



Scripture Devotional

Advent – Christmas

Advent is the season when Christians observe a time of watchful waiting and preparation for Christ's coming. Over the centuries there have been different emphases, but there are really three preparations:

- i) for Jesus' coming at the end of time to judge the world*
- ii) for the celebration of his birth in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago*
- iii) for the arrival of Jesus in the heart of each believer.*

The following readings are of longstanding use among Christians during Advent. The Lord's Prayer and a prayer for both the Advent and Christmas seasons are included as well.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Advent Season

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



THE CREATION, FALL and SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Dec 1	Genesis 1.1-2.2	<i>The Story of Creation</i>
Dec 2	Genesis 3.1-19	<i>Adam and Eve rebel and are cast out of Eden</i>
Dec 3	Genesis 22.15-18	<i>The world will be blessed through Abraham's offspring</i>
Dec 4	Isaiah 64.1-9a	<i>Isaiah prays for mercy</i>
Dec 5	Isaiah 65.17-25	<i>God promises new heavens and a new earth</i>
Dec 6	Daniel 7.9-14	<i>Daniel has a vision of the reign of God</i>
Dec 7	Matthew 24.29-51	<i>The second Coming of the Son of Man</i>
Dec 8	Matthew 25.1-13	<i>The Parable of the Ten Virgins</i>
Dec 9	Matthew 25.31-46	<i>The Final Judgment</i>
Dec 10	2 Peter 3.8-15	<i>St. Peter speaks of the coming Day of the Lord</i>
Dec 11	Revelation 20.11-15	<i>St. John has a vision of the final judgment</i>
Dec 12	Revelation 21.1-7	<i>St. John is given a vision of the new heaven and earth</i>

***PROPHECIES OF THE BIRTH
and COMING OF THE MESSIAH***

Dec 13	Isaiah 7.10-14	<i>A virgin shall bear a son: Immanuel (God with us)</i>
Dec 14	Isaiah 9.2, 6-7	<i>Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah</i>
Dec 15	Isaiah 11.1-10	<i>The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown</i>
Dec 16	Isaiah 40.1-11	<i>The Lord comforts his people</i>
Dec 17	Isaiah 52.7-10	<i>Isaiah announces the coming salvation of the Lord</i>
Dec 18	Jeremiah 23.5-8	<i>God will raise up for David a righteous Branch</i>
Dec 19	Micah 5.2-4	<i>The ruler of Israel is to be born in Bethlehem</i>
Dec 20	Matthew 3.1-12	<i>John the Baptist Prepares the Way</i>
Dec 21	Luke 1.26-38	<i>The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
Dec 22	Matthew 1.18-25a	<i>An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph</i>
Dec 23	Luke 1.39-55	<i>Zechariah & Elizabeth rejoice at the coming of Mary</i>
Dec 24	Isaiah 61.10-62.3	<i>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD</i>

Prayer for the Christmas Season

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born [this day] of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*



IMMANUEL – GOD WITH US

Dec 25	Luke 2.1-21	<i>St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus</i>
Dec 26	John 1.1-14	<i>St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation</i>
Dec 27	Luke 2.22-38	<i>Jesus is presented at the Temple</i>
Dec 28	Matthew 2.1-12	<i>The wise men are led by the star to Jesus</i>
Dec 29	Isaiah 60.1-6	<i>The glory of the LORD has risen upon you</i>
Dec 30	Matthew 2.13-23	<i>The Flight to Egypt & return to Nazareth</i>
Dec 31	Luke 2.41-52	<i>The boy Jesus in the Temple</i>