

Jesus.
Only
Jesus.



Jesus, Only Jesus

Advent

Advent, the four weeks preceding Christmas, is a season of *active waiting*. The word *Advent* means “coming” or “arrival,” and this season has traditionally been a time of celebration and anticipation; we celebrate Jesus’ first Advent, and we urgently anticipate his promised second Advent.

Advent is all about Jesus. The daily Scriptures listed point to the character and work of the person Jesus. He is our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King. As we celebrate Advent, our focus is on Jesus and the implications of the God-man for us today. We not only remember Jesus’ first Advent, but we look forward to the day when King Jesus will return at his second Advent and free us from sin, injustice, and brokenness forever.

We await this second Advent actively. It’s marked by the mission of God where our hearts, hands, and homes become instruments of hope and healing. It’s a waiting where we learn to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and love our neighbors as ourselves. We participate in shaping the world God has placed us in to reflect the ethics of Jesus, who ushered in a kingdom that both has come and has yet to fully arrive.

Our Love the Valley initiative is an invitation to join in the work of Jesus in our community. Also, you will find ways to serve and bless others with your family this Advent season (see the back page for more info on this). As we wait, we partner with God, who is at work in our world.

Encountering God’s Presence—Daily Readings

Our lives are often defined by anxiety, a frantic pace, disordered loves. These daily Scripture readings are an invitation to slow down, to steady our souls as we gaze together on the person and works of Jesus, Immanuel, God with us. May your head and your heart be oriented toward Jesus, only Jesus.

- **SLOW:** Find a place where you can encounter God; ask him to fill the space. Take a minute in silence and stillness to open your heart to God.
- **READ:** Read through the passage slowly, paying careful attention to each word or phrase. Read through the Scripture passage several times, asking God to reveal truth to you about who he is.
- **MEDITATE:** Take your chosen verse, meditate on it, and consider what truth God might be saying to you through Scripture. Don’t rush this step.
- **APPLY:** Turn your focus outward; think about how this truth applies to you this day. Respond to the truth of God’s Word in obedience.
- **PRAY:** Close by writing a simple prayer of devotion to God asking him to help you obediently respond to his words.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Scriptures

Week 1

Nov 27	Luke 19v1-10
28	Matt 1v18-21
29	1 Timothy 1v12-17
30	Acts 4v5-12
Dec 01	John 10v1-21
02	John 14v1-7
03	Luke 2v25-38

Week 2

Dec 04	John 6v60-70
05	1 Peter 1v13-16
06	John 17v14-19
07	1 Thessalonians 4v1-8
08	1 Thessalonians 5v23-24
09	Titus 3v1-11
10	1 Corinthians 1v26-31

Week 3

Dec 11	1 Peter 2v21-25
12	Isaiah 53v1-6
13	Mark 10v46-52
14	John 5v1-16
15	Matthew 8v1-4
16	Isaiah 61v1-11
17	Revelation 21v3-4

Week 4

Dec 18	Isaiah 9v6-7
19	Micah 5v2-4
20	Zechariah 9v9-11
21	Luke 1v5-24
22	Luke 1v26-38
23	Luke 1v39-56
24	Luke 1v57-80

Christmas Day

Dec 25	Luke 2v1-40
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Advent Family Activities and Service

Loving and caring for those in need is something that Jesus calls us to do as we carry the Good News. In fact, Jesus says that when we meet someone's need, it is as if we are doing it for Jesus himself (Matthew 25v35-40). This Advent season, we want to equip families at CrossPoint with a few simple ways to meet various needs in our community. On Sunday, November 28, you're invited to pick up one of the gift bags available at CrossPoint that will contain the contents for three different opportunities to bless others and meet needs this Christmas.

Soup for your neighbors

We will provide you with a package to make soup for a neighbor, coworker, or someone else you know. We encourage you to make a side dish or two to go with the soup, and then do one of two things:

1. Take the meal to them as a blessing OR
2. Invite them to your table at home as a way to meet both physical and relational needs

Cards for the elderly

You'll find a kit to create handmade Christmas cards for the elderly who are isolated in assisted living homes. As a family, this gives you an opportunity to bless others with handmade Christmas cards, and it is also a great reminder to pray for those we don't always get to interact with.

Necessities for the youth

There are many students in the valley who come from deeply broken homes. These teenagers often lack basic necessities such as clothing and personal hygiene products. Using the gift bag that you receive for these kits, we encourage you to buy and fill it with some basic necessities. You'll find a list in the bag.

Let our families join together this Advent season as the family of God to serve those in need.