Advent Family Devotional 2026



THIS DEVOTIONAL GUIDE HAS BEEN DESIGNED WITH FAMILIES IN MIND - A SIMPLE, EASY-TO-MEMORIZE CALL AND RESPONSE REPEATED EACH DAY, SHORT DAILY SCRIPTURE VERSES, AND WEEKLY THEMES WITH A SHORT EXPLANATION FOR KIDS AND LONGER EXPLANATION FOR PARENTS. THE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO GO ALONG WITH THE LIGHTING OF AN ADVENT WREATH. WE SUGGEST CREATING A DAILY FAMILY RHYTHM FOR THE ADVENT SEASON - A FEW MINUTES AT THE BEGINNING OF DINNERTIME OR BEFORE BED, FOR EXAMPLE - TO LIGHT THE WREATH AND USE THIS GUIDE.



THE SYMBOLISM *of* THE ADVENT WREATH

Adapted from "The Advent Wreath Tradition & Meaning" by Gretchen Filz

LIGHT / "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world" (John 1:9). As Christ's Advent, or "coming," draws nearer, another candle is lit, with each candle dispelling the darkness a little more.

CIRCLE / The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's complete and unending love for us—a love that sent his Son into the world to redeem us from sin and renew all things.

EVERGREENS / The evergreen trimmings represent eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

PURPLE / Violet is a traditional liturgical color used to signify a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. Advent is the season where we wait in our "darkness" with hopeful expectation for our promised redemption - just as the whole world did before Christ's birth, and just as the whole world does now as we eagerly await his promised return.

PINK / The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a traditional liturgical color used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent.



WEEK 1 / **HOPE**

This week we celebrate the hope that is ours because God came near to us in Jesus, and because Jesus is coming back to fix everything.

During Advent we remember Israel's waiting and longing for Jesus the Messiah, their (and our) only hope for liberation from sin and restored relationship with God. And we remember that we are still waiting. When we look at the world around us that is still broken and subject to sin and death, we hold fast to our Hope that Jesus is alive, that he is at work today establishing his kingdom on earth, and that one day he will return to make all things new.

CALL & RESPONSE

Parent : Lord, you are the light of the world.
Children : O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

LIGHTING OF CANDLE *light one purple*

SCRIPTURE READING

29 / Sunday: Isaiah 7:14

30 / Monday: Mark 13:35

1 / Tuesday: Isaiah 9:2

2 / Wednesday: Romans 13:11-12

3 / Thursday: Micah 5:4-5

4 / Friday: Hebrews 9:28

5 / Saturday: Isaiah 9:6

PRAYER

Almighty God, whose light shines in the darkness:
Set our hearts alight with the fire of your love and awaken hope within us,
that amidst the darkness of our broken world,
we may walk in confident expectation that your light will never be overcome;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.



WEEK 2 / **PEACE**

This week we celebrate the peace that Jesus came to bring - peace with God, and peace in our hearts amidst the storms of life.

During Advent we celebrate God's nearness as we cry out for Emmanuel, "God with us." And we reflect on the many ways that Jesus brings us peace - the peace he purchased for us on the cross, the peace of his presence and nearness amidst every trial, sorrow, and concern of this life, and the peace that comes from our confident expectation that he is returning and will one day wipe away every tear and restore everything that is broken.

CALL & RESPONSE

Parent : Lord, you are the light of the world.
Children : O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES *light two purple*

SCRIPTURE READING

6 / Sunday: Isaiah 66:12-13

7 / Monday: John 16:33

8 / Tuesday: Isaiah 40:11

9 / Wednesday: Psalm 72:12-14

10 / Thursday: 1 John 2:28

11 / Friday: Isaiah 61:1-3

12 / Saturday: Revelation 21:4-5

PRAYER

O Prince of Peace,
who purchased our peace with your own blood,
and who preached peace to those who were near and those who were far:
Calm the storms in our hearts,
break down the walls that divide us,
and make us instruments of your peace,
as we long with hopeful expectation for the day
when the lion will lie down with the lamb
and every tear will be wiped away;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.



WEEK 3 / **JOY**

This week we celebrate the joy that Christ's Advent is near. We will not have to wait forever.

The joy of Advent is that, even though we are still waiting, we know Christ's coming among us is very near. Israel's waiting will not go on forever; the child is about to be born. And our waiting will not go on forever as Jesus' return draws near. This confident anticipation fills us with joy, a joy that lifts our hearts above the chaos of this life and prepares us to rejoice with Jesus forever.

CALL & RESPONSE

Parent : Lord, you are the light of the world.
Children : O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES *light two purple + one pink*

SCRIPTURE READING

13 / Sunday: Isaiah 52:8-9

14 / Monday: Zephaniah 3:14-17

15 / Tuesday: John 1:5-9

16 / Wednesday: Psalm 16:9-11

17 / Thursday: 1 Peter 1:8-9

18 / Friday: Psalm 30:11-12

19 / Saturday: Isaiah 35:10b

PRAYER

O Jesus Christ, joy of every longing heart,
whose first coming caused both earth and heaven to rejoice:
Fill us with abiding joy as we anticipate your return, that even in the darkness
our hearts would sing your song;
and prepare us, along with all creation, for the everlasting joy
of your Kingdom as we await the marriage of heaven and earth;
in your strong name we pray,
Amen.



WEEK 4 / **LOVE**

This week we celebrate the love of God made known to us in Jesus Christ his Son; the gift of Emmanuel, God with us.

It was for love that God took on flesh and came among us. It was for love that Jesus went to the cross. It was for love that God poured out his Spirit on the church. And it is for love that he will one day return. During Advent we give thanks for the love of God that hears our cries and does not remain far off, but draws near to rescue and redeem.

CALL & RESPONSE

Parent : Lord, you are the light of the world.
Children : O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES *light all*

SCRIPTURE READING

20 / Sunday: John 3:16

21 / Monday: 1 John 4:10

22 / Tuesday: Philippians 2:4-7

23 / Wednesday: Jeremiah 31:3

24 / Thursday: Romans 8:38-39

PRAYER

Eternal God,
in the stillness of the night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:
As Mary waited and labored for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see our great salvation,
give to the earth the peace that we long for,
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

*From the Church of England's *Common Worship*



CHRISTMAS DAY

Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the day that God became one of us.

On Christmas Day, the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. The eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful God humbled himself to become a helpless child so that the world might know what God is like and be restored to relationship with him. In this first coming, Jesus reveals the love and humility of God. Though the season of Advent draws to a close today, its ultimate purpose is to remind us that we are still waiting. Until he comes again in glory, we joyfully anticipate the day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

CALL & RESPONSE

Parent : Lord, you are the light of the world.
Children : O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES *light all*

SCRIPTURE READING

25 / Friday: Luke 2:1-20

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you today,
our Savior and our eternal God.
Amen.*

*From the Church of England's *Common Worship*

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