



2020

ADVENT GUIDE

Resurrection Church

resurrectionchurch.ca/advent

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WHAT IS ADVENT?

2

Advent comes from a Latin word meaning “coming” or “arrival” and has been celebrated within the Church for centuries during the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. During Advent, Christians take time to look back and retrace their spiritual history, to step into the shoes of their spiritual predecessors, the Israelites, as they waited centuries for the promised Messiah.

But Advent is also a chance to pause and reflect on our own sin and shortcomings, the brokenness of the world, to feel the weight of creation’s need for a Saviour, and to celebrate that this Saviour came in the person of Jesus, born as a baby 2000 years ago.

However, this season does not only cause us to look back but also to look forward to Jesus’ Second Coming. Theologians often describe the time we are in as the Inter-Advent period. We are in between the First Advent when Christ came to us 2000 years ago and the Second Advent when Christ will return. As we enter into the longing of Israel for the Messiah to come we are reminded to look forward and to look and long for Christ to return again to make all things new.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

3

Here are some of our recommendations:

- Set aside a special time for this. Each section takes ten to fifteen minutes to go through as is, but you can remove or add pieces as you please. Find two nights during the week that work. If you put in a bit of planning you can make it happen.
- Find ways for everyone to participate. For families with children, see the following section.
- We've included songs to listen to from the artist Andrew Peterson. Have the song ready to play (Spotify or Youtube) before you start each night in order to minimize distraction.
- For those who'd like to read a little deeper into the story, we've included scripture references in the "Scripture Prelude" sections.

IDEAS FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Every family dynamic is different depending on the age and number of children. So, use this guide in a way that suits your family's dynamic (i.e. change the format if it's helpful, sing different carols, etc). As you prepare to use this guide we also want to encourage you to glance ahead through this guide to determine how to best use this with your own family.

To that end here are some suggestions of ways to lead your family through this guide:

- Use child friendly Bible translations such as the NLT or NIrV if you have younger children
- Have a child read the passages or other parts of the devotional.
- Use advent candles and light a new candle each week as a symbol of the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World.
- Ask questions as you go (i.e. What does this passage have to do with Advent?).
- Play carols or songs from Andrew Peterson's album within your home throughout the season as a way to become familiar with the songs and to be reminded of the message.

If you have other ideas that have worked well for your family, feel free to share those on our facebook group.

THE PROMISED SAVIOUR

01

PROMISE: ISAIAH 43:1

"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you,
O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine."

02

LISTEN TO:

"Gather round ye children come" by Andrew Peterson on
[Spotify](#) or [Youtube](#).

03

SCRIPTURE PRELUDE

Long ago, our first parents were created in paradise. God made them to be His representatives, ruling and caring for creation as king and queen. But they were deceived by the serpent and rebelled against God, forfeiting their place in God's presence and earning His judgment. Yet God, with love and infinite graciousness, promised to save them and their children from their own sin. He said that one day He'd send them a baby, a child who would restore mankind to its royal position (Hebrews 2:5-9) and vanquish evil forever (Revelation 19:11-21).

04

SCRIPTURE READING: GENESIS 3 (ESPECIALLY 3:14-19)

05

SING: JOY TO THE WORLD

06

PRAYER

Eternal Lord,
You came to Earth to bear our curse and crush sin.
Thank you. Come again, and make more of your
blessings known.
Amen



JOY TO THE WORLD

1 Joy to the world!
the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry 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.

2 Joy to the earth!
the Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat,
repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin
and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make
his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as,
far as the curse is found.

4 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.

THE PROMISED SACRIFICE

01

PROMISE: JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

02

LISTEN TO:

"While Shepherds Watched" by Andrew Peterson on [Spotify](#) or [Youtube](#).

03

SCRIPTURE PRELUDE

Many long years passed and God's promised Saviour had not come. The sinful rebellion against God continued to spread, and through it death reigned (Rom 5:12-14). Yet God did not cease to remind humanity of his plan to save them. That is why he gave baby Isaac to old Abraham and old Sarah (Genesis 17:17). He was showing his people that life could spring from what looked like a hopelessly dead situation. And they believed God, even to the point that Abraham trusted God would raise Isaac up even if he was sacrificed (Hebrews 11:19). Yet it would be God who would sacrifice his one and only son, Jesus, on or around the same spot (Genesis 22:2 and 2 Chronicles 3:1) and raise him up from the grave along with all those who hope and wait in him.

04

SCRIPTURE READING: GENESIS 22:1-19

05

SING: WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

06

PRAYER

God of the living,
You purchased life for us through the death and
resurrection of your son.
Thank you for this gift.
Amen



WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

What Child is this,
who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet
with anthems sweet,
While shepherds
watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard
and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies He in
such mean estate,
Where ox and ass
are feeding?
Good Christian, fear:
for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

[Chorus]

So bring Him incense,
gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king
to own Him.
The King of kings
salvation brings;
Let loving hearts
enthrone Him.

[Chorus]

SET FREE

01

PROMISE: 1 CORINTHIANS 5:7B

"For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed."

02

LISTEN TO:

"Passover Us" by Andrew Peterson on [Spotify](#) or [Youtube](#).

03

SCRIPTURE PRELUDE

When God's people were in slavery in Egypt, miles from the promised land, God set his people free. At the centre of his deliverance was the sacrifice of firstborn lambs without blemish (Exodus 12). God told his people to continue this practice throughout the Old Testament (Exodus 29:38-46). In the New Testament, Christ is often described as a lamb without blemish who set his people free, not from a bondage to slavery but from a bondage to sin. Christ came to us because we, like Israel, have all been enslaved (Romans 7:14) and are in need of a slain lamb to set us free from our sins once and for all (Hebrews 10:1-18).

04

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 PETER 1:17-21

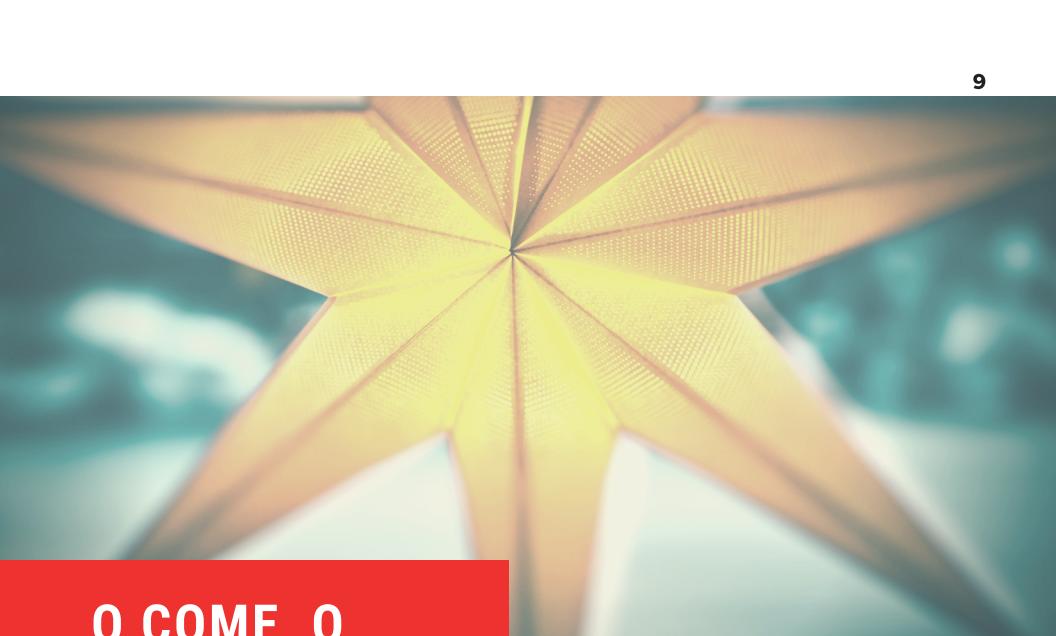
05

SING: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

06

PRAYER

Jesus our Passover Lamb,
We thank you that came to us.
And ransomed us from the exile our sins demanded.
Amen.



O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

1 O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall
come to you, O Israel.*

2 O come, O come,
great Lord of might,
who to your tribes
on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

[Refrain]

3 O come, O Branch of Jesse's
stem, unto your own and rescue
them! From depths of hell your
people save, and give them
victory o'er the grave.

[Refrain]

5 O come, O Bright and Morning
Star, and bring us comfort from
afar! Dispel the shadows of the
night, and turn our darkness
into light.

[Refrain]

6 O come, O King of nations,
bind, in one the hearts of all
mankind. Bid all our sad
divisions cease, and be yourself
our King of Peace.

[Refrain]

DELIVERANCE

01

PROMISE: PSALM 34:17

"When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles."

02

LISTEN TO:

"Deliver Us" by Andrew Peterson on [Spotify](#) or [Youtube](#).

03

SCRIPTURE PRELUDE

God once again delivers his people after they are exiled to Babylon for their many disobediences. However, while they return to the promised land and experience a deliverance of sorts they quickly realize something is not right, God is not present with his people like he was before (Compare 1 Kings 8:1-11 & Ezra 6:13-18). At Christmas we celebrate that God returned to be with his people in the person of Jesus. Jesus delivers his people from their sin and secures an even greater promised land, a heavenly promised land (Hebrews 11:16-17). Just as God's people looked to Christ's return millenia ago, God's people now look with longing for Christ's Second Coming and the promise of an even greater land where God will dwell with us forever.

04

SCRIPTURE READING: REVELATION 21:1-8 & 22-27

05

SING: COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

06

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
We rejoice that your Son has delivered us.
And we long for His return.
Come again Thou Long Expected Jesus.
Amen.



COME LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears & sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength & 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.

THE MIGHTY KING

01

PROMISE: DANIEL 7:14

"And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

02

LISTEN TO:

"Deliver Us" by Andrew Peterson on [Spotify](#) or [Youtube](#).

03

SCRIPTURE PRELUDE

After entering the promised land, God's people rejected God as their king and asked for a human king (1 Samuel 8). God granted them their request and later promised that he will make one of David's descendants reign as king forever (2 Samuel 7:13). However, this king would be no ordinary king, he would be God himself. Though God's people had rejected him, he chose not to reject them. The king his people needed was coming, and he was God himself (Col 1:15-20).

04

SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7

05

SING: THE FIRST NOEL

06

PRAYER

Gracious King,
You are worthy of all our worship.
But we are quick to forget.
Help us remember your divine glory.
Amen.



THE FIRST NOEL

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay
keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night
that was so deep.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.*

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east,
beyond them far;
and to the earth
it gave great light,
and so it continued
both day and night.

[Refrain]

3 And by the light
of that same star
three Wise Men came
from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star
wherever it went.

[Refrain]

4 This star drew nigh
to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place
where Jesus lay.

[Refrain]

5 Then entered in
those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh
and frankincense.

[Refrain]

THE HUMBLE KING

01

PROMISE: MICAH 5:2

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days."

02

LISTEN TO:

"So Long Moses" by Andrew Peterson on [Spotify](#) or [Youtube](#).

03

SCRIPTURE PRELUDE

Throughout the Old Testament there are hints that the promised king will come but not in the way anyone would expect. He would suffer and die. It would look like defeat, not a glorious heavenly victory (Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 53). This theme continues in Matthew's Gospel. Matthew tells the extraordinary story of the visit of the wise men who seek the King of the Jews and are led to Jesus. Jesus, a boy born in a manager to a poor family in the small town of Bethlehem is visited by distinguished travellers from afar who give him gifts fit for a king and then proceed to worship him. The promised, divine king has come in humble fashion (Phil 2:1-11).

04

SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 2:1-12

05

SING: WE THREE KINGS

06

PRAYER

King Jesus,
You humbled yourself for us.
Help us to humble ourselves for you.
Amen.



WE THREE KINGS

1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2 Born a King
on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

[Refrain]

3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

[Refrain]

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

[Refrain]

5 Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through
the earth and skies.

[Refrain]

GOD WITH US

01

PROMISE: MATTHEW 1:20-21

"Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

02

LISTEN TO:

"Labour of Love" by Andrew Peterson on [Spotify](#) or [Youtube](#).

03

SCRIPTURE PRELUDE

If you were a shepherd, peering into the stable the night Jesus was born, you would have seen what looked like an ordinary, human baby. A baby who cried. A baby who needed to be fed and held. Yet, while Mary was holding baby Jesus, baby Jesus was holding the universe together (Heb 1:3). In that manger lay God himself (Colossians 2:9). God had come to save us. And to save us he became one of us (Hebrews 2:14-18). He stepped down from heaven with his mind set on one thing, (Philippians 2:4-13) to free us from the ancient curse and crush the head of our great enemy, the serpent, just as he had promised.

04

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 2:1-20

05

SING: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

06

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
You sent your only child to become one of us
so that we could become your children.
Thank you, Father.
Amen.



HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King:
 peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!
 "Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
 join the triumph of the skies;
 with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*"Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of the Virgin's womb:
 veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
 hail th'incarnate Deity,
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
 Jesus, our Immanuel.

[Refrain]

Hail the heaven-born
 Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 born that we no more may die,
 born to raise us from the earth,
 born to give us second birth.

[Refrain]

GOD FOR US

01

PROMISE: ISAIAH 53:6-7

"All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth."

02

LISTEN TO:

"Behold the Lamb of God" by Andrew Peterson on [Spotify](#) or [Youtube](#).

03

SCRIPTURE PRELUDE

"Where is the lamb?" asked Isaac of his father (Genesis 22:7). This is the same question that the rest of the Old Testament scriptures ask. From Moses to the prophets, they were all waiting and searching for the promised child, the Lamb to take away the sins of the world (1 Peter 1:10-12, 19). The last of these old prophets was John the Baptist whose job it was to preach God's promise of salvation to the people. So when John saw Jesus, he shouted for joy because the word of promise had become flesh. Behold the lamb of God, our saviour and king (Revelation 5)!

04

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 1:1-32

05

SING: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

06

PRAYER

Faithful God,
In Christ we see your greatest promise fulfilled.
Grant us grace to trust you more.
Amen.



O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye
to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light eternal,
Lo! he abhors not
the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father,
begotten, not created,

[Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
of heav'n above:
"Glory to God,
all glory in the highest!"

[Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

[Refrain]



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