

NOVEMBER 27, 2016
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Advent is a season for waiting and watching.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	The sudden coming of salvation
Monday	Matthew 24:3-14	Persevere to the end
Tuesday	Romans 13:11-14	An urgent appeal
Wednesday	Matthew 24:45-51	The faithful servant
Thursday	Luke 17:22-37	The coming of the Son of Man
Friday	Joel 3:14-21	The day of the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 122	A song of praise
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

(Jesus said) “Always be ready! You don’t know when the Son of Man will come.” **Matthew 24:44 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, may our faith in you keep us ready for your return and direct our lives to be filled with love and peace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, please bless our Advent eating and our Advent waiting. Give us hearts that are ready and faith that is steady. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the promise of Christ’s return fill you with hope and courage. May your faith burn bright each and every day.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Wait for the Lord



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time when you were waiting for something or someone to come.
- Jesus asks his followers to be ready, as he could return at any time (Matthew 24:42). How do we stay ready for Jesus?
- Talk about what the promise of Christ’s second coming means to you.

DEVOTIONS



Set up an Advent wreath to use in your home in the weeks leading up to Christmas. An Advent wreath contains five candles: four in a circle and one in the center. The circle represents the eternity of God, and the four candles are usually blue or purple. The center candle is usually white. It represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In the first week of Advent, light the first candle.

Say: This is the first week of Advent. Advent means “coming.” We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the first Advent candle, the candle of waiting. [The candle is lit.]

Read: Psalm 130.

Pray: Lord God, thank you for Advent. In this season of waiting, make us ready for Jesus to return. Amen.

SERVICE



Romans 13:13 tells us to live as people whose actions are seen clearly in the day. Those actions include deeds of love and mercy. As you prepare for Christmas, purchase or make a gift that will be given to someone in need who is not a family member or friend.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Make an Advent paper chain with a link for each day of December up to Christmas Day. Write one of the instructions listed below on each link. Remove a link each day and do what it says:

1. Say what gives you peace.
2. Describe what gives you joy.
3. Share what gives you hope.
4. Give a compliment to someone.
5. Read Jeremiah 33:14-16.
6. Sing *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.
7. Tell about a Christmas memory.
8. Read Isaiah 11:1-3.
9. Say what you like about Advent.
10. Sing *Joy to the World*.
11. Tell what you like about Christmas.
12. Read Micah 5:2-4.
13. Tell the nativity story to each other.
14. Make a Christmas card for someone.
15. Read Isaiah 7:14.
16. Sing *Away in the Manger*.
17. Wrap a Christmas gift for someone.
18. Make Christmas cookies.
19. Read Isaiah 9:6-7.
20. Go for a walk with someone.
21. Draw a Christmas picture.
22. Read Luke 1:26-38.
23. Read Matthew 1:18-24.
24. Read Luke 2:1-7.

