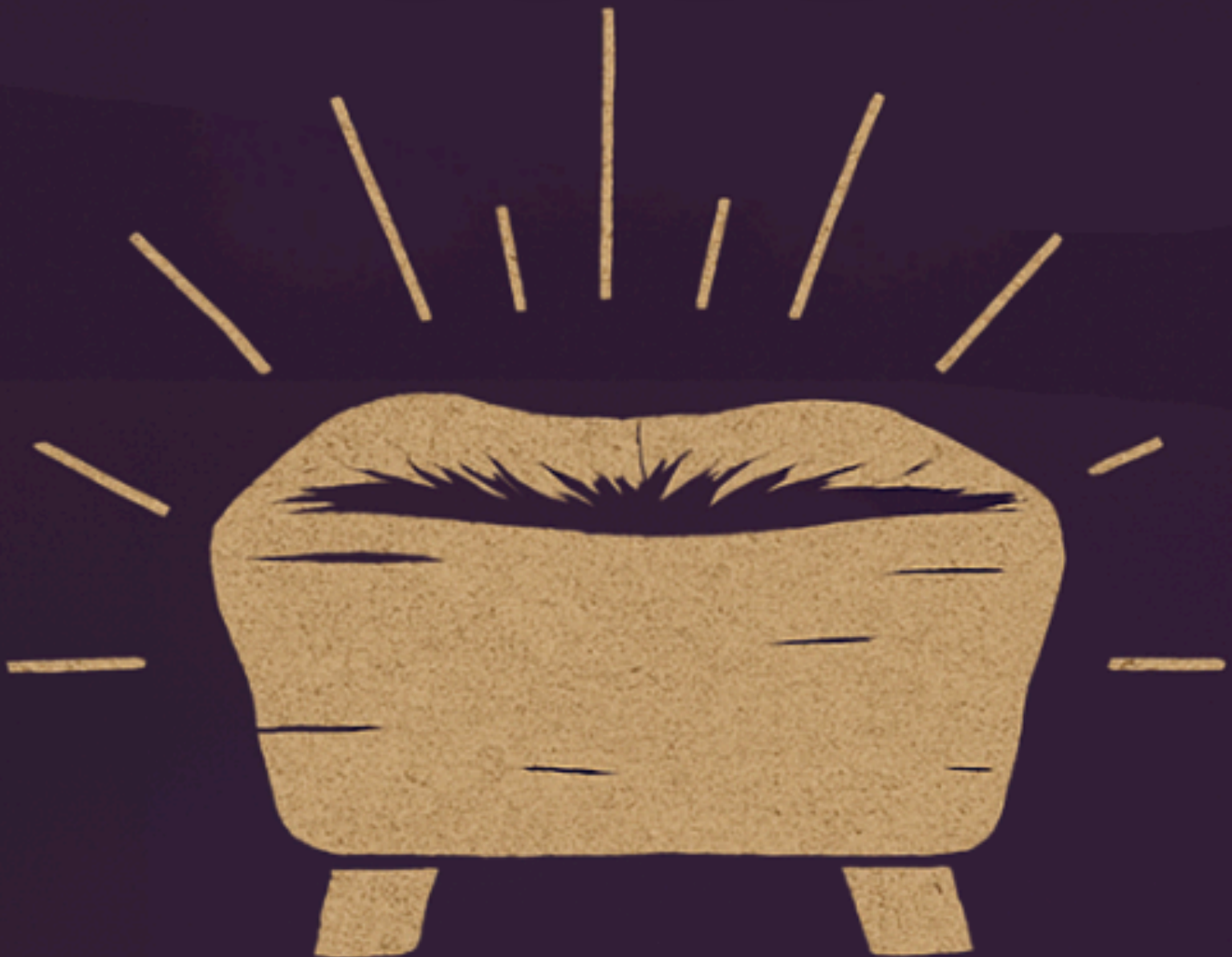


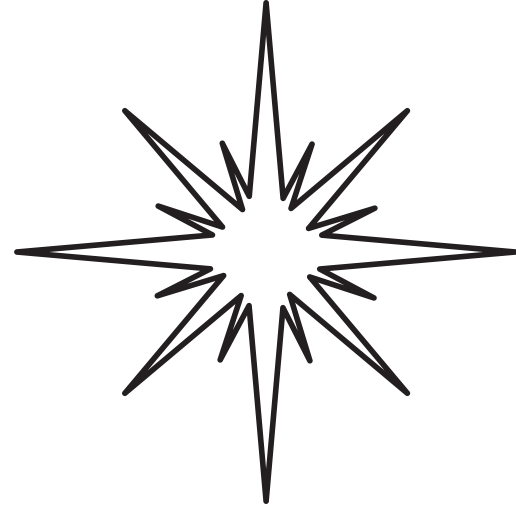
2025

Advent

PRAYER

GUIDE





Dear Church Family,

Advent means "arrival," but this does not mean that the season of Advent is a countdown to the annual remembrance of Jesus' birth. This is a season that has deep ties to the ancient Church as they looked forward to the second coming of Jesus. This year our daily readings are pulled from The Jesse Tree, a reading plan that focuses on the people who were part of God's plan leading up to Jesus' birth. As you read, look for commonalities as we too are people who are hurting, longing, and in exile until the true King returns. Watch God's story, our story, unfold, and allow it to create a new sense of celebration on Christmas Eve as we worship together. May you find pause and sacred space this year, for our Savior has come and will come again. Rejoice!



Instructions:

This guide can be used on its own and with the worship focus materials provided by The Gathering Church. It is our hope that as you work through the daily devotions over the next 4 weeks, you will begin to look forward to this reorientation of your days and that Christmas will have new, personal meaning for you. Do what you can, and remember that this is meant to bring meaning to the season, not more guilt

Worship:

All you need is this guide and a Bible for the readings. If you don't have a Bible or don't have one that you understand, please ask any of the leadership at The Gathering Church for help. Assign a reader to lead the worship and read the Bible passages. The reader uses the plain text and everyone reads the bold text together unless otherwise indicated. Whether you choose to discuss the passages together or reflect on them later individually, here are a few good questions to ask any time you read Scripture:

What does this teach me about God? What does this teach me about man? What does this teach me about me?

Candles:

You should have four candles (five if you have a white one for Christmas). Each Sunday we will light a new candle until all four are lit the Sunday before Christmas. On week one and two we light purple candles. On week three we light the rose (pink) candle, and on week four we light the final purple candle.

Advent Wreath:

Advent wreaths and candles hold a lot of symbolism. You can choose how much you will incorporate in your setting. Purple denotes Jesus' royalty while the pink candle represents joy. Wreaths can be used to arrange the candles. The circle points to Christ's eternal reign. Traditionally wreaths are decorated with seasonal greenery - evergreens (representing steadfastness) and holy (representing the crown of thorns).



Week 1

Beginning on Sunday, November 20, begin by lighting one purple candle.

OPENING SENTENCES:

Reader: Surely the Lord is coming soon.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Reader:

Psalm 98:1-3

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Lesson:

Reader: A Reading from _____.

Sunday - Isaiah 11:1-10

Monday - Genesis 2:4-24

Tuesday - Genesis 6:9-7:24

Wednesday - Genesis 12:1-9

Thursday - Genesis 22

Friday - Genesis 25:19-34

Saturday - Genesis 37:1-28

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.





THE LORD'S PRAYER

Reader: Now, let us pray together as Jesus taught us.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

COLLECT:

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.

CLOSING:

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit, bless us and keep us, this night and
forevermore. Amen.





Week 2

Beginning on Sunday, December 7, begin by lighting two purple candles.

OPENING SENTENCES:

Reader: Surely the Lord is coming soon.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Reader:

Psalm 98:1-3

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Lesson:

Reader: A Reading from _____.

Sunday - Exodus 3

Monday - Exodus 14:1-15:21

Tuesday - Exodus 19

Wednesday - Joshua 6

Thursday - Judges 6: 36-40, & 7

Friday - Ruth 1:15-22, 4:13-17

Saturday - 1 Samuel 3

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.





THE LORD'S PRAYER

Reader: Now, let us pray together as Jesus taught us.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

COLLECT:

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be
written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them,
read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by
patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may
embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of
everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior
Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING:

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit, bless us and keep us, this night and
forevermore. Amen.





Week 3

Beginning on Sunday, December 14, begin by lighting two purple candles and one pink candle.

OPENING SENTENCES:

Reader: Surely the Lord is coming soon.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Reader:

Psalm 98:1-3

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Lesson:

Reader: A Reading from _____.

Sunday - 1 Samuel 16

Monday - 1 King 17

Tuesday - 2 Kings 18:1-12

Wednesday - Isaiah 6

Thursday - Jeremiah 29:10-23

Friday - 2 Kings 24:10-20

Saturday - Nehemiah 8:1-12

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.





THE LORD'S PRAYER

Reader: Now, let us pray together as Jesus taught us.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

COLLECT:

O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the
prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way
for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and
stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready
your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient
toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second
coming to judge the world, we may be found a people
acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the
Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for
ever. Amen.

CLOSING:

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit, bless us and keep us, this night and
forevermore. Amen.





Week 4

Beginning on Sunday, December 21, begin by lighting all four candles, and the fifth on Christmas Eve.

OPENING SENTENCES:

Reader: Surely the Lord is coming soon.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Reader:

Psalm 98:1-3

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Lesson:

Reader: A Reading from _____.

Sunday - Luke 3:1-6

Monday - Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday - Luke 1:39-45

Wednesday - Luke 1:57-79

Thursday - Matthew 1:18-25

Friday - Luke 2:1-20

Saturday - John 1:1-18

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.





THE LORD'S PRAYER

Reader: Now, let us pray together as Jesus taught us.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

COLLECT:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come
among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins
from running the race that is set before us, 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.

CLOSING:

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit, bless us and keep us, this night and
forevermore. Amen.

