



Fulfillment

Advent Here! Advent Now!

2025 Advent Devotional

During the Advent season, we anticipate the celebration of Christ's Advent as a babe in Bethlehem AND we await Christ's return on Christmas Day. In so doing, we look back to an Advent past and we look forward to an Advent future.

But what about an Advent here and now?

Throughout the Scriptures we hear about a God who is present, a God who comes to us every day, sometimes in unexpected ways. This year, our Worship Series and Advent Devotional, *Fulfillment: Advent Here! Advent Now!* will help us be present to Christ's coming in everyday moments, places, and people. Pairing this booklet with your weekly worship will not only enhance your daily walk through the Advent Season, but also your engagement with worship.

These devotions are perfect for individual use, to be shared with a friend in faith, or in a family. Including your children or grandchildren will enhance your experience.



We are called by God to be an inclusive community of faith,
abiding in God's love and committed to
Enjoying God, Following Jesus, and Growing Disciples

What is included in your Advent Devotional:

A Weekly Candle Lighting Scripture, Song, and Prayer

Set up your own Advent Wreath at home, similar to the one we have in our sanctuary, or simply color the candle for the week on the coloring page. This is a good time to focus on the theme for the week and anticipate the ways you will see Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love fulfilled HERE and NOW!

A Weekly Gospel Lesson with a Challenge and a Bonus!

This is the same scripture you will have heard in Worship on Sunday and your chance to sit with it all week. NOTE: We have only offered you the scripture citation. Open your personal Bible and read the text there. Make notes in the margins of your Bible! Below the citation is a focus verse from the text. Take this with you as a small piece of the scripture through the week.

The Challenge! Take the scripture on the road. Often, we read scripture in church or at home, but what if we read it at the grocery store or in a park, at work or in the Emergency Room waiting room, in a part of town you think of as a bit dangerous or in a fancy restaurant? How does the scripture speak to you in that place? Can you see Advent Here? Advent Now?

The Bonus! Send us your Christ sightings. Where are you seeing the scriptures fulfilled? Where are you seeing the Advent of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love? Send pictures, poems, and/or prose to the church email: wpcgwd1@gmail.com and we will share them through our weekly email blasts or share them directly on our WPC Greenwood Facebook page. *You may choose to take the whole text out into the world or just the focus verse.*

A Weekly Hymn Text

Each week you will be offered a hymn text. It may be an old familiar one or one you have never heard. Find the tune online and sing along! Pray the words as you open your eyes to the Advent Here! Advent Now! *The included notes are from our Glory to God Hymnal.*

Reflection Space, A Coloring Page, and a Calendar

Three ways to record your observations. Use the reflection space to record thoughts and prayers and Christ Sightings Here and Now. The coloring page offers you places where you might take the text. Color them in when you have tried one. The calendar has some of your WPC dates already on it. Add your other commitments. How will the scriptures accompany you to the office party? The theater performance? Your family gatherings? Will you find or will you bring hope, peace, joy, and love into these times and places?



**First Sunday in Advent
We Light the Candle of Hope
“Christ in Front of Us”**

Advent Candle Lighting

Isaiah 11:6-9

Today we light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope.

Christ is the Hope that is here, that is now.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den.

Christ is the Hope that is here, that is now.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Christ is the Hope that is here, that is now.

*He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
hallelujah forever more.
Hymn # 137*

Candle Lighting Prayer

God of Prophets and Mommas, we look forward with hope to the day when your realm of peace, love and justice will cover the earth as dew covers the morning grass. Give us vision of that day and employ us beside you in the fulfillment of it. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 25:31-40

*And the king will answer them,
“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these siblings of mine, you did it to me.”
Matthew 25:40*

GTG Hymn # 100: My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyous Shout / Canticle of the Turning. By employing an energetic Irish folksong for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the Magnificat, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the
past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,

and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

My Christ Sightings of "Christ in Front of Us" During this Week of Hope:

Please share a picture, poem, reflection as you wish with the rest of the church by submitting to wpcgwd1@gmail.com or posting on Our WPC Greenwood Facebook Page.

Second Sunday in Advent
We Light the Candle of Peace
“Christ Between Us”

Advent Candle Lighting

Isaiah 2:2-5

Today we light the second candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace.

Christ is the Peace that is here, that is now.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ 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.”

Christ is the Peace that is here, that is now.

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
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 any more.
⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Christ is the Peace that is here, that is now.

***He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forever more.
Hymn # 137***

Candle Lighting Prayer

God that is the love and peace between us. May we see you this week in places where two or three are gathered in your name. As much as it depends on us, may we live at peace with all. And may your peace come to reign over all the earth. Amen.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”
Matthew 18:20

GTG Hymn # 88: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas, their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

1 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 come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

4 O come, thou Root of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

5 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 come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, 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 come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

My Christ Sightings of "Christ Between Us" During this Week of Peace:

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**Third Sunday in Advent
We Light the Candle of Joy
“Christ Above Us”**

Advent Candle Lighting

Isaiah 60:1-6

Today we light the third candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy.

Christ is the Joy that is here, that is now.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Christ is the Joy that is here, that is now.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Christ is the Joy that is here, that is now.

*He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forever more.*

Hymn # 137

Candle Lighting Prayer

God of night's bright stars, draw us toward your light. May we see you this week illuminating even the darkest of places. May we be bearers of your light wherever we go. Amen.

When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

Matthew 2:9-10

GTG Hymn # 134: Joy to the World

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4–9 in Christian terms, titling it “The Messiah’s coming and kingdom.” So “the Lord” here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 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.

My Christ Sightings of “Christ Above Us” During this Week of Joy:

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Fourth Sunday in Advent
We Light the Candle of Love
“Christ Before Us”

Advent Candle Lighting

Isaiah 9:1-7

Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the Candle of Love.

Christ is the Love that is here, that is now.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Christ is the Love that is here, that is now.

*He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forever more.
Hymn # 137*

Candle Lighting Prayer

Alpha and Omega God of Love, may we welcome your presence among us. Make us present to you in these busy days. Fill us with your hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.

Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-14

*The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word.
John 1:1 (The Message Bible Translation)*

GTG Hymn # 110: Love Has Come Down

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being “Love.” The senses “seen and heard” (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: “Love is the gift of Christmas.”

1 Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

3 Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

My Christ Sightings of “Christ Before Us” During this Week of Love:

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Christmas Day

We Light the Candle in the Center of It All, The Christ Candle

“Christ is Here!”

Christ Candle Lighting

Isaiah 35:1-5

Today we light the Christ Candle.

Christ is here!

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Christ is here!

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come and save you.”

Christ is here!

Christ is the Light that is here, that is now.

He came down that we may have light;

He came down that we may have light;

He came down that we may have light;

hallelujah forever more.

Hymn # 137

Prayer of the Day

God of Shepherds and Angels, we rejoice at the good news of your birth. May we be bearers of the good news so that we might glorify you and your light might spread throughout the world, one joyful story after another. And may your goodness be born today in every heart. Amen.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

*The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.*

Luke 2:20

GTG Hymn # 138: Who Would Think That What Was Needed

Hindsight is nearly always clearer than foresight, and with gentle good humor this Christmas hymn points out how great was the gap between human expectation and God’s actual way of providing a means of salvation for us. God’s ways continually exceed our claims to comprehend them.

1 Who would think that what was needed
to transform and save the earth
might not be a plan or army,
proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision,
that a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven,
coming here on Christmas Day.

3 Centuries of skill and science
span the past from which we move,
yet experience questions whether,
with such progress, we improve.
While the human lot we ponder,
lest our hopes and humor fray,
God surprises earth with heaven,
coming here on Christmas Day.

2 Shepherds watch and wise men wonder;
monarchs scorn and angels sing;
such a place as none would reckon
hosts a holy helpless thing.
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers
watch a baby laid in hay;
God surprises earth with heaven,
coming here on Christmas Day.

My Christ Sightings of “Christ Here” on this Christmas Eve/Day and the First Sunday of Christmas:

Please share a picture, poem, reflection as you wish with the rest of the church by submitting to wpcqwd1@gmail.com or posting on Our WPC Greenwood Facebook Page.

New Years/Epiphany

We Light the Lights of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love from the Light of Christ “Christ Within Us”

Advent Wreath Lighting

John 8:12, Matthew 5:14-16, 28:19-20

Today, from the eternal light of Christ, we light candles of hope, peace, joy and love.

I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life.

Christ is the light of the world!

You are the light of the world.

A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket;
rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

We are the light of the world!

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Christ is with us here and now!

Christ is with us always.

He came down that we may BE light;

He came down that we may BE light;

He came down that we may BE light;

hallelujah forever more.

Hymn # 137

Prayer of the Day

God who makes all things new, step with us into this new year as the light within us. Shine from these vessels made by your hands that our good works empowered by your Spirit might bring glory to you. Amen.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 5:14-20

Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

GTG Hymn # 152: What Star is This with Beams So Bright

This hymn is new to us and so may speak a fresh word on ancient themes. This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

1 What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,
glad tidings of our God to bring.

2 'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";
and lo! the eastern sages stand
to read in heaven the Lord's command.

3 While outward signs the star displays,
an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might,
to seek the giver of the light.

4 O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.

My Hopes for the "Light of Christ Within Me/Us" in This New Year and on this Epiphany Day:

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Advent 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <i>Hope</i> First Sunday of Advent	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Peace</i> Second Sunday of Advent	8	9	10 Caroling at the Puppet Place 6:00 - 8:00	11	12	13
14 <i>Joy</i> Third Sunday of Advent	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>Love</i> Sunday Sustenance Fourth Sunday of Advent	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 p.m.	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28 First Sunday of Christmas	29	30	31			