.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sing

O Come, O Come Messiah

Daily Readings

Sunday AM

Ps. 148, 149, 150
Amos 6:1-14
2 Thess. 1:5-12

Sunday PM

Ps. 114, 115
Luke 1:57-68

Monday AM

Ps. 25
Amos 7:1-9
Rev. 1:1-8

Monday PM

Ps. 9, 15
Matt. 22:23-33

Tuesday AM

Ps. 26, 28
Amos 7:10-17
Rev. 1:9-16

Tuesday PM

Ps. 36, 39
Matt. 22:34-46

Wednesday AM

Ps. 38
Amos 8:1-14
Rev. 1:17-2:7

Wednesday PM

Ps. 119:25-48
Matt. 23:1-12

Thursday AM

Ps. 37:1-18
Amos 9:1-10
Rev. 2:8-17

Thursday PM

Ps. 37:19-42
Matt. 23:13-26

Friday AM

Ps. 31
Haggai 1:1-15
Rev. 2:18-29

Friday PM

Ps. 35
Matt. 23:27-39

Saturday AM

Ps. 30, 32
Haggai 2:1-9
Rev. 3:1-6

Saturday PM

Ps. 42, 43
Matt. 24:1-14

Music (Week Two)

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra -
 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sin - ai's
 O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's tyr - an -
 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spi - rits by thine ad - vent
 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our heav'n - ly
 el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap -
 height, in an - cient times didst give the law in cloud and maj - es - ty and
 ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the
 here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to
 home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to mis - er -
 pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
 awe. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
 grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
 flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
 y. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

(Words: trans. John Mason Neale; Music: arr. Thomas Helmore; CCLI license #2476739)

O COME, O COME, MESSIAH

1. Oh come! Oh come, Mes - si - ah! Oh come, our Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Oh come! Oh come, Me - si - ah! Oh come, our Al - le - lu - ia!

Oh sing! Oh sing Ho - san - na! Oh come, Mes - si - ah, come!
 Oh sing! Oh sing Ho - san - na! Oh come, Mes - si - ah, come!

Com - fort and joy, Al - pha, O - me - ga He.

Sor - row and toil no long - er ru - lers be.

(Words & Music: Isaac Wardell, arr. Isaac Wardell, Mason Neely, & Alex Foote; CCLI License #2476739)

Week 3: Dec 17–23

O Emmanuel *Malcolm Guite*

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us,
O long-sought with-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name,
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Infold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness,
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

Practice of Daily Prayer

1

Gather for Prayer & Candle Lighting

Leader: Lord, Open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Leader: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,

People: who made heaven and earth, who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

Leader: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

People: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

Leader: The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

People: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Amen.

(from Psalm 146)

Candle Lighting

Light the first, second, and third (pink) Advent candles and sing verse 4 of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel!"

*"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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."*

2

Confess our Sins

Leader: God of power and might, you promised through the prophets that the day is coming when you will bring all nations under your rule.

People: We confess that we have not expected your coming kingdom. We live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit our neighbors, abuse your creation, resist your justice, and refuse your peace. In your mercy, forgive our wandering and rebellious hearts. Grant us the humility to return to you, the strength to walk in your way, and the wisdom to seek those things that will endure; for the sake of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ who will come again to judge the world in righteousness. Amen.

Leader: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

People: Amen.

Week Three

3

Read & Reflect

Think deeply and personally about how God speaks to you through today's scripture passages.

4

Pray & Sing

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.

Personal prayers for yourself, others, and the world.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sing

Silent Night

Daily Readings

Sunday AM

Ps. 63, 98
Amos 9:11-15
2 Thess. 2:1-3, 13-17

Sunday PM

Ps. 103
John 5:30-47

Monday AM

Ps. 41, 52
Zech. 1:7-17
Rev. 3:7-13

Monday PM

Ps. 44
Matt. 24:15-31

Tuesday AM

Ps. 45
Zech. 2:1-13
Rev. 3:14-22

Tuesday PM

Ps. 47, 48
Matt. 24:32-44

Wednesday AM

Ps. 119:49-72
Zech. 3:1-10
Rev. 4:1-8

Wednesday PM

Ps. 49
Matt. 24:45-51

Thursday AM

Ps. 50
Zech. 4:1-14
Rev. 4:9-5:5

Thursday PM

Ps. 33
Matt. 25:1-13

Friday AM

Ps. 40, 54
Zech. 7:8-8:8
Rev. 5:6-14

Friday PM

Ps. 51
Matt. 25:14-30

Saturday AM

Ps. 55
Zech. 8:9-17
Rev. 6:1-17

Saturday PM

Ps. 138, 139
Matt. 25:31-46

Music (Week Three)

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra -
O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sin - ai's
O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's tyr - an -
O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spi - rits by thine ad - vent
O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our heav'n - ly
el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap -
height, in an - cient times didst give the law in cloud and maj - es - ty and
ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the
here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to
home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to mis - er -
pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
awe. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.
y. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

(Words: trans. John Mason Neale; Music: arr. Thomas Helmore; CCLI license #2476739)

SILENT NIGHT

Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herdsquake at the sight!
Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so
Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re -
ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
al - le - lu - ia; Christ; the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior is born!
deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

(Words: Joseph Mohr, Music: Franz Gruber, CCLI license #2476739)

Week 4: Dec 24

Christmas Eve

"When they [Mary and Joseph] arrived at Bethlehem, they were the most insignificant and despised. . . No one noticed or was conscious of what God was doing in that stable. He lets the large houses and costly apartments remain empty, lets their inhabitants eat, drink, and be merry; but this comfort and treasure are hidden from them. O what a dark night this was for Bethlehem, that was not conscious of that glorious light! See how God shows that he utterly disregards what the world is, has, or desires; and furthermore, that the world shows how little it knows or notices what God is, has, and does." – Martin Luther

Gather

Leader: On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

People: The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;

Leader: He will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love;

People: he will exult over you with loud singing. Amen. Alleluia!

Candle Lighting

Light all four Advent candles and sing verse 5 of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

*"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.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel."*

Read

Sing

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Daily Readings

Christmas Eve

Ps. 45-46

Is. 59:15-21

Phil. 2:5-11

Matt. 1:18-25

Christmas Day

Ps. 2, 85

Micah 4:1-5

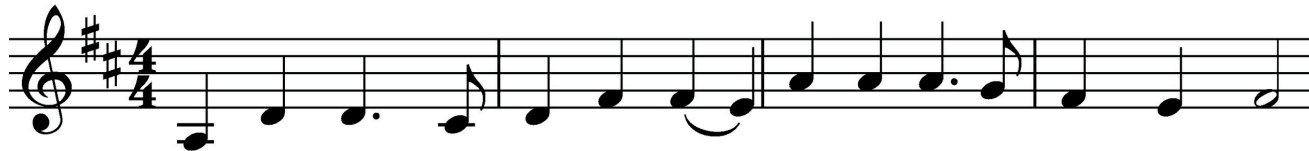
1 John 4:7-16

John 3:31-36

*"O God, you
have caused
this holy night
to shine with
the brightness
of the
true Light..."*

Music (Week Four)

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. *Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!*
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Join us on Christmas Eve for worship.

9:00 AM – Sunday Worship with Candlelighting

11:00 AM – Family Lessons & Carols Service

3:00 & 5:00 PM – Lessons & Carols

11:00 PM – Christmas Eve Eucharist Service

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