



AFTER CHRISTMAS: EPIPHANY & ENCOUNTER

We marvel at the incarnation — that the God of all creation has come to dwell with and in us every ordinary day.

[Isaiah 60:1-6](#) | [Psalm 72](#)

[Ephesians 3:1-12](#) | [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

God is with us in the person of Jesus — fully human and fully divine. This remarkable mystery was revealed to lowly shepherds, a humble virgin, and foreign visitors. We, too, are invited to gaze in wonder at this tiny baby and marvel at how His human arrival invites us into ongoing relationship with God. As we move beyond the Christmas season we expect moments of wondrous epiphany and divine encounter in our ordinary lives.

Simeon's Song: Luke 2:28-32

Jesus, we look to you. Surprise us with your joy. Guide us into your very presence as you directed the Magi. Behold - our eyes have seen, and we want to see, the salvation of the Lord!

Advent is the Latin word for *arrival* or *coming* and is the period of four weeks before Christmas that we set aside to celebrate Jesus coming into our world. It is also a time in which we eagerly await Jesus' second advent — when He will come again as a Mighty King to make all things new; to redeem this broken world from its hurt, trouble, and tragedy.

We offer these scriptures as a guide to reflect on God's redemption through the whole story of the Bible leading up to His ultimate gift in Jesus' birth. Each week begins on the designated Sunday of Advent and has a dedicated theme, a recommended 'song', and a responsive prayer for daily reading. We invite you to reflect on these weekly themes as you read, think, and pray through this Advent and Christmas season.



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Advent Readings



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT : EXPECTING

We expect God's redemption.

[Jeremiah 33:14-16](#) | [Isaiah 25:6-26:6](#)

[Psalm 130](#) | [Luke 21:25-36](#)

The whole story of God's people is marked with hope and trust — that God will make a way for them. His mighty hand delivers them from slavery into freedom. God's presence in a cloud and pillar of fire leads His children through the wilderness. For hundreds of years the Lord sustains His people in exile as they wait for Him to send the promised Messiah. And we too expect God's redemption as we eagerly anticipate when Jesus will come again to make all things new.

Song of Miriam and Moses: Exodus 15:1-21

Lord, help us to wait and watch for your presence with the same kind of hope and expectant longing as the children of Israel.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT : PREPARING

We prepare to welcome the Saviour and King.

[Malachi 3:1-7](#) | [Exodus 23:20-25](#)

[Isaiah 43](#) | [Romans 13:11-14](#)

God sends divine and human messengers to His people to show them how to prepare: for worship, to enter a new land, and to come into the presence of the living God. We are most ready to welcome a guest when we have spent time preparing for their arrival. Leading up to Christmas, we prepare our hearts, our minds, our bodies, our schedules, our whole lives to welcome our Saviour and King.

Zechariah's Song: Luke 1:67-79

Lord, help us to prepare and always be ready to welcome you - the God who has and will always make a way for us.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT: REPENTING

We repent and return to relationship with a loving and faithful God.

[Isaiah 30:15-21](#) | [Zechariah 1:1-6](#)

[Joel 2:12-13](#) | [Acts 3:11-26](#)

Over and over again, God's people forget His deliverance, abandon His presence, ignore His instruction, and squander His offer of abundant life. It is a story that resonates with all of us. Yet, God is faithful! He makes a way for us to repent and come back to Him. Let us prepare to welcome Jesus by confessing our sins, acknowledging our rebellion, and returning to the presence of the Living God.

David's Song: Psalm 51

Lord, we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Nor have we loved our neighbours as ourselves. We turn to you again. Create in us new hearts and minds and enliven us with your strength.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT : REJOICING

We rejoice in the good news of a promised Saviour.

[Isaiah 35](#) | [Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)

[Isaiah 12](#) | [Philippians 4:4-7](#)

Good news elicits joy in response. 'God will come and save you', 'the deaf will hear and the blind will see', 'water will break forth in the desert', are all announcements of good news and point to the inbreaking of God's kingdom. We sing with the people of God and prepare to sing with all creation at the very good news — the light and hope of the world is about to be born.

Hannah's Song: 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Lord, we bless you and praise you for you are good and your love endures forever!

CHRISTMAS DAY : JESUS IS HERE!

God has made a way for His people.

[Isaiah 9:2-7](#) | [Hebrews 1](#)

[Revelation 12](#) | [John 1:1-18](#)

Messiah has come and the promise is fulfilled. Emmanuel — God is with us! All of creation, the heavenly hosts, and even the animals adore this Mighty King in swaddling cloths. Glory to God in the highest!

Mary's Song: Luke 1:46-55; Angels' Song: Luke 2:8-14

Jesus, we thank you for coming to us as a baby - dependent, vulnerable, and human. We gather with the saints across time and throughout the world to kneel and adore at the feet of our newborn King!