



DAILY DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER GUIDE

ADVENT

TO NEW YEAR 2024



JOURNEY WITH US INTO THE NEW YEAR
3 December 2023 - 7 January 2024

ADVENT TO NEW YEAR

3 December to 5 January daily memory verses and prayers:

Revised Common Lectionary Scripture Citations for Year B, 2023-2024 (lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu)

Walking around the shops you'll already see decorations and gifts ideas everywhere: reminding us that Christmas is fast approaching: it is literally in the air. Advent is a season of memories and anticipation. It encompasses the four weeks leading up to Christmas and is the first season of our Christian year. The word itself comes from the Latin word adventus, which means "arrival." It is an opportunity to prepare for God to come into our midst, to prepare for God to become human just like us. It is a time when we get ready to celebrate the birth of Christ; a time to invite hope, peace, joy, and love more fully into our lives.

Advent reminds us of what is important and prepares us for what is to come.

You are invited to wait and encounter God with your whole self: through the four themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. Advent provides us with the space we need to receive the gift God wants to give us: Christ. May we allow ourselves this Advent to be more present with God and fully embody the gifts of this season.

Merry Christmas and a blessed 2024!



SYMBOLS OF ADVENT

The **advent wreath** is a widely recognized symbol of advent, it's made of a circle of evergreen branches laid flat to symbolize eternal life, the eternity of God. The **four advent candles** stand in the circle, and each represents the four Sundays and the fifth candle the Christ candle is lit on Christmas day. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. The one is pink (Rose-colored) and the Jesus candle is white

First Sunday of Advent – HOPE

The first candle is also called the prophecy candle in remembrance of the prophets who foretold the birth of Christ. We can hold on to hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us, our HOPE comes from God.

Second Sunday of Advent – LOVE

The second candle is called the Bethlehem candle. God chose a special birthplace: Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-7. Love is the greatest of all the virtues on the Advent wreath and encompasses Jesus' entire purpose for being on earth. Jesus focused on preaching love throughout his ministry. Two of his greatest commands involve LOVE: Love God, love your neighbor.

Third Sunday of Advent – JOY

God sent royal messengers with a message of good news. The joy candle (*preferably rose colored, symbolizing joy*); it is also called the Shepherds candle. It reminds us of the JOY that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus. There is also joy because it's the midpoint of advent.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – PEACE

The PEACE candle reminds us of the message of the Angels "Peace on earth, goodwill towards men".

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day –The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The color white signifies purity because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior. Jesus is the Light of the world and provides salvation.

Daily Readings:

Sunday:

December 3, 2023: Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7 & 17-19, I Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

Memory Verse: Isaiah 64:8 *"Yet you, Lord, are our father. We are the clay; you are the potter we are all the work of your hand."*

Prayer: Heavenly father, you are the one who creates and recreates, we give you praise for we are the works of your hand created in love. I come to you in humility of heart and ask that you make and mould me into a vessel that is pleasing to you, for your praise and glory. In Jesus' name I pray. **Amen.**

Monday:

December 4, 2023: Psalm 79, Micah 4:1-5, Revelation 15:1-8

Memory Verse: Micah 4:2 *"Many nations will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths. The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.'"*

Prayer: Lord, teach us your ways so that we may walk in your paths that as a member of the body of Christ, I will be given the amazing blessing and responsibility to rule and reign with Jesus. **Amen.**

Tuesday:

December 5, 2023: Psalm 79, Micah 4:6-13, Revelation 18:1-10

Memory Verse: Psalm 79:13 *"Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will praise you forever; from generation to generation, we will proclaim your praise."*

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, we praise you for your mighty acts, we will continue to praise you and teach future generations to proclaim your praise. **Amen.**

Wednesday:

December 6, 2023: Psalm 79, Micah 5:1-5a, Luke 21:34-38

Memory Verse: Micah 5:2 *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you that in your grace, you have told us about the end from the beginning, for your Word is true and your promises stand fast, forever and ever. Help me to keep my eyes on Jesus who was born in the little town of Bethlehem and who is my Redeemer and Saviour. **Amen.**

Thursday:

December 7, 2023: Psalm 85:1-2 & 8-13, Hosea 6:1-6, I Thessalonians 1:2-10

Memory Verse: Hosea 6:1 *"Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds."*

Prayer: Loving Father, your promises are true for you have remained faithful to the people of Israel and You will remain faithful to all your children, who trust in the Lord as Saviour, for which we give You eternal thanks and praise in Jesus's name I pray. **Amen.**

Friday:

December 8, 2023: Psalm 85:1-2 & 8-13, Jeremiah 1:4-10, Acts 11:19-26

Memory Verse: Acts 11: 15-16 15 *"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. 16 Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'"*

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I ask that you pour out the Holy Spirit with power and guide us to the groups of people whose hearts are yearning to know the hope that is in Jesus. I pledge to you, O Lord, that I am waiting in expectation to do what I can to reach them with your love and grace. **Amen.**

Saturday:

December 9, 2023: Psalm 85:1-2 & 8-13, Ezekiel 36:24-28, Mark 11:27-33

Memory Verse: Psalm 85:9-10 *"Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. 10 Love and faithfulness meet righteousness and peace kiss each other."*



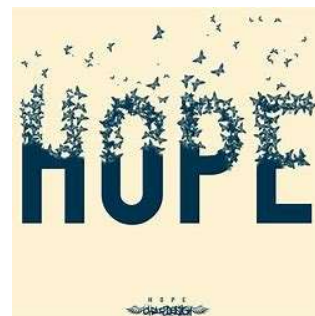
Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your promise that a day is coming when Israel will be restored. I eagerly await the day when Jesus comes to rule and reign on earth, and mercy and truth will be united, and righteousness and peace will kiss one another. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Sunday:

December 10, 2023: Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2 & 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a - Mark 1:1-8

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:9 "You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the many precious promises You have made to Your people, Israel, and to those in the Body of Christ. I know that what You have started You will surely complete to Your praise and glory. **Amen.**



Monday:

Monday, December 11, 2023: Psalm 27, Isaiah 26:7-15, Acts 2:37-42

Memory Verse: Psalm 27:4 "One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple."

Prayer: To the one who makes gazing upon your beauty and knowing you and walking with you and enjoying you possible, help us to dwell in your presence all the days of our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Tuesday:

December 12, 2023: Psalm 27, Isaiah 4:2-6, Acts 11:1-18

Memory Verse: Acts 11:9 "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.'"

Prayer: We ask for the Holy Spirit to help us open our hearts and step out of our human reluctance and into Jesus' mission for us to reach others with your grace and bring them into our fellowship. We pledge to be more passionate at loving and reaching the people around us. In Jesus' name, we pray and make this pledge. **Amen.**

Wednesday

December 13, 2023: Psalm 27, Malachi 2:10-3:1, Luke 1:5-17

Memory Verse: Luke 1:5-6 "In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. 6 Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly."

Prayer: Thank You for the truth of Your Word and for the wonderful message of grace that is extended to all who trust in Christ for salvation. To Him be all praise and glory, **Amen.**

Thursday:

December 14, 2023: Psalm 126, Habakkuk 2:1-5, Philippians 3:7-11

Memory Verse: Habakkuk 2:3 "For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay."

Prayer: Lord, give me patience as I await Your appointed time, and may I occupy my time wisely as I wait for the fulfillment of Your plans and purposes. I know Your timing is perfect and You are long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish. Thank You, Lord, in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Friday:

December 15, 2023: Psalm 126, Habakkuk 3:2-6, Philippians 3:12-16

Memory Verse: Habakkuk 3:2 "Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known in wrath remember mercy."

Prayer: Dear Father, fill us with joy because of the great things you do for us. **Amen.**



Saturday:

December 16, 2023: Psalm 126, Habakkuk 3:13-19, Matthew 21:28-32

Memory Verse: Habakkuk 3:17-18 "Though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour."

Prayer: Dear Father, in those times when we carry heavy burdens in your service, may we have the faith to continue with Your work in the knowledge that Your joy and blessing will follow. **Amen.**

Sunday:

December 17, 2023: Isaiah 61:1-4 & 8-11, Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8 & 19-28

Memory Verse: *Isaiah 61:10* "I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."

Prayer: Father, we celebrate You as the Holy God who is in our presence long before we even realise. Thank you for the difference this makes to our living. **Amen.**

Monday:

December 18, 2023: Psalm 125, 1 Kings 18:1-18, Ephesians 6:10-17

Memory Verse: *Ephesians 6:13* "Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

Prayer: Father, keep me standing in presence of evil, trusting in Your unshakeable power and might. **Amen.**

Tuesday:

December 19, 2023: Psalm 125, 2 Kings 2:9-22, Acts 3:17-4:4

Memory Verse: *Acts 3:19* "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

Prayer: Father, surround us with Your presence in today and every tomorrow. **Amen.**

Wednesday:

December 20, 2023: Psalm 125, Malachi 3:16-4:6, Mark 9:9-13

Memory Verse: *Psalm 125:2* "But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays."

Prayer: Father, address our blindness to see the hand of Your restoring work and forgive the suffering and rejection such blindness causes You. **Amen.**

Thursday:

December 21, 2023: Psalm 89:1-4 & 19-26, 2 Samuel 6:1-11, Hebrews 1:1-4

Memory Verse: *Hebrews 1:3* "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."

Prayer: Dear Father, let us Your children profess the greatness of Your love and faithfulness through all generations. **Amen.**

Friday:

December 22, 2023: Psalm 89:1-4 & 19-26, 2 Samuel 6:12-19, Hebrews 1:5-14

Memory Verse: *Hebrews 1:8* "But about the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a sceptre of justice will be the sceptre of your kingdom.'"

Prayer: Dear Father, establish your love and just Kingdom in me, amongst me and through me. **Amen.**

Saturday:

December 23, 2023: Psalm 89:1-4 & 19-26, Judges 13:2-24, John 7:40-52

Memory Verse: *John 7:41-43* "Others said, 'He is the Messiah.' Still others asked, 'How can the Messiah come from Galilee?' ⁴² Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?' ⁴³ Thus the people were divided because of Jesus."

Prayer: Father, we confess Christ as the Messiah, our Lord and Saviour. Let Christ revisit us and teach us about Your ways. **Amen.**

Sunday:

December 24, 2023: 2 Samuel 7:1-11 & 16, Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4 & 19-26, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

Memory Verse: *Luke 1:49* "For the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is his name."

Prayer: Father, you are our Holy God, the Rock our Saviour. Praise be to You for the great things You do. **Amen.**



Monday:

December 25, 2023: Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1:1-4 & 5-12, John 1:1-14

Memory Verse: Isaiah 52:10

“The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.”

Prayer: Gracious God, bless us with the vision of your kingdom to see the world through your eyes. **Amen.**



Tuesday:

December 26, 2023: Luke 1:46b-55, I Samuel 1:19-28, Hebrews 8:1-13

Memory Verse: I Sam 1:28 *“So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD.’ And he worshiped the LORD there.”*

Prayer: Almighty, You bestow upon us the gift of gifts, to nurture it, grow it, and glorify you through it. Help us surrender our lives to you so that it becomes a blessing to others. **Amen.**

Wednesday:

December 27, 2023: Luke 1:46b-55, I Samuel 2:1-10, Mark 11:1-11

Memory Verse: Luke 1:46 *“And Mary said: ‘My soul glorifies the Lord’”*

Prayer: Father, you give us the renewed spirit of grace, grace that moves the deepest parts of our being. We shall praise you daily, sing to you shouts of joy for the gift of grace in our lives. **Amen.**

Thursday:

December 28, 2023: Psalm 148, Jeremiah 31:15-17, Matthew 2:13-18

Memory Verse: Matthew 2: 18 *“A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”*

Prayer: God of grace and peace, our lives are disrupted daily with sad stories, of GBV, LGBTQI, women and children being killed. We remember 16 Days of Activism and ask your blessing upon us and families during this dark time. **Amen.**

Friday:

December 29, 2023: Psalm 148, Isaiah 49:5-15, Matthew 12:46-50

Memory Verse: Psalm 148:14 *“And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart.”*

Prayer: God of salvation your generous love gave us a saviour who came to transform our lives. We praise you for transformed attitudes, conduct, and behaviour and making the world a better place by stepping in our sinful environments. **Amen.**

Saturday:

December 30, 2023: Psalm 148, Proverbs 9:1-12, 2 Peter 3:8-13

Memory Verse: Proverbs 9:12 *“If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.”*

Prayer: Father of all knowledge, all knowing and all powerful, bring out of us your wisdom so that we can live wisely, make wise choices and experience quality life. **Amen.**

Sunday:

December 31, 2023: Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

Memory Verse: Luke 2: 22 *“When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.”*

Prayer: Loving God, during this time of advent may we experience your divine cleansing, purification of mind, heart and spirit in order to be presented to you righteous. **Amen.**



Monday:

January 1, 2024: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, Psalm 8, Revelation 21:1-6a, Matthew 25:31-46

Memory Verse: Rev 21: 3 *“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them.’”*

Prayer: God of creation, God who is in creation and God who sustains creation you continuously build the world through your dwelling. We feel your presence, and experience transformation of heart and mind and spirit. **Amen.**

Tuesday:

January 2, 2024: Psalm 148, Proverbs 1:1-7, James 3:13-18

Memory Verse: James 3:17-18 *“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.”*

Prayer: Loving God, you loved us when we were still in darkness, even in the journey of being children of the light we discover moments of being the light. Give us your Wisdom so that we can be people of peace and righteousness. **Amen.**

Wednesday:

January 3, 2024: Psalm 110, Proverbs 1:20-33, James 4:1-10

Memory Verse: James 4:3 *“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”*

Prayer: God who knows our hearts, examine our thoughts, help us to know your truth and live in its mystery. We pray for good desires and purity of heart. **Amen.**

Thursday:

January 4, 2024: Psalm 110, Proverbs 3:1-12, James 4:11-17

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:1-2 *“My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, ² for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.”*

Prayer: Almighty God, creation bows before you, you are the source of our wellbeing and the well of wisdom. Help us Lord God to keep your commands so that we can live in peace and prosperity. **Amen.**

Friday:

January 5, 2024: Psalm 110, Proverbs 22:1-9, Luke 6:27-31

Memory Verse: Psalm 110:1 *“Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”*

Prayer: God of all forgiveness, bless us with your spirit of kindness and love that will teach us not to fight our enemies, and the enemies that live within us. Vengeance belongs to you oh God. **Amen.**