

Advent AT
(COVE CHURCH



Dear Cove Church Family,

The word Advent means “Arrival” or “Coming”

What comes to mind when you think about someone coming to your home? Likely one word among many is the word preparation!

You prepare for your company’s arrival by cleaning house, meal planning, shopping, and cooking food. There is forethought, excitement, and anticipation.

In the same way, the people of God in the Old Testament looked forward with anticipation and preparation for the coming Messiah, and He came in the person of Jesus Christ! Christ’s first advent. Likewise, as Christ followers today we look forward to Christ’s coming again - His second Advent.

So what is Advent? It’s a time for Christ followers to celebrate Christ’s first arrival, and look forward in anticipation and preparation for His second arrival.

There are many ways to celebrate Advent. Traditionally, families used Advent wreaths the four Sundays building up to Christmas. Each Sunday a Scripture is read aloud regarding the Messiah’s coming, and a candle is lit.

The fifth candle is known as the “Christ Candle” and is lit on Christmas Day. All four candles now lit representing Jesus Christ, the light of the world!

The following Advent guide includes readings for four Sundays, plus Christmas Day. This resource is our gift to you to help enhance your devotional time this Christmas season. Perhaps you’ll use this material to guide a time of personal devotion, or maybe a small group exercise with friends, or with a roommate, or spouse. Advent may also be a wonderful time to teach your kids about the meaning of Christ’s arrival, and why we look forward to His second coming.

One last note, as you light your Advent candles, may you be reminded not only of Christ as the Light of the World, but also of the Holy Spirit who is the fire of Christ’s love. May the Spirit guide you, counsel you, and bring comfort to you this Advent season!

*Merry Christmas to all, and blessings
for the New Year!*

Devotional questions inspired by: Unwrapping the Greatest Gift by Ann Voskamp

A close-up photograph of a branch with several small, round, red berries covered in a light layer of white frost. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and purple, suggesting a winter scene. The word "Hope" is written in a white, elegant cursive font on the left side of the image.

Hope

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Hope

Light the first candle, symbolizing the Hope we have in Jesus

- Read the following Scripture together, a prophecy of Jesus coming into our world
- Say a prayer of hope for what his advent brings
- If you like, end by singing a Christmas Carol together

SCRIPTURE READING | Isaiah 64:1-4 (CEB)

"If only you would tear open the heavens and come down! Mountains would quake before you like fire igniting brushwood or making water boil. If you would make your name known to your enemies, the nations would tremble in your presence. When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations; when you came down, mountains quaked before you. From ancient times, no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any god but you who acts on behalf of those who wait for him!"

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we wait for you and we hope in you. As we wait, give us grace to cast away all manner of darkness, and put on the armor of your light. That we may look with hope in your Son, Jesus, who first came to us in humility, to the time when he will come again in majesty. That in that day he will judge this broken world and set it right. And that we may rise to eternal life, through Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, both now and forever. Amen.

CAROL

From "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 you, 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.
Extinguish the candle until next week.

A serene winter landscape featuring a snow-covered hillside. In the foreground, a large evergreen tree is heavily laden with snow, standing prominently on the right. To its left, a smaller, younger tree is also covered in snow. The background shows a line of more trees and distant, hazy mountains under a soft, overcast sky. The overall mood is peaceful and quiet.

Peace

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Peace

Light the second candle, symbolizing the Peace we have in Jesus.

- Read the following Scripture together, a prophecy of what Jesus coming brings.
- Say a prayer of peace for this world.
- If you like, end by singing a Christmas Carol together.

SCRIPTURE READING | Isaiah 40:1-5 (CEB)

“Comfort, comfort my people! Says your God. Speak compassionately to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended, that her penalty has been paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins! A voice is crying out: ‘Clear the Lord’s way in the desert! Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God! Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be flattened. Uneven ground will become level, and rough terrain a valley plain. The Lord’s glory will appear, and all humanity will see it together; that Lord’s mouth has commanded it.”

PRAYER

Loving God, we recognize how you labor on our behalf to clear a holy space where hurt and destruction have no place. Clear our lives of hatred and despair, sow seeds of joy and peace, that shoots of hope may spring forth and we may live in harmony with one another. Amen.

CAROL

From “O Holy Night”

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name!

Christ is the Lord,
Oh praise His name forever,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

Extinguish the candles until next week.

Joy

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Joy

Light the third candle, symbolizing the Joy we have in Jesus.

- Read the following Scripture together, a joyful prophecy fulfilled in Jesus.
- Say a prayer for the joy he gives us.
- If you like, end by singing a Christmas Carol together.

SCRIPTURE READING | Isaiah 61:1-3 (CEB)

“The Lord God’s spirit is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim release for captives, and liberation for prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and a day of vindication for our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for Zion’s mourners, to give them a crown in place of ashes, oil of joy in place of mourning, a mantle of praise in place of discouragement. They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, planted by the Lord to glorify himself.”

PRAYER

O Lord, stir up the power of your Holy Spirit and come among us with grace and mercy, that we may not be so hindered by our sins, but set free by your help and deliverance. That we would be healed from brokenness, comforted in times of trouble, and strengthened in times of doubt. That we may taste the joy of your coming Kingdom even now as we wait for your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

CAROL

From “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Extinguish the candles until next week.

Love

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Love

Light the fourth candle, symbolizing the Love we have in Jesus.

- Read the following Scripture together, a psalm of God's steadfast love, rooted in Jesus.
- Say a prayer seeking the fullness of Jesus love in your life.
- If you like, end by singing a Christmas Carol together.

SCRIPTURE READING | Psalm 89:1-4 (CEB)

"I will sing of the Lord's loyal love forever. I will proclaim your faithfulness with my own mouth from one generation to the next. That's why I say, 'Your loyal love is rightly built—forever! You establish your faithfulness in heaven.' You said, 'I made a covenant with my chosen one; I promised my servant David: "I will establish your offspring forever; I will build up your throne from one generation to the next.""

PRAYER

We thank you, God, for the love you have given us in Jesus. That he came to cleanse the world by visiting us, among all our hate and violence, to show us how to truly love one other. Visit us daily with your loving Spirit. Purify our hearts and minds, so that Jesus, at his coming, may find in us a place prepared for himself, our hearts open to the love he freely gives. Amen.

CAROL

From "Joy To The World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Extinguish the candles until next week.

*the Light
of the World is Here*

CHRISTMAS DAY



Christmas Day

Light all the candles.....It is time to celebrate the birth of Christ, “light of the world!”

- Read the following Scripture together, a psalm of God’s steadfast love, rooted in Jesus.
- Say a prayer seeking the fullness of Jesus love in your life.
- If you like, end by singing a Christmas Carol together.

SCRIPTURE READING | Isaiah 9:2,6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. 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. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

PRAYER

Thank you God for the gift of Your Son. We pray that we continue to seek out Your Light, not just in this season, but in all seasons. May You remind us as we go forward to live in, and to live out, the hope, peace, joy, and love that you have shown us in this Advent season. Amen.

CAROL

From “Silent Night”

Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

What do you need for your Advent candle display?

Though the actual set-up can differ depending on family traditions or personal preference, typically the following elements are involved in an Advent display:

- Christmas Wreath
- 4 or 5 candles (some wreaths will have four candles that represent the four elements of Advent with a fifth candle to represent Jesus)





The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...

ISAIAH 9:2A