

## CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY

by Dean B. McIntyre

The days between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day can be so much richer and more meaningful if we can find ways to mark the time, to celebrate the themes, to explore as individuals, families, and churches what it means for God to be born in human flesh. Advent consists of the four Sundays before Christmas Day, and there are nearly two more weeks after Christmas Day until Epiphany (the twelve days of Christmas). Without minimizing the importance of Christmas Eve or morning, how can we make more significant the journey along the way?

Find more on each of these steps at the General Board of Discipleship website, [www.gbod.org/worship](http://www.gbod.org/worship):

- Hanging of the Greens
- Use of Story and Song at Home
- Advent Doxologies
- Choir Mission Project
- An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols
- The O Antiphons ("The Great O's")
- Las Posadas
- Birthday Party for Jesus
- Blue Christmas, or Longest Night Worship for Those Who Mourn
- Watch Night
- Twelfth Night — Chalking the Door

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# While We Wait



"We wait for the blessed hope—  
the glorious appearing of our great  
God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

—Titus 2:13

## December 2009 Prayers

# While We Wait • December 2009 Prayers

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 God, prepare our hearts to embrace this season with a spirit of holy expectation. Mark 13:32	2 God, in this time of waiting, teach me to prepare a path for the Lord, to remove all the obstacles I put in Christ's way. Isaiah 40:1	3 God, as my schedule fills with programs, parties, and obligations help me find times of peace and silence to reflect on Advent. Luke 14:15	4 God, open my ears so that this Advent I can hear the Christmas story with a fresh perspective. 2 Timothy 3:16	5 God, thank you for the grace given to us as we wait for the revealing of Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:4
6 God, show me how to make silence and meditation part of my Advent practices. Lamentations 3:25-26	7 God, you are the potter, we are the clay. Thank you for molding us and making us. Isaiah 64:3	8 God, forgive us when we fail to see the miraculous signs of your presence in our everyday lives. Daniel 4:2-3	9 God, thank you for your promise to our world: that Christ, our light and our hope, will come. 2 Corinthians 4:6	10 God, speak to me in this holy season. I will be quiet and listen. Matthew 7:7	11 God, teach me to let go of my worries and be joyful for all that you have given me. Ephesians 2:8	12 God, help us slow our hectic lifestyles and take time to watch and wait for you. Matthew 24:42
13 God, help me to internalize the words and the spirit of the hymns we sing during Advent. Psalm 98:4	14 God, help my family embrace your message of hope, courage, patience and faith this Christmas. Luke 17:5	15 God, bring peace to those for whom holidays are depressing or lonely. Matthew 11:28	16 God, let me experience this season with the joy and excitement of a child. Matthew 18:3	17 God, teach me to carve out moments for quiet reflection every day. Mark 1:35	18 God, as I find myself rushing to fulfill Christmas obligations, remind me to be thankful, hopeful and prayerful. Isaiah 30:15	19 God, we pray that you will bring comfort to families that are separated during the Christmas season. Isaiah 40:1
20 God, as we light Advent candles, remind us of the hope we find in your coming. Psalm 27:1	21 God, help parents teach their children that above all, Christmas is a celebration of your son's birth. Mark 4:24	22 God, give me an opportunity to be your servant and teach me to trust in you as Mary and Joseph trusted you. Luke 1:38	23 God, reveal to me opportunities to tell others the story of the birth of your son. Romans 10:14	24 God, as I enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas, help me not take for granted the nativity scene and what it represents. Luke 2:6-7	25 God, today I celebrate the gift of Christ, the greatest gift ever given. Luke 2:10-12	26 God, we praise you for our Savior Jesus Christ, who brings peace, good news and salvation to all who believe. Isaiah 52:7
27 God, give me the patience, courage and endurance of the shepherds and wise men who traveled to see the baby Jesus. John 10:4	28 God, grant us hope that in the future that there will be peace on earth. 2 Thessalonians 3:16	29 God, help me find ways to translate the Christmas spirit into a year-round focus on generosity. Ephesians 3:20-21	30 God, teach me to share the love that only the prince of peace can bring. Galatians 6:2	31 God, thank you for the New Year and the opportunities it brings to renew our covenant with Christ. Heb. 9:15		