

A detailed illustration of a nativity scene set in a desert landscape under a starry night sky. A bright, multi-pointed star shines prominently in the upper center. Below it, a wooden manger is illuminated from within, where a baby lies. Several figures, including Mary, Joseph, and three wise men on camels, are gathered around the manger. The scene is framed by a dark blue border.

Celebrate the Season of Hope

A GUIDE TO THE ADVENT SEASON

From

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*Wishing you a Blessed Advent Season
and a
Merry Christmas!*

-Pastor Brad

Welcome to the Season of Advent. This small book is written to give you a scriptural guide to celebrating the season. Advent is a time of preparation, anticipation, and joy as we await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Advent means "coming" in Latin, and it refers to both the first coming of Christ in Bethlehem and the second coming of Christ at the end of time. Advent also helps us to prepare our hearts for the celebration of the Nativity, the birth of our Lord.

This book is designed to be used along with the accompanying Advent Calendar. Together, they will guide you through the four themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Each day, you will find a scripture passage, a brief description of how the passage relates to the theme for the week, and a prayer to reflect on throughout the day.

You will also find a link to a song for each Sunday of Advent to help you enter into the theme for that week. You are invited to meditate on the theme of the week, and scripture for each day, and to listen to the song with an open heart. The songs are chosen from various genres and styles, but they all convey the message of Advent in a beautiful way.

My hope is that this book and calendar will help you to experience the grace and wonder of Advent, and to deepen your relationship with God and with others. May this season of Advent be a most blessed one for you, and may it lead you into an even more beautiful celebration of the Christmas Season.

In the hope, peace, joy, and love of the Christ Child,
Pastor Brad

Week of the 1st Sunday of Advent

HOPE

Song of the Week: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" by Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UH7asSGxAxA>

Sunday - Isaiah 9:2-7: This prophecy foretells the birth of a child who will bring light, peace, and justice to a dark and troubled world. He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He is the hope of Israel and the nations.

Monday - Romans 15:13: This verse is a prayer that God, the source of hope, would fill us with joy and peace as we trust in him. It also reminds us that hope is not a passive feeling, but a dynamic power that comes from the Holy Spirit.

Tuesday - Psalm 130:5-6: This psalm expresses the longing of a soul that waits for the Lord more than the watchmen wait for the dawn. It shows us that hope is not based on our circumstances, but on God's word and his steadfast love.

Wednesday - Hebrews 6:19-20: This passage compares hope to an anchor that secures our souls in the stormy seas of life. It also tells us that our hope is not in vain, because it is based on the oath of God and the priesthood of Jesus, who entered the heavenly sanctuary on our behalf.

Thursday - 1 Peter 1:3-5: This text celebrates the living hope that we have through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It also assures us that we have an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for us by God's power.

Friday - Revelation 21:1-5: This vision depicts the new heaven and the new earth that God will create at the end of time. It also reveals that God will dwell with his people, wipe away every tear from their eyes, and make all things new. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning, and the end.

Saturday - Luke 1:46-55: This song is Mary's response to the angel's announcement that she will give birth to the Son of God. It praises God for his mercy, his mighty deeds, his faithfulness to his covenant, and his fulfillment of his promises. It also expresses Mary's humble trust and joyful expectation in God's plan.

Week of the 2nd Sunday of Advent PEACE

Song of the Week: "It Is Well" by Sovereign Grace Music

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHe_gmo3gX4

Sunday - Isaiah 9:6-7: These verses tell us that the Messiah will be the source of everlasting peace and will rule the world with righteousness and peace. We can meditate on His many names given in Isaiah and know the Jesus fulfills them all.

Monday - John 14:27: John teaches us that the peace of Jesus is unlike any that exists, because He is the source of peace itself. It also teaches us the Jesus give His peace to those who seek Him, so we need not fear anything.

Tuesday - Romans 5:1-2: Here Paul reminds us that through faith in Jesus, we are made right with God. As such we have direct access to our Father anytime, anywhere. With this knowledge we can live in peace know that to share in the glory of our Father is our assured future.

Wednesday - Philippians 4:6-7: Sadly, anxiety fills the lives of many, even followers of Jesus. Paul reminds us that we need not be anxious for anything. Jesus has given us His peace. We just need to claim it, and believe it, and He will guard our hearts in the perfection of His peace.

Thursday - Colossians 3:15: The only thing that should rule in the hearts of believers is the peace of Jesus. We are a part of his body, and His nature is peace. Therefore, we share in His peace.

Friday - Hebrews 12:14: This verse shows us that living in the peace of Jesus is the Hallmark of Holiness, and we must share in His holiness to see him for all eternity.

Saturday - Revelation 21:3-4: This verse assures us that one day, at the end of all days, Jesus will reign in peace and death and tribulation will be no more. But we don't have to wait to enter his peace. All we need to do is invite him into our hearts, right here, right now.

Week of the 3rd Sunday of Advent

JOY

Song of the Week: "O Come All Ye Faithful" by Reawaken Hymns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nu48M8kHMkk>

Sunday - Luke 1:26-38: The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will conceive and give birth to the Son of God. Mary responds with faith and obedience, saying, "I am the Lord's servant. May it be done to me according to your word."

Monday - Luke 2:8-20: The shepherds in the fields hear the angelic proclamation of the Savior's birth and go to see him in the manger. They glorify and praise God for what they have seen and heard.

Tuesday - Isaiah 12:2-6: The prophet Isaiah foretells the joy of God's salvation, saying, "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." He calls on God's people to sing and shout aloud for the great things he has done.

Wednesday - Philippians 4:4-5: The apostle Paul exhorts the believers in Philippi to rejoice in the Lord always, and to present their requests to God with thanksgiving. He promises that the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Thursday - Psalm 126: A psalm of ascent that recalls how God restored the fortunes of Zion and filled their mouths with laughter and their tongues with songs of joy. It also expresses hope that God will do it again and bring back those who sow in tears with songs of joy.

Friday - John 15:9-11: Jesus tells his disciples that he loves them as the Father loves him, and commands them to remain in his love. He says that he has told them this so that his joy may be in them and that their joy may be complete.

Saturday - Psalm 30:5 Reminds us that no matter how dark things get around us, God will be faithful to bring joy, when we look to Him and praise Him for his faithfulness.

Week of the 4th Sunday of Advent

LOVE

Song of the Week: "Love Came Down" by Brentwood Benson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1QLVu4FiuE>

Sunday, Christmas Eve -John 3:16: John 3:16 is one of the most well-known verses in the Bible. It reveals God's great love for us, that He gave His only Son to die for our sins, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. We can meditate on this verse by thanking God for His amazing gift and asking Him to help us live in His grace and truth.

Monday, Christmas Day -Luke 2:1-20 tells the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. It shows how God fulfilled His promises and sent His Son into the world as a humble baby, born in a manger.

The angels announced the good news to the shepherds, who went to see the Savior and praised God. We can meditate on this story by marveling at God's love and plan of salvation, and by worshiping Him with joy and gratitude.