

Prayers for Advent

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday (December 3) before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve (December 24). Marked by a spirit of anticipation, this joyous journey prepares our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. In the midst of the frenetic holiday preparations, hopefully you can find time to make this Advent season even more meaningful by engaging in some of the ancient traditions and activities listed below:

1. Create an Advent wreath. Read Scripture, pray, and sing carols before lighting each candle.
2. Count down the days to Christmas with an Advent calendar featuring daily Bible verses.
3. Set up a crèche (nativity scene). Wait until Christmas Eve to place the baby Jesus in the manger.
4. Add straw to a life-size manger every time a family member does a good deed so that the baby Jesus will have a soft bed.
5. Make a Jesse tree. Decorate it with symbols or ornaments depicting Jesus' ancestry or the Old Testament.
6. Attend a pageant, watch seasonal specials, bake cookies, or read Christmas stories with family or friends.
7. Go caroling at a nursing home, volunteer at a shelter or food pantry, or contribute to a worthy cause.
8. Perform secret acts of kindness.
9. Visit someone who is mourning the loss of a loved one or coping with divorce, job loss, or sickness.
10. Focus on inward disciplines such as meditation, prayer, fasting, and Bible study.
11. Read the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-20) on Christmas Eve.
12. Hold a Birthday Party for Jesus, replete with storytelling, singing, and a cake.



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PRAYERS FOR




ADVENT

**She will give birth to a son, and you are to
give him the name Jesus, because he will
save his people from their sins.**

Matthew 1:21

December 2006

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 God, prepare our hearts to embrace this season with a spirit of expectation. Lk. 2:1-20	2 God, may fasting, meditation and prayer bring the true meaning of Advent to life. Ps. 19
3 1st Sunday of Advent God, enable us to prepare a straight path for the Lord, removing all obstacles that stand in His way. Lk. 3:1-6	4 God, show us your ways; teach us your paths; guide us in your truth for you are our hope forever. Ps. 25:1-5	5 God, we give thanks for your great mercy, love, goodness, and faithfulness. Ps. 25:6-10	6 God, thank you for the love we have for you and for one another. Increase our capacity to love. 1 Thess. 3:9-12	7 God, strengthen our hearts so that we will be ready when our Lord Jesus comes. 1 Thess. 3:13	8 God, enable us to confront, confess and turn away from our sins. Mark 1:1-4	9 God, we pray for righteousness to reign in our relationships, homes, communities, nations, and the world. Ps. 25:1-10
10 2nd Sunday of Advent God, help us to examine our hearts so that we always worship you in spirit and in truth. Mal. 3:1-4	11 God, thank you for Jesus, our Redeemer, who has the power to save us from our sins. Lk. 1:68-71	12 God, enable believers worldwide to serve you without fear and in righteousness. Lk. 1:72-79	13 God, help us to shine the Christian light of salvation on people living in darkness. Lk. 1:68-79	14 God, thank you for the blessings that come from being in ministry with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Phil. 3:1-6	15 God, enable our Christian love to grow and mature. May it be rooted in knowledge and understanding. Phil. 1:3-11	16 God, we offer thanksgiving for the marvelous deeds you have done. May your glory be declared among the nations. Ps. 96:1-9
17 3rd Sunday of Advent God, thank you for the deep lasting peace made possible through the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Lk. 2	18 God, thank you for being our strength, song and salvation and for encouraging us to trust in you. Isa. 12:2-3	19 God, we pray that your holy name will be exalted among the nations for the glorious things you have done. Isa. 12:4-6	20 God, may we rejoice in you, act with gentleness, pray without anxiety, and trust in your presence and power. Phil. 4:4-6	21 God, thank you for your peace that surpasses all understanding and guards our hearts and minds. Phil. 4:7	22 God, teach us to lead changed lives and to bear fruit in keeping with our faith. Lk. 3:7-8	23 God, thank you for the birth of Christ, who encourages the oppressed and establishes peace. Isa. 9:2-7
24 4th Sunday of Advent-Christmas Eve God, may our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in our Savior. Lk. 1:46-49	25 Christmas Day God, thank you for Jesus, the Word who became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth. Jn. 1:1-14	26 God, teach us to follow in Jesus' footsteps and to dedicate our lives in obedient service to you. Heb. 10:5-10	27 God, clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and love. Col. 3:12	28 God, teach us to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives. Titus 2:11-14	29 God, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. Bind all believers together in perfect unity. Col. 3:14-15	30 God, we pray that whatever we do in word or deed will be done in the name of the Lord Jesus and will glorify you. Col. 3:17
31 New Year's Eve God, thank you for the New Year and the opportunity to renew our covenant with Christ. Heb. 9						 www.ngumc.org