

Advent Devotional Readings



RENEWAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*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 the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"*



What is Advent? The season of Advent came to reflect the waiting and expectancy that God's people had for the coming Messiah. It means "coming" or "arrival" and the church now reflects his *advent* in a four-week period in which the church remembers the promises of Jesus' first coming, and looks forward to his promise to come again. Just as John the Baptist told the Jewish people to "prepare" for the Lord's coming, we need to make preparations in our own hearts as we invite the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. During this Advent Season, we encourage you to spend focused time in reading, meditation, prayer, repentance, and adoration!

Instructions: After reading the passage for the day, reflect on what you just read and go through these four questions. Pray through each of your responses.

- 1. What are the ways that I live as if Jesus never came, as if I have no Lover, no Savior, no inheritance?**
- 2. What drives, defines and delights me more than Jesus? Why am I lacking unbridled joy? What is it that I honestly believe that I need to be happy and satisfied apart from or in addition to Jesus?**
- 3. What difference would it make in my life if I truly believed that Jesus specifically came into this world for *me*?**
- 4. What aspect of God/Jesus does this passage highlight that deserves my praise and worship?**

The season of Advent is a wonderful gift that God has given us to take time apart from a busy season that can be full of distractions away from celebrating our Lord. May this time be a fruitful, joyous, and thankful for the Light of the world who has come in flesh to save sinners!



WEEK 1 – JESUS, OUR SALVATION

First Sunday in Advent HEBREWS 1:1–14 Jesus is the exact imprint of God's perfect, holy, and sinless nature. He is far superior than even the angels; no powers, rulers, or opposition can stand against the Son of God.

Monday GENESIS 3:1–15 The story of how sin entered into the world. Consider how the curses that result from sin are evident today. Yet, God injects a strong note of hope in verse 15—the first prediction of the coming of Jesus.

Tuesday ISAIAH 53:1–12 Isaiah's prophecies foretell Jesus Christ who would take upon the penalties for our sins. He was rejected because of *our sorrows, our transgressions, and our iniquities*.

Wednesday LUKE 2:1–21 The birth narrative of Jesus—the Messiah who comes into the world in the most vulnerable way possible—a baby in a manger born to two teenage parents. This is the Savior who comes to take away the sins of the world!

Thursday 1 JOHN 3:4–10 As those who have received the gift of forgiveness and redemption, we do not make a practice of sinning. We cannot claim perfection from sin in this life, but is there an active struggle against indwelling sin?

Friday COLOSSIANS 2:9–15 With the very Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, God has made us alive from our spiritual deaths having forgiven our trespasses. Our sins are no more, for they have been nailed to the cross.

Saturday LUKE 2:25–35 The Song of Simeon: The very salvation that Simeon longed to see was Jesus himself. Jesus is God's response to sin and all that is associated with it: the presence of evil, the pains of suffering, and the pangs of death.



WEEK 2 – JESUS, OUR HOPE

Second Sunday in Advent **JOHN 1:1–14** Jesus is the Word who was in the beginning with God. He is the source of all creation and he shines in the darkness. He is the light of men and darkness has not overcome this light.

Monday **PSALM 25:1–22** Allow David's prayer to give you words to express any cries of longing and desperation for God in light of the darkness that you see around you and in you.

Tuesday **ISAIAH 9:2–7** Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet Isaiah. Those who see Christ are those who dwell in a land of deep darkness. There is hope in this coming King, who is our "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Meditate on the meaning of these four titles

Wednesday **MATTHEW 2:1–23** The wise men (Magi) find the King they have been longing and searching for, and they give Jesus gifts and worship him. Seek Christ and set your hope fully on the grace that is found in him.

Thursday **JOHN 3:16–21** Jesus is the light that has come into the world so that it would be saved through him. There is no failure in God's part to save us from darkness; rather, the world chooses to embrace the darkness over the light.

Friday 1 **JOHN 5:4–12** Children of God overcome the world because of the faith we have in the testimony of Jesus Christ. What is this testimony that John writes about? Do you sincerely believe this with all your heart?

Saturday **LUKE 1:67–80** Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, sings about the Christ, for he has given "light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."



WEEK 3 – JESUS, OUR LIFE

Third Sunday in Advent 1 JOHN 1:1–4 That which was from the beginning, Jesus, is life. And this life was made manifest in the flesh so that he could be seen, heard, and touched. This is the testimony of Christ's advent.

Monday ROMANS 5:12–14 God did not create evil nor sin, but he allows sin and its effects to plague the world for a while. Sin brought death into the world and death has spread to all men. We must all have an answer to the inevitable death that we will face.

Tuesday ISAIAH 25:6–9 The Lord God promises to swallow up death forever. This promise is not simply the removal of death, but the ushering in the fullness of life—a feast of rich food and rejoicing in his salvation.

Wednesday PHILIPPIANS 2:5–11 This is how Jesus, the God of the universes comes to us—in humility, in the form of a servant, in obedience even to the point of death. That Jesus voluntarily lowered himself in this way elicits our praise.

Thursday MATTHEW 2:1-23 Matthew's account on Jesus' birth. Though Herod was the first of many who would seek to end Jesus' life, God's sovereign protection secures Jesus's life and in turn, our life. If God is for us, who can be against us?

Friday HEBREWS 2:14–18 Why did Jesus come into the world? So that through his death, he might destroy the one who has the power of death. We need not fear death, for Christ has delivered us from death and helps us in our weakness.

Saturday LUKE 1:5–55 Mary's Magnificat: May our souls magnify the Lord for he has not remained silent to the curse of sin and the power of death. God has done great things for us; he has sent his One and only Son into the world for our sake.



WEEK 4 – JESUS, OUR PEACE

***Fourth Sunday in Advent* COLOSSIANS 1:15–20** Jesus is firstborn of all creation, not because he is a created being but because he is preeminent above all creation. He is in perfect relationship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

***Monday* GENESIS 3:22–24** Because of Adam and Eve’s sin, they are cast out of God’s presence and the garden. The curses and effects of sin are devastating, and the most serious one is being separated from the living God.

***Tuesday* JEREMIAH 31:31–34** There will come a day when God’s people will have such intimacy and knowledge of God that they no longer need to instruct one another. We shall all know God perfectly. To know God, is to know his Son.

***Wednesday* MATTHEW 1:1–23** Matthew starts with the genealogy—who is Jesus, what are his roots, who is his family—and then tells the story of the angel of the Lord coming to Joseph in a dream. “Immanuel” is the name given to Jesus in this annunciation text. It means: “God with us.” Consider what it means that Jesus Christ is God and is *with us*.

***Thursday* PSALM 22:1–31** These words come out of Jesus’ mouth while hanging on the cross. He experiences something he never had before: separation from God, so that *we* would be reconciled to God. The true meaning of Christmas.

***Friday* ROMANS 5:6–11** Christ did not wait for us to become worthy of his salvation. He died for us *while* we were still weak and sinners. We are no longer enemies, but we are reconciled to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

***Saturday* LUKE 2:14–15; REVELATION 5:11–13** Multitudes of angels praise God as they witness salvation that has come into the world to bring peace. This peace is mankind’s peace with God. They continue to praise God as salvation is accomplished, proclaimed, and consummated until the end of age.