



ADVENT

the arrival of the Savior

Family Guide

About This Guide

If the whole idea of celebrating Advent is new to you, you're in good hands. This book will guide you through weekly Advent Gatherings and a series of Advent Candle-Lighting Liturgies (liturgy is just a word for a thoughtful order of worship) to do together with your family and friends. This guide will help you make the most of this season with the people you love.

Candle-Lighting Liturgies

This Advent guide will walk you through how to prepare for your gathering, and it will give you step-by-step directions for how to participate in each Advent Candle-Lighting Liturgy in your home.

The Advent Candle-Lighting Liturgy itself will take around 20 minutes. The duration of the rest of the gathering is up to you.

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The Thrill Of Hope

Advent Week 1

Enjoy yourselves when you gather. Eat. Talk. Laugh. Play. Just be sure to set a time before everyone leaves to take around 20 minutes to walk through this Advent Candle-Lighting Liturgy together. You'll read a Psalm together, have a couple of people read scriptures for the group, light a candle, sing a song, and pray together. This guide will walk you through each step.

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Read INTRODUCTION

HOST:

“What kinds of words do we use when we’re looking forward to something in the future? The restaurant we’ve been wanting to try, the trip we’ve been wanting to take, our wedding day or the birth of a child?”

(Pause for answers.)

Hope is not optional for healthy humans. We need hope to survive. Without hope, we’re stuck in our circumstances and can’t see our way out of the darkness.

Tonight each of us are putting hope in something. It could be a new relationship status, something we want to purchase, or someplace we want to be. But true hope is different than this. Biblical hope is not about getting new things. Biblical hope is about a Person (Jesus) who makes us new. Real hope is a new heart with Jesus at the center bringing us new wisdom, new community, and new life.

Tonight, we’re going to explore that kind of hope together in Scripture, prayer, and worship. Let’s begin.”



Read a PSALM

HOST:

"We'll start by reading the following selections from Psalm 42 aloud together. Let's read slowly, and let these ancient words be the prayer of our hearts tonight."

PARTICIPANTS:

"As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for You, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God?

My tears have been my food day and night,
while they say to me all the day long,
"Where is your God?"

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?

Hope in God;
For I shall again praise Him,
My salvation and my God."

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HOST:

“Now let’s take a few moments to be quiet in God’s presence. Get comfortable. Close your eyes. See yourself offering anything that’s troubling you to God. Allow your thoughts to rest on His care for you.”

(Take 1–3 minutes. Break the silence with a short prayer about hope to conclude this section.)

Create SILENCE



Choose a child (if available) and another reader for this section.

HOST:

“_____ & _____ will be reading our next passages of Scripture tonight.”

“The eyes of God
are on the ones
who honor Him,
who find their hope
in His eternal love.”
(from Psalm 33:18)

Read SCRIPTURE

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READER:

“This beautiful prophecy from Isaiah reminds us of the hope God’s people found in expressing their deep longing for their messiah to come:

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned.

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.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.’

“This is the Word of God.”

PARTICIPANTS:

“Thanks be to God!”



Light the CANDLE

Choose one person (a child if available) to light the first candle (purple) and someone to read.

HOST:

"Tonight _____ is going to light our first Advent candle. This is the hope candle. The light of this fire represents the spark of hope. What does this hope represent for you tonight?"

(Pause for responses.)

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READER:

“These verses tell us what happened when the light of hope invaded our world through Jesus. One of Jesus’ closest friends poetically described it like this in John 1:9–14.

‘The true light, which gives light to everyone,
was coming into the world.

He was in the world,
and the world was made through Him,
yet the world did not know Him.

He came to His own,
and His own people
did not receive Him.

But to all who did receive Him,
who believed in His name,
He gave the right to become children
of God, who were born, not of blood
nor of the will of the flesh
nor of the will of man,
but of God.

And the Word became flesh
and dwelt among us,
and we have seen His glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.’
“This is the Word of God.”

PARTICIPANTS:

“Thanks be to God!”



SING a Song

HOST:

"Let's sing an old, beautiful Christmas carol. Just like in your car on your morning commute or in the shower when you think no one else is listening, this is a safe space for loud singing, so sing!"

PARTICIPANTS:

O HOLY NIGHT

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Fall on your knees,
O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, o night when Christ was born
O night divine, o night, oh night divine.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Fall on your knees,
O hear the angel voices!

O night divine, o night when Christ was born
O night divine, o night, o night divine.

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PRAY for One Another

HOST:

“Let’s take a moment to pray for one another. These don’t need to be long, eloquent prayers. But let’s lift one another up by name before God in prayer.”

Choose one person from your gathering for the final reading.

HOST:

“_____ will be doing our final Scripture reading tonight. This one comes to us from the book of Revelation.”

CONSIDER the Future



READER:

"The purpose of this reading is to turn our hearts from what has happened in the coming of Jesus and awaken our hopes for what will happen at Jesus' return. Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

'Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the
Lamb through the middle of the street of the city;

Also, on either side of the river, the tree of life
with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month.
The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

No longer will there be anything accursed,
but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it,
and His servants will worship Him.
They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.

And the night will be no more.
They will need no light of lamp or sun,
for the Lord God will be their light,
and they will reign forever and ever.

"And behold, I am coming soon.
Blessed is the one who keeps the words
of the prophecy of this book."

"This is the Word of the Lord."

PARTICIPANTS:

"Thanks be to God forever."

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FINAL PRAYER

HOST:
“Let’s pray.”

(Pray a closing prayer.)

HOST:
“To end our time together, let’s speak this
priestly blessing over each other found in
Numbers 6 that has been spoken over the people
of God for the last 3,500 years.”

“Now may the Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you and
be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His
countenance upon you and give you peace.”



PROUNOUNCE FINAL BLESSING

The Promise Advent Week 2 Of Peace

Enjoy your meal and fellowship together. Set a time before everyone leaves to walk through this Advent Candle-Lighting Liturgy together. Before you get started, light the Hope candle (the first purple candle).

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Read INTRODUCTION

HOST:

"Last week we started our Advent season talking about the theme of hope. This week we're talking about another big idea connected to the Christmas story, and that's the idea of peace.

Does anyone remember what the angels sang when they appeared to the shepherd boys after Jesus was born? (Pause for responses.) That's right. They said, 'Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth to those With whom He is pleased.'

At beauty pageants, sometimes contestants are asked, 'If you had one wish, what would you wish for?' What do we expect them to answer? 'World peace,' of course! Yes, that's a good answer, but what is peace exactly? In the Bible, it's the word shalom, and it does mean an end to war and conflict, but it also means 'complete' or 'whole' - maybe another way to say it is 'not broken.'

Our world is broken. It's interesting that the angels said that Jesus, the Messiah, would come to bring peace. But how does Jesus un-break our world? How does He bring wholeness and completeness to God's good world? Tonight, we're going to explore that kind of peace together in Scripture, prayer, and worship."



Read a PSALM

HOST:

“Let’s begin by reading the following selections from Psalm 23 aloud. Make these ancient words the prayer of your heart tonight.”

PARTICIPANTS:

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for His name’s sake.
Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff,
they comfort me.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

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HOST:

“Now let’s take a few moments to be quiet in God’s presence. Get comfortable. Close your eyes. See yourself offering anything that’s troubling you to God. Allow your thoughts to rest on His care for you.”

(Take 1–3 minutes. Break the silence with a short prayer about hope to conclude this section.)

Create SILENCE



Choose a child (if available) and another reader for this section

HOST: “_____ & _____ will be reading our next passages of Scripture tonight.”:

“How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
‘Your God reigns!’”
(from Isaiah 52:7)

Read SCRIPTURE

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READER:

“These verses from Isaiah 53 tell us the ways in which God promises to give us peace through Jesus. Listen closely as I read:

‘He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

Surely He has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed Him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

But He was pierced for our transgressions;
He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His wounds we are healed.’

This is the Word of God.”

PARTICIPANTS:

“Thanks be to God!”



Light the CANDLE

Choose one person (a child if available) to light the second candle (purple) and someone to read.

HOST:

“Tonight _____ is going to light our second Advent candle. Last week we lit the Hope candle. Tonight we light the Peace candle (second purple candle).”

Keeping in mind that peace is wholeness in every area of our lives, what would peace look like for you right now?”

(Pause for responses.)

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READER:

“This passage also comes from Isaiah. Listen for the promise of peace as I read:

‘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.

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.”



SING a Song

HOST:

"Okay, it's time to sing a Christmas carol together. This is a safe space for loud singing, so don't hold back. Let's sing."

PARTICIPANTS:

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 the angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth
Hark! the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

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PRAY for One Another

HOST:

“Let’s take a moment to pray for one another. These don’t need to be long, eloquent prayers. But let’s lift one another up to God in prayer now.”

Choose one person from your gathering for the final reading.

READER:

“The purpose of this reading is to turn our hearts from what has happened and awaken our hopes for what is to come.

CONSIDER the Future



These are the words of Jesus found in John 14:

'These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.
But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will
send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your
remembrance all that I have said to you.

Peace I leave with you;
My peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid.

You heard Me say to you,
"I am going away, and I will come to you."
And now I have told you before it takes place,
so that when it does take place you may believe.

I will no longer talk much with you,
for the ruler of this world is coming.
He has no claim on Me,
But I do as the Father has commanded Me,
so that the world may know that I love the Father.

Rise, let us go from here.'
This is the Word of the Lord."

PARTICIPANTS:
"Thanks be to God forever."

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FINAL PRAYER

HOST:
“Let’s pray.”

(Pray a closing prayer.)

HOST:
“To end our time together, let’s speak this
priestly blessing over each other found in
Numbers 6 that has been spoken over the people
of God for the last 3,500 years.”
“Now may the Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you and
be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His
countenance upon you and give you peace.”

PROUNOUNCE FINAL BLESSING



The Anticipation Of Joy

Advent Week 3

Enjoy one another's company, but take at least 20 minutes during your time together to walk through this Advent Candle-Lighting Liturgy. Before you get started, light the Hope and Peace candles (first two purple candles).

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HOST:

"The Christmas season is generally a happy time, isn't it? The lights, the colors, the music, the food, the gifts, and the Christmas movies just put us in a good mood. Most of us would say some of our best memories are Christmas memories. Spending time with the people we love and enjoying the good things life has to offer just tend to give us joy.

But for some, Christmas is not a happy season. In fact, Christmas can be the loneliest season for some people. All the lights and music and parties remind them of something they don't have with them anymore—a spouse, a child, a mother or father, a dear friend. Christmas, for them, may have some good memories, but mostly it makes them sad.

Joy is a theme that runs through the whole Bible. Sometimes joy is connected to beauty or being with kids or to a glass of wine. But the Bible also talks about a kind of joy not based on happy circumstances but based on the promise of God's presence. In tonight's Candle-Lighting Liturgy, together we're going to consider the anticipation of joy in God's promised, yet completely unexpected, arrival in the form of a baby born in the lowliest of places."



Read a PSALM

HOST:

"Let's all read the following verses from Psalm 16 together.
Make these ancient words the prayer of your heart tonight."

PARTICIPANTS:

"Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.
I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from You.'

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot.
The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

I have set the Lord always before me;
because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.

For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let Your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life;
in Your presence there is fullness of joy;
at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

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HOST:

“Now let’s take a few moments to be quiet in God’s presence. Get comfortable. Close your eyes. See yourself offering anything that’s troubling you to God. Allow your thoughts to rest on His care for you.”

(Take 1–3 minutes. Break the silence with a short prayer about hope to conclude this section.)

Create SILENCE



Choose a child (if available) and another reader for this section.

HOST:

“_____ & _____ will be reading our next passages of Scripture tonight.”

“Don’t be so sad;
the joy of the Lord
is your strength.”
(from Nehemiah 8:10)

Read SCRIPTURE

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READER:

“Tonight’s reading comes to us from Isaiah 12:1–6. Let’s listen for the anticipation of joy in the coming Messiah.

“In that day you will say:
‘I will praise you, Lord.
Although you were angry with me,
your anger has turned away
and you have comforted me.

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and not be afraid.
The Lord, the Lord Himself, is my strength and my
defense; He has become my salvation.’

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

In that day you will say:
‘Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name;
make known among the nations what He has done,
and proclaim that His name is exalted.

Sing to the Lord, for He has done glorious things;
let this be known to all the world.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.’

This is the Word of God.”

PARTICIPANTS:

“Thanks be to God!”



Light the CANDLE

Choose one person to light the third candle (purple) and someone to read.

HOST:

“Tonight _____ is going to light our third Advent candle. So far we have lit the Hope and Peace candles. Tonight we light the Joy candle (third purple candle).”

Where do you experience joy the most in this season?”

(Pause for responses.)

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READER:

“This passage also comes from John 15:11–15. Listen to what Jesus has to say about how joy works.

‘These things I have spoken to you,
that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

This is My commandment, that you love
one another as I have loved you.

Greater love has no one than this,
that someone lay down his life for his friends.
You are My friends if you do what I command you.

No longer do I call you servants,
for the servant does not know what his master is doing;
but I have called you friends,
for all that I have heard from My Father
I have made known to you.’

This is the Word of God.”

PARTICIPANTS:

“Thanks be to God!”



SING a Song

HOST:

“Okay, we’re going to sing “Joy to the World” together. Just like in your car on your morning commute or in the shower when you think no-one else is listening (they are and they love you anyway), this is a safe space for loud singing, so don’t hold back. Let’s sing.”

PARTICIPANTS: JOY TO THE WORLD

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.

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.

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PRAY for One Another

HOST:

“Let’s take a moment to pray for one another. These don’t need to be long, eloquent prayers, but let’s lift one another up to God in prayer now.”

Choose one person from your gathering for the final reading.

READER:

“The purpose of this reading is to turn our hearts from what has happened and awaken our hopes for what is to come.

CONSIDER the Future



These are the words of Jesus in Revelation 21:1–5:

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.” And He who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am
making all things new.”

“This is the Word of the Lord.”

PARTICIPANTS:
“Thanks be to God forever.”

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FINAL PRAYER

HOST:
“Let’s pray.”

(Pray a closing prayer.)

HOST:
“To end our time together, let’s speak this priestly blessing over each other found in Numbers 6 that has been spoken over the people of God for the last 3,500 years.”

“Now may the Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.”



PROUNOUNCE FINAL BLESSING

The Giving Of Love

Advent Week 4

Enjoy one another's company for a while, just remember to take 20 minutes before everyone leaves to walk through this Advent Candle-Lighting Liturgy together. Just before you get started, light the Hope, Peace, and Joy candles (all three purple candles).

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Read INTRODUCTION

HOST:

"In this Advent season thus far we have considered the Christmas themes of Hope, Peace, and Joy. Tonight we will light the fourth of our Advent candles (pink candle), the Love candle.

Jesus told us love is the meaning of life. The greatest commandment, He says, is a commandment to love. But there's a problem. In English, we use the word love for a whole lot of things. It's not a very precise word. We love our friends. But we might also love a particular sports team. We love our family. But we also love Netflix™. We love God. But we also love tacos and ice cream. See the issue? If love is the greatest commandment, what does love actually mean?

The word love in the Bible is often associated with breathtaking acts of trust and sacrifice. In fact, the first time the word love is used in the Bible, God puts Abraham's love to the test by asking him to make an unthinkable sacrifice. He says, 'Take your son, your only son, whom you love, and offer him as an offering.' Of course, we know Abraham passed the test. But the point is that in the Bible, love is not just a feeling. Love is an act, a sacrifice you make, a gift you give.

Tonight we're going to explore the theme of the giving of love."



Read a PSALM

HOST:

"Let's all read the following selection from Psalm 116 aloud.
Make these ancient words the prayer of your heart tonight."

PARTICIPANTS:

"I love the Lord,
because He has heard my voice
and my pleas for mercy.
Because He inclined His ear to me,
therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.
Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
our God is merciful.
For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling;
I will walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.
What shall I render to the Lord
for all His benefits to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord!
I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the Lord."

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HOST:

“Now let’s take a few moments to be quiet in God’s presence. Get comfortable. Close your eyes. See yourself offering anything that’s troubling you to God. Allow your thoughts to rest on His care for you.”

(Take 1–3 minutes. Break the silence with a short prayer about hope to conclude this section.)

Create SILENCE



Choose a child (if available) and another reader for this section.

HOST:

“_____ & _____ will be reading our next passages of Scripture tonight.”

“For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only Son,
that whoever believes in Him
should not perish
but have eternal life.”
(from John 3:16)

Read SCRIPTURE

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READER:

“Tonight’s Scripture reading comes to us from Psalm 13.

‘How long, O Lord?
Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?
How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over him,”
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.
But I have trusted in Your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord,
because He has dealt bountifully with me.’

This is the Word of God.”

PARTICIPANTS:

“Thanks be to God!”



Light the CANDLE

Choose one person (a child if available) to light the fourth candle (pink) and someone to read.

HOST:

“Tonight, _____ is going to light our last Advent candle before Christmas Eve. We’ve already lit the candles for Hope, Peace, and Joy. Tonight we light the Love candle.” In what ways have you received or given love this week?”

(Pause for responses.)

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READER:

“This passage comes from 1 John 4:7–12.
Listen for the biblical definition
of love as I read these verses.

‘In this the love of God was made manifest among us,
that God sent His only Son into the world,
so that we might live through Him.
In this is love,
not that we have loved God
but that He loved us and sent His Son
to be the propitiation for our sins.
Beloved, if God so loved us,
we also ought to love one another.
No one has ever seen God;
if we love one another,
God abides in us
and His love is perfected in us.’

This is the Word of God.”

PARTICIPANTS:

“Thanks be to God forever.”



SING a Song

HOST:

“Okay, it’s time to sing! Just like in your car on your morning commute or in the shower when you think no-one else is listening, this is a safe space for loud singing, so don’t hold back. Let’s sing.”

PARTICIPANTS: 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!

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above:
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

For He alone is worthy,
For He alone is worthy,
For He alone is worthy,
Christ the Lord.

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PRAY for One Another

HOST:

“Let’s take a moment to pray for one another. These don’t need to be long, eloquent prayers, but let’s lift one another up to God in prayer now.”

Choose one person from your gathering for the final reading.

READER:

“The purpose of this reading is to turn our hearts from what has happened and awaken our hopes for what is to come.

CONSIDER the Future



These are the words of Jesus in Revelation 5:1–11.

Then I saw in the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne
a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice,
“Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”

And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to
open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly be-
cause no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more!
Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David,
has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals.”
And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the
twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a
harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of
the saints. And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for
God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and
You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they
shall reign on the earth.”

This is the Word of God.”

PARTICIPANTS:
“Thanks be to God forever.”

ADVENT
the arrival of the Savior

FINAL PRAYER

HOST:

“Let’s pray.”

(Pray a closing prayer.)

HOST:

“To end our time together, let’s speak this priestly blessing over each other found in Numbers 6 that has been spoken over the people of God for the last 3,500 years.”

“Now may the Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you and
be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His
countenance upon you and give you peace.”



PROUNOUNCE FINAL BLESSING

The Birth of Jesus Luke 2:2-20

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

ADVENT
the arrival of the Savior

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.





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