



A D V E N T



*Hope Has a Name*



## **Advent Devotional Guide 2021**

©2021 by Citizens Church Charlotte. All rights reserved.

Published by Citizens Church Charlotte.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, or by any information storage and retrieval system--except for brief quotations for the purpose of review, without written permission from the publisher.

Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## ***Introduction***

**“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**

Isaiah was writing nearly 800 years prior to Christ’s life and ministry. His prophecy gave the people of God hope that they desperately needed: a child would be born to be their Messiah, and he would be the “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.”

All of these titles find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ and will reach their consummation at Christ’s second coming.

The purpose of the season of advent is to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas— as we look back to when Christ came incarnate to dwell with us and begin his earthly ministry. But this season also serves to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ’s second coming— when Christ will return to bring about full redemption and finish His work.

It’s a season of fixing our eyes on Christ, and restoring our hope.

---

# *Lectio Divina*

Our practice for this year's Advent Devotional Guide is based around the ancient spiritual discipline called Lectio Divina (Latin for "Divine Reading"). Lectio Divina encourages a slow reading of the text, pausing to wait on the Holy Spirit as He speaks to us through the Word of God.

**Here are the steps to follow each day for Lectio Divina:**

## **1. Read**

Read the passage slowly and outloud. What words caught your attention? What phrases stand out to you? What questions do you have about the text?

## **2. Reflect**

Read the passage slowly a second time. Spend time reflecting on the passage. What does the text say about people? What does the text say about God? Ask the Spirit for wisdom and discernment.

## **3. Respond**

Read the passage slowly a third time. What is the passage calling you to do, think, believe? Where do you need to obey? Where do you need to repent? What do you need to pray?

## **4. Rest**

After reading, rest and wait in His presence. Allow some time for His Word to sink into your soul. Before you're done with this practice, you might want to consider writing down what the Lord showed you as a reminder throughout the day.

---

# **WEEK ONE**

## ***“Wonderful Counselor”***

In ancient Israel, a counselor was portrayed as a wise king, giving guidance to His people. The beauty of Christ is that He is not just a king who rules over us, He is one who has lived among us and walked through what we walk through. Jesus came for people with problems and He offers us wisdom beyond what this world can offer.

### **Monday, Nov 29**

Isaiah 11:1-5

### **Tuesday, Nov 30**

Proverbs 2:1-6

### **Wednesday, Dec 1**

Philippians 4:4-7

### **Thursday, Dec 2**

1 Corinthians 1:23-29

### **Friday, Dec 3**

Hebrews 4:14-16

---

## *Lectio Divina*

Our practice for this year's Advent Devotional Guide is based around the ancient spiritual discipline called Lectio Divina (Latin for "Divine Reading"). Lectio Divina encourages a slow reading of the text, pausing to wait on the Holy Spirit as He speaks to us through the Word of God.

**Here are the steps to follow each day for Lectio Divina:**

### **1. Read**

Read the passage slowly and outloud. What words caught your attention? What phrases stand out to you? What questions do you have about the text?

### **2. Reflect**

Read the passage slowly a second time. Spend time reflecting on the passage. What does the text say about people? What does the text say about God? Ask the Spirit for wisdom and discernment.

### **3. Respond**

Read the passage slowly a third time. What is the passage calling you to do, think, believe? Where do you need to obey? Where do you need to repent? What do you need to pray?

### **4. Rest**

After reading, rest and wait in His presence. Allow some time for His Word to sink into your soul. Before you're done with this practice, you might want to consider writing down what the Lord showed you as a reminder throughout the day.

---

## **WEEK TWO**

### ***“Mighty God”***

This title, which is referenced regularly in the Old Testament, captures the truth that God has come to restore all things to Himself and has the power to do so. God’s plan and purpose has the last say in His world; there is nothing mightier than Him that could prevent Him from carrying out His plan. Jesus brings us hope that God is renewing and restoring human souls and all of creation, and nothing can thwart Him.

#### **Monday, Dec 6**

Deuteronomy 10:14-17, 20

#### **Tuesday, Dec 7**

1 Chronicles 29:10-13

#### **Wednesday, Dec 8**

Luke 1:34-37

#### **Thursday, Dec 9**

Romans 8:38-38

#### **Friday, Dec 10**

Revelation 21:1-5

---

# *Lectio Divina*

Our practice for this year's Advent Devotional Guide is based around the ancient spiritual discipline called Lectio Divina (Latin for "Divine Reading"). Lectio Divina encourages a slow reading of the text, pausing to wait on the Holy Spirit as He speaks to us through the Word of God.

**Here are the steps to follow each day for Lectio Divina:**

## **1. Read**

Read the passage slowly and outloud. What words caught your attention? What phrases stand out to you? What questions do you have about the text?

## **2. Reflect**

Read the passage slowly a second time. Spend time reflecting on the passage. What does the text say about people? What does the text say about God? Ask the Spirit for wisdom and discernment.

## **3. Respond**

Read the passage slowly a third time. What is the passage calling you to do, think, believe? Where do you need to obey? Where do you need to repent? What do you need to pray?

## **4. Rest**

After reading, rest and wait in His presence. Allow some time for His Word to sink into your soul. Before you're done with this practice, you might want to consider writing down what the Lord showed you as a reminder throughout the day.



---

## ***WEEK THREE***

### ***“Prince of Peace”***

In ancient Israel this title would be understood as a ruler who could remove oppression, bringing equity, peace, and justice between people in societies. The Bible paints a picture of a future messianic age where God will bring about a peace that is supernatural and counter to how the world currently is. Jesus went to war with Satan, sin, and death— establishing the ultimate peace in both heaven and earth.

#### **Monday, Dec 13**

Isaiah 11:6-11

#### **Tuesday, Dec 14**

Ephesians 2:14

#### **Wednesday, Dec 15**

Colossians 2:13-25

#### **Thursday, Dec 16**

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

#### **Friday, Dec 17**

Luke 2:8-14

---

## *Lectio Divina*

Our practice for this year's Advent Devotional Guide is based around the ancient spiritual discipline called Lectio Divina (Latin for "Divine Reading"). Lectio Divina encourages a slow reading of the text, pausing to wait on the Holy Spirit as He speaks to us through the Word of God.

**Here are the steps to follow each day for Lectio Divina:**

### **1. Read**

Read the passage slowly and outloud. What words caught your attention? What phrases stand out to you? What questions do you have about the text?

### **2. Reflect**

Read the passage slowly a second time. Spend time reflecting on the passage. What does the text say about people? What does the text say about God? Ask the Spirit for wisdom and discernment.

### **3. Respond**

Read the passage slowly a third time. What is the passage calling you to do, think, believe? Where do you need to obey? Where do you need to repent? What do you need to pray?

### **4. Rest**

After reading, rest and wait in His presence. Allow some time for His Word to sink into your soul. Before you're done with this practice, you might want to consider writing down what the Lord showed you as a reminder throughout the day.

---

## **WEEK FOUR**

### ***“Everlasting Father”***

Finally, Isaiah 9:6 describes Christ as everlasting father, as in a benevolent protector. This is a description of the way in which Christ cares for His people— it is characterized by warmth, gentleness, compssion, mercy, and grace. Jesus has come to restore our relationship to God, and it brings Him absolute joy to do so.

#### **Monday, Dec 20**

Isaiah 12:1-6

#### **Tuesday, Dec 21**

Isaiah 62:2-5

#### **Wednesday, Dec 22**

Zephaniah 3:14-17

#### **Thursday, Dec 23**

Matthew 11:28-30

#### **Friday, Dec 24**

John 10:11-15

---

## ***Making an Advent Wreath***

Often an Advent wreath is used to as a physical reminder of what Christ's birth meant for God's people. A new candle of the wreath is lit on each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The four candles represent hope, peace, joy, and love. You can do our accompanying Advent Family Devotional Guide with your kids to explain the meaning of each candle. By the last Sunday of Advent, all four candles are lit.

This DIY guide will help you assemble your own Advent wreath for your family!

### **You Will Need:**

- A plain Christmas wreath (\$3 from WalMart)
- Four tea candles; You can use battery operated candles (\$3 for 6 pack from WalMart) or real ones. Whichever you prefer!
- Hot glue gun
- Various decorations (ribbon, pine cones, ornaments - whatever you have laying around!)

### **How to Assemble:**

- Take all packaging off of Christmas wreath and fluff branches.
- Take your hot glue gun and glue the four candles around the wreath, evenly spacing each candle from the other. If using battery operated candles, be sure not to glue underneath the on/off switch. Allow to dry.
- Decore your wreath around the candles.

### **Using the Wreath during Family Worship:**

Each week, you will light an extra candle as you work through the family worship devotional together. For example, during week one, light the first candle for "hope" and work through the devotional. On week one, light both the hope candle and the second candle for peace and work through the week two devotional.

---

# Family Worship Guide

## Week 1

**Light** the first candle.

**Read** Isaiah 7:15.

**Ask:** How does God being with you always give you hope?

**Pray:** God, thank you for sending us Jesus, God in the flesh. Thank you for the hope we have in Christ. Help us to have hope and comfort in You even during times of suffering. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## Week 2

**Light** the first and second candles.

**Read** Luke 2:13-14.

**Ask:** How did Jesus bring about peace?

**Pray:** God, thank you that we have peace with you because of Christ. Because of Jesus, you are pleased with us. Help us to rest in that peace this season. In Jesus's Name, Amen.

## Week 3

**Light** the first, second, and third candles.

**Read** Luke 2:8-11.

**Ask:** What did the angels tell the shepherds would bring them great joy? Why does Jesus's birth bring us joy?

**Pray:** God, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for the joy that comes from knowing we are secure in Christ. Help us to be joyful even when circumstances are hard, knowing that we have everything we need in you. In Jesus's Name, Amen.

## Week 4

**Light** all four candles.

**Read** John 3:16.

**Ask:** Why did God send Jesus to die for us?

**Pray:** Father, thank you for loving us enough to send your Son to die for our sins. Help us to know and experience your love for us always. Help us also to love others in the same way you have loved us. In Jesus's Name, Amen.







**CITIZENS**  
CHURCH