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RESTORE US AGAIN

2021 HOUSEHOLD
WORSHIP GUIDE



CITY OF LIGHT
IGLESIA · CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

How are you feeling about Advent this year? Are you excited and hopeful? Or are you weary and needing rest for your soul? This year, perhaps more than ever, many of us come to Advent with awareness of all that has gone wrong in our world. We live in a disordered, broken world, full of sinful, broken people. We see the darkness all around, and with the Psalmist cry out, “How long, oh Lord?” We are seeking the restoration of so many things, not least of which are our own hearts.

Advent is the season in which we face this darkness, and we cry out to the Lord, because we cannot fix things. We cannot save ourselves. Advent offers rest. It reorders our lives to focus on Emmanuel, God with us. We celebrate Christ, the Son of God born into human flesh, and we wait in hope for Christ’s return, when he will restore us and make all things new.

This Household Worship Guide is meant to be two things for you during this season: an invitation and a resource. It is our hope that the practices and resources listed in this booklet will invite you to slow down and rest, that rest will create space, and in that space you will know the Holy Spirit’s restorative work.

This guide is for households of all shapes and sizes. As you read through the pages it may feel like a lot. Don’t try to do it all. Pick one or two practices to try this Advent. Invite a friend to join you, practice it with your family, or include it in your personal devotional time.

Whether this is your first time practicing Advent or you’ve been observing Advent your entire life, we pray this season will be a time of restoration. May Emmanuel, God with us, fill your heart and your household with his peace and presence.

In Christ,
Father Trevor McMaken
Pastor Brittany Yeager

Find more ideas at www.cityofflightanglican.org/events/advent

ADVENT WREATH & CANDLES

An Advent wreath is a simple but beautiful way to remind us that Christ brings light into the world to scatter the darkness. Your wreath could be as simple as 5 candles on your table (three purple, one pink, one white, or all white with colored ribbons like we do at church) that you light at dinnertime. Each week, light one more of the four candles until on Christmas Eve or day, you light the last candle—the Christ Candle.

You could incorporate a simple prayer, like one of the collects printed in this booklet, maybe even sing a song (like O Come O Come...), or read a verse of scripture. This doesn't have to be a 15 minute ritual, the simple act of lighting the candle and observing the light makes space for us to slow down and notice the goodness and presence of Immanuel, God with us.

ADVENT CALENDARS

Advent calendars begin on the first Sunday of Advent and count down the days until Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. There are many different ways to create an Advent calendar and fill it with Scriptures, prayers, songs, and mission. A Jesse tree is type of Advent calendar that counts down the days to Christmas with Scripture.

ADVENT COLLECTS & READINGS

11/28 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Zech 14:1-9; Ps. 50; 1 Thess. 3:6-13; Luke 21:25-33

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 for ever. Amen.

12/5 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mal. 3:1-5, Ps. 126; 1 Cor. 4:1-21; Luke 3:1-6

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

12/12 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Zeph. 3:14-20; Ps. 85; Phil. 4:4-9; Luke 3:7-20

O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

12/19 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mic. 5:2-5a; Ps. 80:1-7; Heb. 10:1-10; Luke 1:39-56

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

ADVENT HYMN

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O Come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall comes to thee O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory over the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall comes to thee O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall comes to thee O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall comes to thee O Israel.

ADVENT JESSE TREE

The Jesse tree tradition comes from a prophecy about the Messiah (God's anointed) in Isaiah 11:1. "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit." Jesse was King David's father. Jesus fulfills this prophecy by being born into the family line of David. You can read the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1.

The church has been depicting this family tree of Jesus in art and stained glass since at least the 11th century, showing the way God was preparing for the coming of Jesus for centuries. As followers of Jesus, we have been baptized into this family tree and these are our ancestors of faith! As we await in faith the return of Jesus, we trust that God is continuing to work in history to build his household through our households.

Creating a Jesse Tree doesn't have to be complicated. A small branch or tree of any kind, or even a ribbon or garland strung up in a doorway will suffice. Each day of Advent, read the Scripture passage and add an ornament with that symbol to your Jesse tree. Paper ornaments are available at the welcome table, or you can make your own.

Wondering questions help us engage imaginatively with the Scripture. Say out loud, "I wonder what this person was thinking, feeling, or experiencing?" Or ask "What does this say about God, us? What does this passage show about God's love for us? What can I pray to the Lord? Who needs to hear this today? How do we obey?"

You could do this on its own or combine it with any of the following: discussion, lighting the Advent candles, singing O Come, O Come Emmanuel, or praying the Advent collects.

JESSE TREE SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:1-2: The Jesse Tree
Symbol: Stump with branch

Habakkuk 2:1-4: Habakkuk and the Watch Tower
Symbol: Watch tower

Genesis 1:26-31: Creation of Humans
Symbol: Globe/Adam and Eve

Genesis 3: The Fall
Symbol: Snake and apple

Genesis 6:11-14; 7:17-8:3; 9:8-13: Noah's Ark
Symbol: Noah's Ark

Genesis 12:1-7: The Promised Land
Symbol: Tent and camel

Genesis 15:1-6: God's Promise to Abraham
Symbol: Starry sky

Genesis 22:1-14: Abraham Sacrifices Isaac
Symbol: Ram

Genesis 28:10-22: Jacob's Dream
Symbol: Jacob's ladder

Genesis 37:1-36: Joseph
Symbol: Joseph's coat of many colors

Deuteronomy 5:1-22: The 10 Commandments
Symbol: Tablets

Joshua 2:1-21: Rahab
Symbol: Red rope

Ruth 2:1-4:12: Ruth and Boaz
Symbol: Grain

1 Samuel 16:1-15: God Chooses David to be King

Symbol: Sheep/shepherd's crook

2 Samuel 5:1-5: David Crowned King

Symbol: Crown

1 Kings 5:5; 1 Kings 6: Solomon Builds God's Temple

Symbol: Temple

1 Kings 18:17-24, 36-39: Elijah and God's Triumph over Baal

Symbol: Fire and altar

Esther 4: Esther Saves Her People

Symbol: Scepter

Isaiah 9:2-7: Isaiah's Prophecy of a Savior

Symbol: Sun

Isaiah 11:6-9: Isaiah's Prophecy of the Second Coming

Symbol: Wolf and lamb

Jonah 3:1-5: Jonah and the Whale

Symbol: Whale

Daniel 6: Daniel and the Lions' Den

Symbol: Lion

Micah 5:1-5: Prophecy of a Savior Born in Bethlehem

Symbol: City of Bethlehem

Luke 1:5-25: Elizabeth and Zechariah

Symbol: Praying hands

Matthew 3:1-6: John the Baptist

Symbol: Baptism shell

Luke 1:26-38: God Chooses Mary

Symbol: Virgin Mary

Matthew 1:18-25: Angel Appears to Joseph

Symbol: Angel of the Lord

Luke 2:1-5: Mary and Joseph Go to Bethlehem

Symbol: Sandals

Luke 2:6-21: Jesus Is Born

Symbol: Baby in manger

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The Christmas Feast traditionally lasts for 12 days from December 25 until January 6. Here are readings and prayers for those 12 days.

12/25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah 9:1-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

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 Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

12/26 FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

Jeremiah 26:1-15; Psalm 31:1-27; Acts 6:8 - 7:60; Matthew 23:29-39

O Glorious Lord, your servant Stephen looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors: Grant that in all our sufferings here upon earth we may love and forgive our enemies, looking steadfastly to Jesus Christ our Lord, who sits at your right hand and intercedes for us; and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

12/27 FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Exodus 33:18-23; Psalm 92; 1 John 1; John 21:9-25

Shed upon your Church, O Lord, the brightness of your light, that we, being illumined by the teaching of your apostle and evangelist John, may so walk in the light of your truth, that at length we may attain to the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

12/28 FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Jeremiah 31:15-17; Psalm 124, Revelation 21:1-7; Matthew 2:13-18

Almighty God, out of the mouths of children you manifest your truth, and by the death of the Holy Innocents at the hands of evil tyrants you show your strength in our weakness: We ask you to mortify all that is evil within us, and so strengthen us by your grace, that we may glorify your holy Name by the innocence of our lives and the constancy of our faith even unto death; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who died for us and now lives with you and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

12/29 THE FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Song of Songs 6, Revelation 21:1-14; Psalm 144

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

12/30 THE FIFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Song of Songs 7, Revelation 21:15-22:5, Psalm 146

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

Song of Songs 8, Revelation 22:6-end; Psalm 148

O God our Creator, you have divided our life into days and seasons, and called us to acknowledge your providence year after year: Accept your people who come to offer their praises, and, in your mercy, receive their prayers; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1/1 THE CIRCUMCISION AND HOLY NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS

Exodus 34:1-9; Psalm 8; Romans 1:1-7; Luke 2:15-21

Almighty God, your blessed Son fulfilled the covenant of circumcision for our sake, and was given the Name that is above every name: Give us grace faithfully to bear his Name, and to worship him with pure hearts according to the New Covenant; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1/2 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Genesis 2; John 1:29-end; Psalm 5,6

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

1/3 THE NINTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 84; Matthew 2:13-23

Almighty and most merciful God, grant that by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit we may be enlightened and strengthened for your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1/4 THE TENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Genesis 4; John 3:1-21; Psalm 8, 11

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1/5 THE ELEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Genesis 5; John 3:22-end; Psalm 12, 13, 14

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1/6 THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Isaiah 60:1-9; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:1-13; Matthew 2:1-12

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



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RESTORE US AGAIN

Streams in the desert. A wolf lying down with a lamb. The Root of Jesse as a banner for the people. All of these images from Advent Bible passages paint a picture of restoration—broken things somehow made right again. The season of Advent reminds us that while we wait for the coming of Jesus, we do not wait in vain. Instead, we wait with the hope and the expectation that he—Immanuel—is entering our brokenness, coming to restore our hearts, restore our neighborhoods, and restore all things when he comes again. Join us this Advent and Christmas season at City of Light as we pray Psalm 85, "restore us again, God our Savior."

11/28, First Sunday of Advent — Pastor Eduardo Dávila

12/5, Second Sunday of Advent — Pastor Casey Solgos

12/12, Third Sunday of Advent (Lessons & Carols) — Pastor Trevor McMaken

12/19, Fourth Sunday of Advent — Rachel Wassink

12/24, Christmas Eve (4pm & 5:30pm) — Pastor Trevor McMaken



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