

DECEMBER 2023

December is right in the midst of Advent, a season of waiting and remembering Christ, our Savior, coming to earth in the form of a human child. He “who in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but instead humbled himself, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness” (Philippians 2:6-7). We are reminded in the previous verse that our attitudes should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Many of us are living incarnationally in our host countries. We are obeying Christ by being the light of the world (Matt 5:14), shining His light and life to those around us. In places of spiritual darkness, suffering and/or poverty, we are trusting in God’s promise of hope, blessing, and healing. We now await the fullness and completion of Christ’s reign here on earth. As we wait we pray, ache, rejoice, and celebrate the Child who was born and gives hope to the world. And we look forward to the day when “what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, [shouts] ‘Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns!’” (Revelation 19:6)

ADVENT PRAYER:

From The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of The Episcopal Church

“May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify us with the light of his blessing and set us free from all sin.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

May we, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

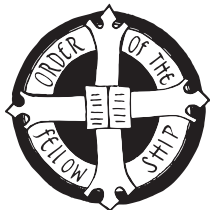
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us forever. Amen.”

PRAYER PRACTICE:

As you observe the lights of Christmas around you or as you light your own Advent candles, pray this month for Christ’s light to penetrate the dark places in the areas where you serve. Pray specifically for “lights” in the souls of fellow believers to shine brighter this season as more people seek hope. Pray for Christ to ignite His light into the souls of those seeking Truth. If you don’t already have 3 people you are intentionally praying to come to Christ, then choose 3 people in your everyday comings and goings for Christ to specially shine His light into this month. Pray for the veil to be removed from their hearts and minds. (1 Cor 3:16)

FASTING PRACTICE:

This month, if you haven’t already bought all your Christmas presents, pray and think about how you can intentionally create a gift for someone instead of purchasing a gift. Ask God to help you use your God-given ability to create and bring joy and beauty to someone else in the form of something you’ve made especially for them. If you feel led, make multiple gifts instead of purchasing them! Use this as a way to fast from the pull of materialism and consumerism this holiday season while connecting to God’s nature of creativity within you.



DECEMBER 2023

WEEK 1

DEC 1-2

FRIDAY

- Ps 80:1-7, 17-19
- Zechariah 14:1-9
- 1 Thess 4:1-18

SATURDAY

- Ps 80:1-7, 17-19
- Micah 2:1-13
- Matt 24:15-31

WEEK 2

DEC 3-9



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY

- Isa 64:1-9
- 1 Cor 1:3-9
- Mark 13:24-37
- Ps 80:1-7, 16-18

MONDAY

- Ps 79
- Micah 4:1-5
- Revelation 15:1-8

TUESDAY

- Ps 79
- Micah 4:6-13
- Revelation 18:1-10

WEDNESDAY

- Ps 79
- Micah 5:1-5a
- Luke 21:34-38

THURSDAY

- Ps 85:1-2, 8-13
- Hosea 6:1-6
- 1 Thess 1:2-10

FRIDAY

- Ps 85:1-2, 8-13
- Jer 1:4-10
- Acts 11:19-26

SATURDAY

- Ps 85:1-2, 8-13
- Ezekiel 36:24-28
- Mark 11:27-33

WEEK 3

DEC 10-16



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY

- Isa 40:1-11
- 2 Peter 3:8-15a
- Mark 1:1-8
- Ps 85:1-2, 8-13

MONDAY

- Ps 27
- Isa 26:7-15
- Acts 2:37-42

TUESDAY

- Ps 27
- Isa 4:2-6
- Acts 11:1-18

WEDNESDAY

- Ps 27
- Malachi 2:10-3:1
- Luke 1:5-17

THURSDAY

- Ps 126
- Hab 2:1-5
- Philippians 3:7-11

FRIDAY

- Ps 126
- Hab 3:2-6
- Philippians 3:12-16

SATURDAY

- Ps 126
- Hab 3:13-19
- Matt 21:28-32

WEEK 4

DEC 17-23



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY

- Isa 61:1-4, 8-11
- 1 Thess 5:16-24
- John 1:6-8, 19-28
- Ps 126

MONDAY

- Ps 125
- 1 Kings 18:1-18
- Eph 6:10-17

TUESDAY

- Ps 125
- 2 Kings 2:9-22
- Acts 3:17-4:4

WEDNESDAY

- Ps 125
- Malachi 3:16-4:6
- Mark 9:9-13

THURSDAY

- Ps 89:1-4, 19-26
- 2 Sam 6:1-11
- Hebrews 1:1-4

FRIDAY

- Ps 89:1-4, 19-26
- 2 Sam 6:12-19
- Hebrews 1:5-14

SATURDAY

- Ps 89:1-4, 19-26
- Judges 13:2-24
- John 7:40-52

WEEK 5

DEC 24-30



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY

- 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16
- Romans 16:25-27
- Luke 1:26-38
- Ps 89:1-4, 19-26

MONDAY

- Isa 9:2-7
- Titus 2:11-14
- Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
- Ps 96

TUESDAY

- Luke 1:46b-55
- 1 Sam 1:19-28
- Hebrews 8:1-13

WEDNESDAY

- Luke 1:46b-55
- 1 Sam 2:1-10
- Mark 11:1-11

THURSDAY

- Ps 148
- Jer 31:15-17
- Matt 2:13-18

FRIDAY

- Ps 148
- Isa 49:5-15
- Matt 12:46-50

SATURDAY

- Ps 148
- Proverbs 9:1-12
- 2 Peter 3:8-13