FORT HOOD, TEXAS MMXXVI



agapehood

Advent

A family guide for the season of waiting

BEGINS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 →

agapehood

WELCOME

Prepare Him Room

Our military congregation is a family that humbly extends the invitation offered to us by Jesus. We want to welcome you on your journey along the pathway of following Christ. In a world full of options there is one way that leads to life and peace.

Advent means arrival. For four Sundays before Christmas the church remembers the first coming of Jesus and looks ahead to his return. This guide gives your household a simple rhythm for those weeks. Each chapter offers a short reading, questions for the table, an activity, and a candle lighting for your Advent wreath.

Read a chapter early in the week. Gather around the wreath on Sunday evening. Let the questions run as long as the conversation stays good. Use the blank pages for notes, prayers, and the things your children say that you will want to remember.

This is not a comprehensive guide. We encourage you to work through it with your missional community, a few neighbors, or another family on your street.

Sundays at 11:15 AM · Main Post Chapel
agapehood.com

THE SEASON

Five Candles, Four Weeks

I	**Hope** *Romans 8:24–25*	NOV 29
II	**Peace** *Luke 3:4*	DEC 6
III	**Joy** *Luke 2:10–11*	DEC 13
IV	**Love** *John 13:34–35*	DEC 20
V	**Christ** *Romans 11:36*	DEC 24–25

The first Sunday of Advent falls on November 29, 2026. Christmas Eve is Thursday, December 24, and Christmas Day is Friday, December 25. Light the Christ candle on whichever of the two your family gathers.

AT HOME

The Advent Wreath

Light a candle at home. A wreath is a simple way for a family to prepare for Christmas together. Make a wreath and candle setup that is special to your household. The wreath, a circle of evergreen branches, symbolizes eternity and unending love. Five candles sit on the wreath. One is lit each Sunday of Advent, and the last is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning.

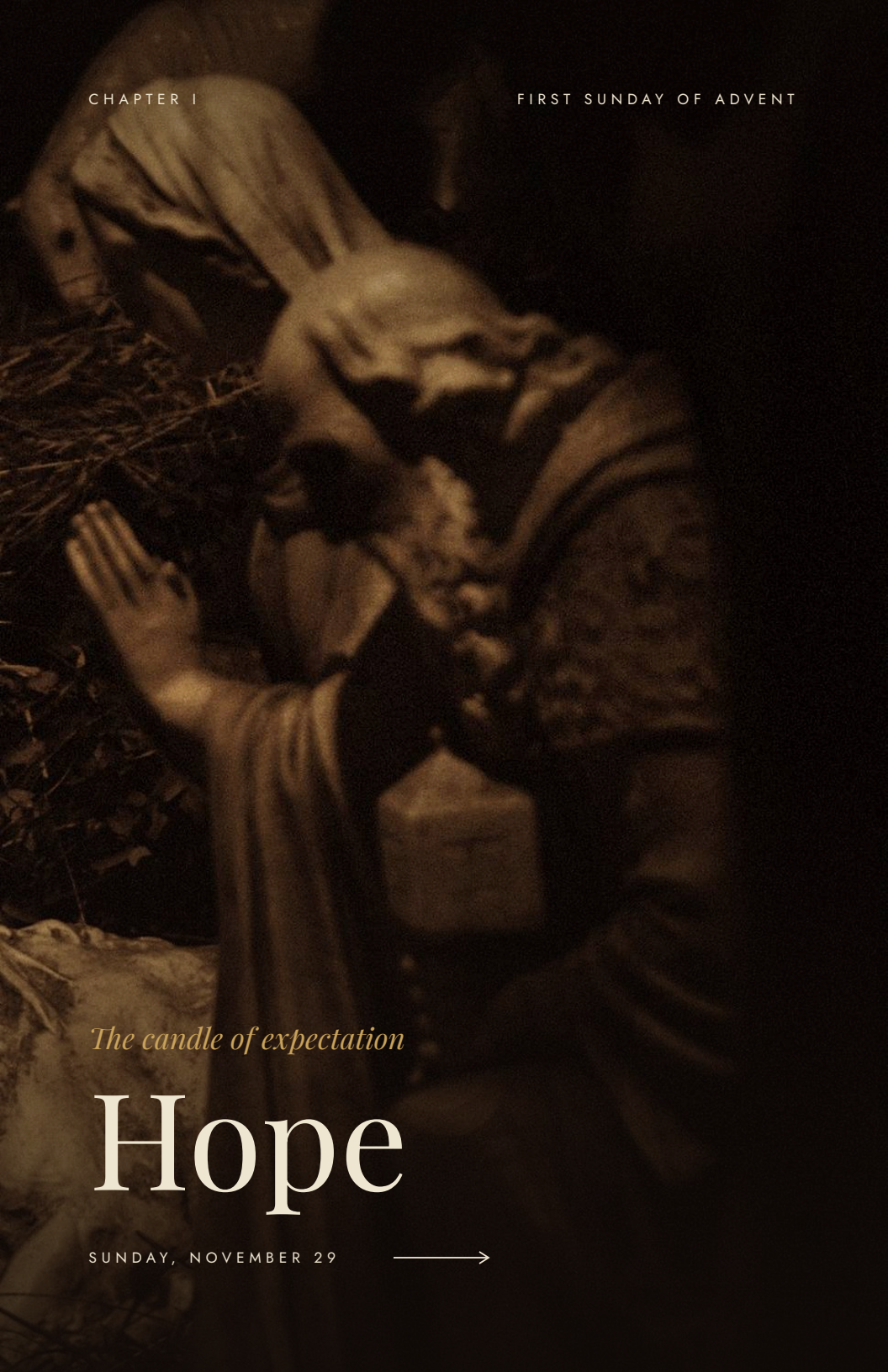
Purple is the primary color of Advent. It symbolizes repentance and fasting. It is also the color of royalty, pointing toward the King of Kings and the sovereignty of God. On the wreath, purple marks the preparation for and reception of Christ the King. Use purple candles on the first, second, and fourth Sundays. On the third Sunday a pink candle represents joy and rejoicing, and it signals a shift from repentance and preparation toward celebration. The white candle comes last. It represents purity and light. Christ is the sinless, spotless, and pure Savior, the light who comes into a dark world.



HOPE	PEACE	JOY	LOVE	CHRIST
purple	*purple*	*pink*	*purple*	*white*

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- An evergreen wreath, fresh or artificial
- Three purple candles and one pink candle
- One white candle for the center
- Five candle stands, with the center stand for the white candle
- A Bible, this guide, and a long lighter



CHAPTER I

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The candle of expectation

Hope

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

ROMANS 8:24–25

"For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

The Christmas season brings hope, but it can also be a source of stress as we work hard to create the perfect "magical" experience. We are drawn to the hope of the season, yet that hope is often tied to specific experiences. The busyness and anxiety that accompany this time of year stem from our fear of not being able to deliver the ideal Christmas experience or meet the perceived expectations of others.

As believers, our hope extends far beyond the idea of a perfect holiday. Our hope is woven into the very fabric of Scripture, prophesied and promised by God. The biblical authors and prophets spoke of the fullness and restoration that would come to God's people. Isaiah, in particular, warned Judah about their self-reliance and pride, while also offering a vision of renewed hope. Like us, Judah had turned away from God, relied on themselves, and faced the looming shadow of judgment. Yet their hope endured. Look at this description of hope in Isaiah 2:1–5:

> *It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.*

Here Isaiah speaks of a day, the "latter days," when the house of the Lord, the Kingdom of God, will be exalted and all nations will flow to it. Isaiah's timeline speaks to an unknown future when all things will be made right and the Messiah will be exalted forever. During Advent we remember that God fulfilled a promise of the coming Messiah to Israel in the person of Jesus Christ, and we look forward to a day when God will fulfill his promise of a returning Savior. Isaiah prophesies about Jesus in Isaiah 9:2–7:

> *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

We find that the end of our hope is a person and his work. Though we may enter this Advent season in the dark, we have hope in Jesus. Jesus, the only begotten of the Father, is God's Son who has come and paid the penalty of sin, was raised from the dead, and is the firstborn of a new creation. He ascended into heaven and will return for us, his people, and make all things new.

Our cultural moment has formed us as consumers, even consumers of "religious goods and services." We have been led to believe that technology or a new product will solve our problems. We are deceived into thinking these things are the answers we long for. We often treat the Advent of Christ as a means to our own ends. We believe that Christ will give us the blessed life that our culture esteems.

Christmas morning is a representative longing of that desire. We hope to give our kids a great Christmas, maybe like the one we had or the one we

lament we never had. No Christmas morning will fulfill our needs, and there will never be a perfect Christmas that satisfies your deep longings. Only Christ, our promised hope, will fulfill our hearts, and we wait eagerly for his return, when we will experience the restoration and true joy for which we long.

AROUND THE TABLE

For Discussion

I What expectations do you have this Christmas season? What are your plans and your hopes?

II How is Jesus your hope and your answer this Christmas?

III Ask someone in your family to pray for Christ's second coming.

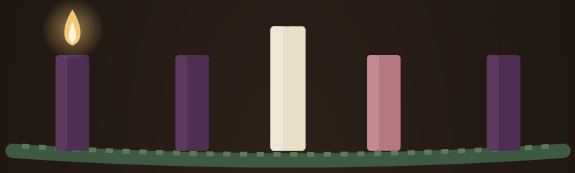
THIS WEEK

Build your wreath together. Let each person place a branch or a candle. Talk about what it means to wait for something you cannot yet see.

THE FIRST SUNDAY

Hope

November 29, 2026



READ

Jeremiah 33:14–16 · Romans 8:24–25

LIGHT

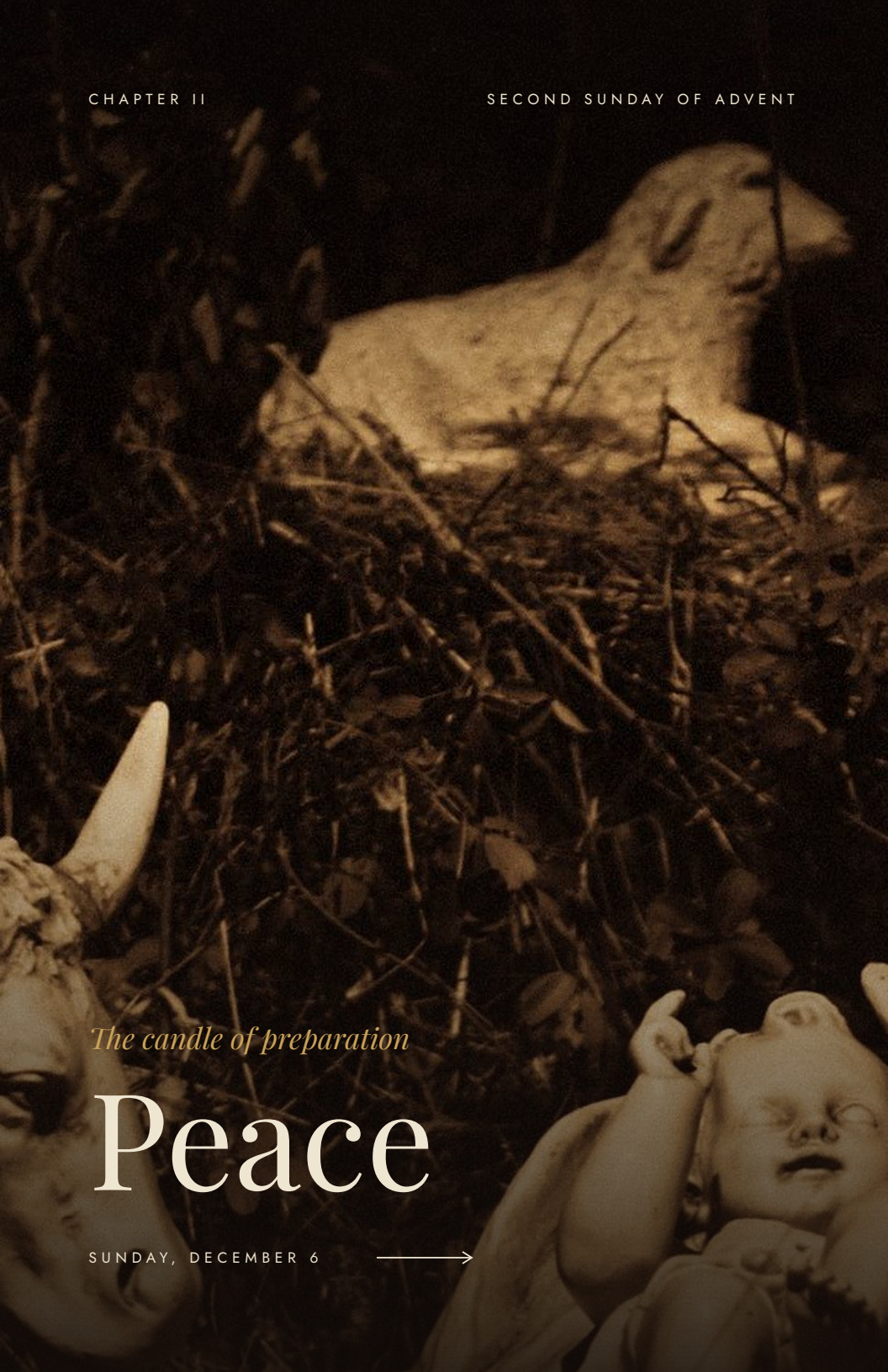
Light the first candle (purple), the candle of hope and expectation.

SAY

"Today we light the candle of expectation and hope. We are reminded that God has made a great promise to us. We remember his first coming and look forward to when he comes again."

PRAY

Father, during the Advent season may we be reminded of your great promises and your faithfulness. Help us prepare for your coming and revealing in our lives this season. Help us look forward to when you come again and make all things new. AMEN



The candle of preparation

Peace

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

LUKE 3:4

"As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

The act of preparation is as much a part of life as hoping. Note the connection between hope and preparation. If we hope for peace, then we should prepare for peace, especially if we are confident in our hope. Our preparation demonstrates our confidence, and we should be confident because the object of our hope is the eternally begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

If you are from Florida, you might know how to prepare for a hurricane. If you are from Oklahoma, you know how to prepare for a tornado. Some of you are adept at financial decisions that anticipate future needs and plans. How does a person prepare for the Lord? The gospel narrative gives us some insight in the story of John the Baptist.

The first story we read in Luke is the birth of John the Baptist. God sent an angel to Zechariah and said to him, "Your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John" (Luke 1:13). Zechariah's promised son was going to have a specific call and a unique purpose. "And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared" (Luke 1:16–17).

John was going to "make ready for the Lord a people prepared." So the question is how John was supposed to prepare the people for Jesus. The Scripture records that John preached repentance. Luke 3:7–16:

> *He said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for*

Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

John preached repentance and urged those who came to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. In the same way, the key to our preparation is a life of repentance. Repentance is a turning away from sin. John uses the examples of sharing and of honest collection because each of those sins, like all sins, elevates property, money, and resources as our hope. If money is a person's hope, then that person will not be generous and will even take it from you if they are more powerful. Repentance is a rejection of false hopes, which prepares our hearts to yearn for the authentic hope of Jesus Christ. In that hope we find peace.

Our hearts, left unsatisfied by the objects of our hope apart from Christ, long for fulfillment. History is a narrative of this destructive longing. Augustine says, "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you." This restless, unfulfilled longing is the opposite of peace and rest. False hopes create a need for self-justification, and self-justification pursues its end at all costs. We long for an external justification in Christ that will give our hearts rest and give the world peace. We prepare for this peace by abandoning these false hopes and justifications, leaning toward Christ, and receiving him joyfully.

In Western Christianity we have much of which to repent. We tend to find our hope in money, notoriety, recognition, appreciation, or experience.

We long to be made much of in a variety of ways. Sin comes in many forms, including addictions and deceits. How could repentance help our church family and your own household celebrate Christmas with joy this season?

Over a decade ago, some local pastors lamented that they had come to the end of the Advent season exhausted. They sensed that they had once again missed the point of the season. They were longing for the "soul-satisfying mystery of the incarnation."

We often spend the month of December, and sometimes the months before it, preparing for the Christmas season. Concerts, dinners, parties, and gifts can all be a bit overwhelming. Yet we falsely believe that we must do more, and that if we do more, we will experience more. The pastors decided to do something different and called it the Advent Conspiracy. The movement had four central tenets: Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love All. They hoped that as people and congregations embraced these tenets, money would be given for life-saving ministry worldwide.

One cause the Advent Conspiracy adopted was bringing clean drinking water to everyone in the world through organizations like Living Water International. Research tells us that the world spends roughly one trillion dollars on Christmas each year. Is it worth it? What if we spent less, gave more, lived in a manner in keeping with repentance, and blessed the world? What if, instead of focusing on getting presents, we received God's presence in the person of Christ? Let us spend time together, love our neighbors, and enjoy the presence of Jesus Christ as a family.

AROUND THE TABLE

For Discussion

I What are some things of which you need to repent? Is there someone you can talk to or confess to? What would that look like?

II Do you long for the Advent, the coming, of Christ in your life?

III How can your family prepare for the coming of Jesus this holiday season?

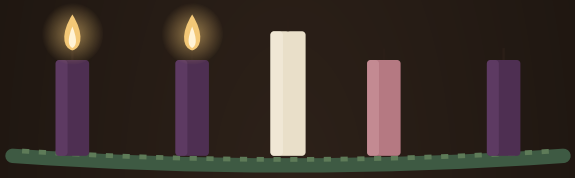
THIS WEEK

Do a craft together with the kids, if you are feeling patient. Ask them to name every step of preparation along the way. It is a fun way to introduce the idea of preparing for Jesus.

THE SECOND SUNDAY

Peace

December 6, 2026



READ

Isaiah 40:3–5 · Acts 3:19–26

LIGHT

Relight the first candle, then light the second (both purple).

SAY

"This Sunday we relight the candle of hope and expectation. Let it remind us that we have great hope in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, and in the promises of God. Now, as we light the candle of preparation and peace, let it remind us to prepare our hearts through repentance for the coming of Jesus."

PRAY

Father, guide us in the confession of our sins. We know that because of your Son and the love you have shown us, you are faithful to forgive our sins. Cleanse our hearts and prepare our lives for the coming of Christ. AMEN



The candle of rejoicing

Joy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

LUKE 2:10–11

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

There are a lot of great things about the Christmas season. Christmas movies, songs, food, and decorations may put you in the holiday spirit. I am writing this in the middle of November, and I have already watched Home Alone 1 and 2. I love Christmas. However, I am fairly confident that when Luke records the angels' words in Luke 2, he was not saying that the "great joy that will be for all the people" would be annual traditions full of seasonal delights. He was proclaiming that the joy to come was the birth of a Savior, Christ the Lord.

Joy is not just a benefit of the Christian life. It is central to the Christian life. This may sound strange to some because we often equate joy with happiness, and satisfaction with some bright, cheerful, fake way of being.

You may be all over the place on this, depending on prior experiences and the way you grew up. Some of you grew up in a Christian culture where seriousness was essential and joy feels like lightweight, bubble gum faith. Christmas and talk of joy may sound too sweet to the taste. The joy Luke speaks of is a deep, abiding joy that Scripture speaks of consistently. It is also a joy that is to be pursued. Great joy is good news because it answers what we have all longed for. We want to be happy and to have joy, and we make our decisions in pursuit of it. So the news of great joy is, in fact, good news.

C. S. Lewis has a famous line in *The Weight of Glory*:

> *It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.*

Here Lewis highlights something of great importance. Our desire and longing for joy is too weak. We are far too easily pleased and miss the deep, abiding joy offered to us. I recognize that this is complicated. Many of you have tried to pursue joy in the Christian life, yet it is hard to imagine what that looks like. If you do not know the target, how do you know how to pursue it? Some have poured everything into radical service, community, Bible studies, and more, only to find people who were hard to love and a Bible that was sometimes hard to understand. These things are good, but they are not your Savior. If you misplace your hope, these good things will cause you to miss Jesus.

Does that sound familiar? It is often the greatest challenge of the Advent season. We labor to create an experience for ourselves and others, and we do good things. Yet at the end of the busyness, when all the cleanup is complete, we often feel like we missed Jesus. How can that be? The entire season is about him. Yet time and again, year after year, we long for more.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 3:18, "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

Our path to joy this holiday season lies here. Paul states in Romans 8:28–29 that "all things work together for good," and that the good is that we would be "conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

These passages point to the same principle: we are transformed into the image of Jesus by beholding and exulting in his glory. By setting our gaze on the beauty of Christ, we are transformed into his image, which is our greatest good. I want to break this down because it may sound like church talk. First, "all things work together for good" is a powerfully strong statement. Paul means what he says: all things. Nothing is to be wasted or overlooked. All things are an opportunity to see and savor Jesus Christ. If you encounter suffering, setbacks, and rejection, you are given the opportunity to suffer with Christ and join in the fellowship of his sufferings. That joining, in the context of your suffering, is an act of beholding Christ, and that act produces resurrection joy. When I speak of suffering here, I am not suggesting that you will

face physical violence. I mean that you are engaged in futility, as in "the creation was subjected to futility ... in hope." Jesus fully encountered that futility in his birth and incarnation. When we experience futility, we share it with him.

Paul writes in Philippians 3:

> *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith, that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

Paul believed that embracing the sufferings of his moment joined him with Christ. This helped him know Christ more, perceive the beauty of his Savior, and attain the resurrection from the dead. That resurrection is real in the eternal sense and in the present moment as well, for it marks the renewal of sanctification that each of us is going through moment by moment.

This Advent season we should embrace the struggles, count them as joy, and in doing so behold the wonder of God becoming a man that he might redeem and rescue. He is a beautiful Savior, and in him we find joy.

AROUND THE TABLE

For Discussion

I What are some things in your life that bring joy?

II How can we as a family see and savor the beauty of Christ this season and experience joy regardless of circumstances?

III Is there a way we can give ourselves to serve others in pursuit of joy?

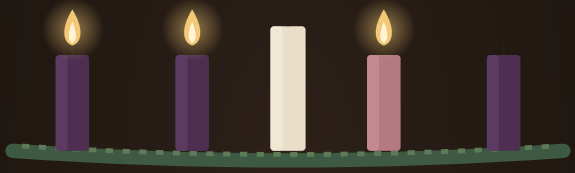
THIS WEEK

Have some fun as a family or with friends. Choose an activity that requires no money, only creativity and time together. I strongly recommend Christmas karaoke.

THE THIRD SUNDAY

Joy

December 13, 2026



READ

Zephaniah 3:14–17 · Luke 2:8–14

LIGHT

Relight the first and second candles (purple), then light the third (pink).

SAY

"This Sunday we relight the candle of hope and expectation. Let it remind us that we have great hope in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, and in the promises of God. We relight the candle of preparation and peace. Let it remind us to prepare our hearts through repentance for the coming of Jesus. Finally, we light the third candle of our Advent wreath. Its color is pink, the color of joy. It reminds us of the joy we will share as we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas."

PRAY

Father, we pray for joy, that we might grow in seeing and savoring Jesus Christ. Fill us with the joy of Christ this season, and let it grow in the hearts of those in our community and the world. AMEN



CHAPTER IV

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The candle of presence

Love

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

JOHN 13:34–35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Jesus claims that the clearest identifying trait of his followers will be their love for one another. His followers will love one another just as he has loved them. Jesus' incarnational love is the model for Christian love in the world. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." God loved by sending and going, and we are to model his love. John records in John 20:21–22, "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

The Advent season shows us that Jesus loves us. It reminds us how we can join Jesus and love all. First, you need to know that you are loved. Many have lived their lives in pursuit of love and admiration. It is a stunning revelation to hear that Jesus has loved and pursued you. Scripture is clear that God has loved the world and sent Jesus. Jesus' life testifies to his pursuit of sinners to call them back to himself. He heals, restores, and calls us to follow him. The biblical story of Jesus' love is remarkable. In Luke 15, Jesus tells the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son, highlighting his desire to see and pursue the neglected and rejected. This is the character of the Savior who loves you, values you, and pursues you.

Jesus' love for us is demonstrated in his incarnation and in his pursuit of his people. The sum of this love, and the sum of eternity, is his presence. The story of the Bible begins with the presence of God and ends with the presence of God. Remember Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3:8 says, "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool

of the day." Now look to the culmination of the biblical story in Revelation 21:1–4:

> *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

Jesus' coming, dwelling, and pursuing in love is the sum of our hope and joy this Advent season. It is also the model for the command to love our neighbor. We are to love by being present.

Being present this Advent season is more than thinking of someone and buying them a nice gift, though that is thoughtful and kind. It is a deeper commitment to be present with our friends and neighbors and to demonstrate Jesus' love by being on mission and in community in their lives. By being on mission and in community in our city, neighborhood, and installation, we push the presence of God into dark places and bring it into the lives of those who do not know him. We love because he first loved us.

AROUND THE TABLE

For Discussion

I Do you view Jesus' coming as a means to the good life, as though he came to give good presents? Or do you believe he has come to give his presence?

II How have you enjoyed the presence of God this Advent season?

III How can we live and practice the incarnation in our community and neighborhood?

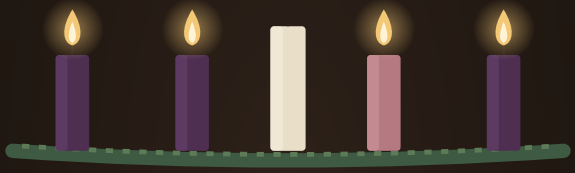
THIS WEEK

Do something creative for a neighbor that meets a need they might have. Invite them to dinner, cook them a meal as a gift, or serve them in a practical way. Practice loving well.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY

Love

December 20, 2026



READ

Matthew 22:36–40

LIGHT

Relight the first, second, and third candles, then light the fourth (purple).

SAY

"This Sunday we relight the candle of hope and expectation. Let it remind us that we have great hope in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, and in the promises of God. We relight the candle of preparation and peace. Let it remind us to prepare our hearts through repentance for the coming of Jesus. We relight the third candle, the candle of joy. It reminds us of the joy we will share as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Finally, we light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of love. We love because he first loved us."

PRAY

Father, we thank you for your deep love for us and for showing that love by coming to dwell among us and dying in our place. We pray that we would love our neighbors sacrificially and carry your presence with us to the ends of the earth. AMEN



The Christ candle

Christ

DECEMBER 24 & 25 →

ROMANS 11:36

"For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."

The world's past, present, and future held their breath at the arrival of Jesus Christ. It was the ultimate act of war on sin and death for the hope of peace and life. Jesus is the famous one and the sweetest name we know. The Scriptures tell us that Jesus is preeminent. Colossians 1:15–20:

> *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

Hebrews 1:1–4:

> *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*

These Scriptures testify to the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the perfect image of God and the radiance of his glory. He is fully God. Jesus was born as a man, that in his human nature he would, on our behalf, obey the whole law and suffer the punishment that was due to us. He is fully God

and fully man, two natures in one person. This mystery is to be cherished and embraced as the supreme grace of God. Listen to the words of one of my favorite Christmas carols. Find Mahalia Jackson's recording if you can.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING · CHARLES WESLEY

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 host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the favored one.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

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

Glory to God, who has sent his only begotten Son to the praise of his glorious grace. Jesus is good, ultimately good, and we rejoice in him this season.

AROUND THE TABLE

For Discussion

I Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective. New City Catechism, Question 23

II Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin. New City Catechism, Question 22

III Is Jesus enough for you this Advent season? Have you experienced his true and real presence?

THIS WEEK

Talk about Jesus together as a family. If the kids are old enough, watch *The Nativity Story* together. It may be a little intense for young ones.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

Christ

December 24 & 25, 2026



READ

Luke 1:26–38 · Luke 2:1–21

LIGHT

Relight the four candles of Advent, then light the Christ candle (white) in the center.

SAY

"This Christmas we relight the candle of hope and expectation. Let it remind us that we have great hope in Jesus Christ the Messiah and in the promises of God. We relight the candle of preparation and peace. Let it remind us to prepare our hearts through repentance for the coming of Jesus. We relight the candle of joy, which reminds us of the joy we share in celebrating the birth of Jesus. We relight the candle of love. We love because he first loved us. And finally we light the Christ candle. We celebrate the light of the world, who has come to push back the darkness and win the war on sin and death."

PRAY

We have been waiting for this day, loving God. We have prepared ourselves for it. On this Christmas Day, let us live as those who let hope, peace, joy, and love reign in our lives. As the candles burn brightly and light our path, let us live as those who have Christ's light burning inside us today and every day. AMEN

REFLECTIONS

Notes & Prayers

Use these pages for games, notes, prayers, and your own reflections through the season.



Jesus. Mission. Community.

Sundays at 11:15 AM

Main Post Chapel

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Fort Hood, Texas

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