

The Hope of Jesus Advent 2021

Advent is a season of waiting. For thousands of years our fallen world waited anxiously for the coming of the Messiah, the one who would rescue mankind from sin and death. When Jesus came to earth as a baby and was born on the day we celebrate as Christmas, it was the culmination of a hope that had been growing for generations. But it wasn't the end of the story. The celebration of Advent unites us with the people of God throughout history, who in times of turmoil and trial looked to a Redeemer in whom they placed their trust, and reminds us that we too are waiting for Christ to return to make all things new.

This year as we seek to ground our hope in the coming of Christ, we meditate on his titles as foretold in Isaiah:

**“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”**
Isaiah 9:6

How to Use this Study

A passage of scripture, prayer, or song is provided for each day of the week, Monday–Saturday, with Sunday as a day to reflect on the sermon. Lyrics for a second weekly song are also provided, and this can be sung each day of the week as well.

You may notice that some of the selected scripture passages feel more connected to the Christmas story than others. But all are intended to set your mind on the hope we have in Jesus. As you ponder the meaning of this Advent season, we encourage you to meditate each day on these three questions:

1. What does this teach or remind us about what is true of God?
2. What does this teach or remind us about what is true of ourselves?
3. How does this encourage us to set our hope on Christ?

This can be done alone or in community (as part of your community group, or with family, neighbors, roommates, or friends). We recommend that you read the daily passage or prayer or song, reflect on the three questions above, and then sing the weekly song. Some people also choose to light a candle to commemorate the time of Advent. For extra resources to guide your devotional time in this season, see the “Expanded Resources” section at the end, including sermons, albums, and books.

Merry Christmas!

Week 1: Wonderful Counselor

The Hope of Wisdom

Monday, November 29th

Isaiah 40:1-8

God tells Isaiah to comfort his people with the promise that the way of the LORD will be prepared, and that the word of God will stand forever.

Tuesday, November 30th

Psalms 90

A prayer of Moses recognizing man's deep need for God, and pleading for wisdom and the Lord's return.

Wednesday, December 1st

Song: Joy to the World

Thursday, December 2nd

Mark 1:1-8

God keeps the promise that he made hundreds of years ago by sending John the Baptizer to prepare the way of the LORD. As that prophecy is being fulfilled, another prophecy is made that One will come who is able to baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Friday, December 3rd

1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Paul proclaims the power of the Holy Spirit and the quality of wisdom that he provides.

Saturday, December 4th

Prayer: Spiritual Growth (see back of page)

Week 1 Song: 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.

O come, Thou Day-spring, 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.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Spiritual Growth, *The Valley of Vision*, p. 109

O THOU MOST HIGH,
In the way of thy appointment I am waiting for thee,
 My desire is to thy name,
 My mind to remembrance of thee.
I am a sinner, but not insensible of my state.
My iniquities are great and numberless,
 but thou art adequate to my relief,
 for thou art rich in mercy;
 the blood of thy Son can cleanse from all sin;
 the agency of thy Spirit can subdue my most powerful lusts.
Give me a tender, wakeful conscience
 that can smite and torment me when I sin.
May I be consistent in conversation and conduct,
 the same alone as in company,
 in prosperity and adversity,
 accepting all thy commandments as right,
 and hating every false way.
May I never be satisfied with my present spiritual progress,
 but to faith add virtue, knowledge, temperance, godliness,
 brotherly kindness, charity.
May I never neglect
 what is necessary to constitute Christian character,
 and needful to complete it.
May I cultivate the expedient,
 develop the lovely, adorn the gospel,
 recommend the religion of Jesus,
 accommodate myself to thy providence.

Keep me from sinking or sinning in the evil day;
Help me to carry into ordinary life portions of divine truth
 and use them on suitable occasions, so that
 its doctrines may inform,
 its warnings caution,
 its rules guide,
 its promises comfort me.

Week 2: Mighty God

The Hope of Restoration

Monday, December 6th

Isaiah 61:1-4, 10-11

Isaiah conveys the words of the coming Messiah, providing a vision of restoration for God's people to look forward to.

Tuesday, December 7th

Psalms 85

In a time of distress, Israel remembers how God has restored them in the past, and prays for Him to do so again.

Wednesday, December 8th

Song: Silent Night

Thursday, December 9th

Luke 1:46-55

After the angel Gabriel tells Mary that she will bear the Son of God, Mary sings for joy at the provision of the Lord toward those "of humble estate."

Friday, December 10th

Titus 3:3-7

In his letter to Titus, Paul speaks to what we were and what we have become because of the coming of Jesus Christ.

Saturday, December 11th

Prayer: New Beginning (see back of page)

Week 2 Song: Away in a Manger

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head

The stars in the sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
The baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes

I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
Until morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me, I pray

Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven
To live with Thee there

New Beginning, *The Valley of Vision*, p. 95

INCOMPREHENSIBLE, GREAT, AND GLORIOUS GOD,

I adore thee and abase myself.

I approach thee mindful that I am less than nothing,

a creature worse than nothing.

My thoughts are not screened from thy gaze.

My secret sins blaze in the light of thy countenance.

Enable me to remember that blood which cleanseth all sin,

to believe in that grace which subdues all inquiries,

to resign myself to that agency which can deliver me

from the bondage of corruption

into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

Thou hast begun a good work in me

and canst alone continue and complete it.

Give me an increasing conviction of my tendency to err,

and of my exposure to sin.

Help me to feel more of the purifying, softening influence of religion,

its compassion, love, pity, courtesy,

and employ me as thy instrument in blessing others.

Give me to distinguish

between the mere form of godliness and its power,

between life and a name to live,

between guile and truth,

between hypocrisy and a religion that will bear thy eye.

If I am not right, set me right, keep me right;

And may I at last come to thy house in peace.

Week 3: Everlasting Father

The Hope of Love

Monday, December 13th

Isaiah 64:1-9

God's power is proclaimed by a people confessing their sin before Him. As they pray for deliverance, they appeal to God as their Creator and Father.

Tuesday, December 14th

Psalms 103

A psalm praising God as a compassionate father, steadfast in love and mercy.

Wednesday, December 15th

Song: O Come All Ye Faithful

Thursday, December 16th

John 1:1-13

John opens his gospel by speaking of the true light who comes into the world and gives us the right to become children of God.

Friday, December 17th

Revelation 21:1-7

John closes his last letter with a vision of the eternal protection and provision that will be in heaven for those who accept the saving grace of Christ.

Saturday, December 18th

Prayer: The Prayer of Love (see back of page)

Week 3 Song:

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be?
Which inspire your heavenly songs?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid,
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
With us sing our Saviour's birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The Prayer of Love, *The Valley of Vision*, p. 149

GRACIOUS LORD,
Thy name is love,
 in love receive my prayer.
My sins are more than the wide sea's sand,
 but where sin abounds, there is grace more abundant.
Look to the cross of thy beloved Son,
 and view the preciousness of his atoning blood;
Listen to his never-failing intercession,
 and whisper to my heart, 'Thy sins are forgiven,
 be of good cheer, lie down in peace.'
Grace cataracts from heaven and flows for ever,
 and mercy never wearies in bestowing benefits.
Grant me more and more to prize the privilege of prayer,
 to come to thee as a sin-soiled sinner,
 to find pardon in thee,
 to converse with thee;
 to know thee in prayer as
 the path in which my feet tread,
 the latch upon the door of my lips,
 the light that shines through my eyes,
 the music of my ears,
 the marrow of my understanding,
 the strength of my will,
 the power of my affection,
 the sweetness of my memory.
May the matter of my prayer be always wise, humble, submissive,
 obedient, scriptural, Christ-like.
Give me unwavering faith that supplications are never in vain,
 that if I seem not to obtain my petitions
 I shall have larger, richer answers,
 Surpassing all that I ask or think.
Unsought, thou hast given me the greatest gift,
 the person of thy Son,
 and in him thou wilt give me all I need.

Week 4: Prince of Peace

The Hope of Peace

Monday, December 20th

Isaiah 26:1-9

Isaiah foretells the peace God's people can expect when a righteous God is ultimately victorious.

Tuesday, December 21st

Psalms 23

This psalm of David relays the comfort and peace of being led when the Lord is the shepherd.

Wednesday, December 22nd

Song: O Holy Night

Thursday, December 23rd

Luke 2:1-21

Luke's gospel recounts the birth of Christ, at which the angels proclaimed glory to God and peace to men on earth.

Friday, December 24th

Romans 15:13

A benediction of hope going forth from the Advent season.

Week 4 Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still
The dear Christ enters in

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Expanded Resources

Books

The Dawning of Indestructible Joy

By John Piper | [Find on Amazon](#)

Come, Let Us Adore Him

By Paul David Tripp | [Find on Amazon](#)

The Jesus Storybook Bible

By Sally Lloyd-Jones | [Find on Amazon](#)

Prepare Him Room

By Marty Machowski | [Find on Amazon](#)

Albums

Advent Songs

By Sojourn | [Find on Amazon](#)

The Light Came Down

By Josh Garrels | [Find on Amazon](#)

Sermons

The Nativity: Mary and Joseph

subspla.sh/9fdhd6z

The Nativity: Shepherds by Night

subspla.sh/n5fhpxt

The Nativity: Three Wise Men

subspla.sh/kbgvjbs

A Savior is Born!

www.desiringgod.org/messages/a-savior-is-born-glory-to-god-peace-to-man

Blogs

"Don't Forget Who the Party is For"

hbcharlesjr.com/resource-library/articles/dont-forget-who-the-party-is-for

"Why Celebrate Advent"

cornerstonewla.org/blog/2016/11/26/why-celebrate-advent

"Advent and Hope"

cornerstonewla.org/blog/2015/12/09/advent-and-hope

"Advent and Meditating"

cornerstonewla.org/2015/12/16/advent-and-meditating

"Advent and Celebration"

cornerstonewla.org/blog/2015/12/23/advent-and-celebration