



AN ADVENT GUIDE  
Calvary English Chapel

Dear CEC,

This booklet is a simple guide for reading the Bible and praying during Advent this year, either by yourself or with your family. Here are some questions and answers about Advent that explain this season and this little guide.

**1. What is Advent?** The word “advent” comes from the Latin *adventus* for “coming” or “arrival.” The Christian season called Advent consists of approximately four weeks before Christmas, the day of Jesus’ first coming to us, in flesh like ours, 2000 years ago.

**2. Why celebrate Advent?** Advent is the beginning of the Christian church’s calendar, and this calendar tells the story of Jesus all year long. Who is Jesus and what did he do? The calendar says: he was born (Christmas Day), he died on a cross (Good Friday), and he came back to life (Easter). After Easter, he ascended and the Spirit of Jesus came to the church (Pentecost).

*Advent is a time we re-tell the story of Jesus, just like we might love to watch the same movie or read the same book again and again. The church practices its eager expectation for God’s Savior to come to us, take away our sins, bring us close to God, and heal the whole world. Some Christmas carols like “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” and “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus” express this eager expectation nicely.*

**3. But Jesus has already come to us 2000 years ago; are we pretending that we have to wait a month for him to come?** No, we’re not pretending. We’re remembering what it felt like to need and wait for the Savior. (And we do this all the time now, too, as we wait for his second coming.)

**4. How do we remember what it felt like to wait for Jesus?** We think about why we, and the whole world, needed Jesus. We think about the promises God made and eventually kept by sending Jesus.

**5. What is in this guide?** This guide is a (almost) daily guide for telling ourselves, families, and others the beginning of the story of Jesus. It contains 5 days of Scripture per week, starting on Monday and ending on Friday. If you would prefer a weekly, rather than daily, devotional

guide, you can use the first daily devotional of each week as your weekly devotional.

**6. How do I use this guide?** If you have a family or roommates, first, get everyone together. Old or young, boy or girl, grumpy or jolly, everyone come. A good time might be right after dinner when everyone's back home from work or school, or at bedtime for families with young children.

The basic format of each day's worship is as follows:

1. Lighting the candle(s)
2. Reading Scripture and the short paragraph in the guide
3. Prayer

For prayer, one person can pray aloud, or more than one, or everyone can pray aloud as well. If you would like to you could sing worship songs (including Christmas carols) together. Whatever seems most natural for your family is fine.

**7. Can I use this guide for very small children, like toddlers?** It will probably be difficult to use this guide with very small children. For them, we encourage using a Christmas board book (some selections will be available from CEC after worship on Sundays) or children's Bible each night along with the candles and prayer. You could make that book(s) a daily routine for the weeks of Advent.

Please let us know if you have any other questions. Like one Christmas carol says, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing!"

In Christ,

CEC staff





WEEK 1:  
God our creator has come to us!

**Week 1, Day 1: Monday**

Light the first candle and read **Genesis 1:1-5**.

In a dark and empty space, God created the world, just with his words.

God can create things out of nothing with his words! He can make happiness where there's no happiness. He can make a way for us to be close to God when we are far from him in our hearts.

*God, you made everything. You are so powerful. You made things out of nothing. Father, make a way for us to be close to you in our hearts, when we are far from you in our hearts. Help us understand what Jesus has done for us. Help us understand how he is like a light in darkness.*

*Amen.*

## **Week 1, Day 2: Tuesday**

Light the candle and read **John 1:1-5**.

These words are about Jesus, also called “the Word.” Genesis 1 says that God the Father made everything with his word. Now we understand that his word wasn’t just the sounds from his mouth; his word was Jesus.

Even though Jesus was born as a human baby on Christmas, he existed long before. Who was first: Jesus or other human beings? Jesus! And Jesus actually *made* everything else—human beings and everything else in the world!

*Jesus, you were born on Christmas Day to us  
but you have always lived and everything was made through you.  
You are our creator and the maker of the world and everything in it.  
Everything was made by you and belongs to you. We belong to you too.  
Amen.*

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## **Week 1, Day 3: Wednesday**

Light the candle and read **John 1:10-12**

Even though everything and everyone was made by Jesus and belongs to Jesus, many people did not welcome him when he was born in a human body at Christmas. But the people who did welcome him and believed that he is our creator were given a gift by Jesus: they could become close to God, so close that they could be called God’s children.

*Jesus, we believe that you are our creator. And by believing that, we know that we belong to you in a special way: we can be so close to you and be called God’s children. God, our Father in heaven, we trust in you, we follow you, and we love you.  
Amen.*

## **Week 1, Day 4: Thursday**

Light the candle and read **John 1:14, 18**.

Sometimes people ask, “Is God real?” and “If God is real, what is God like?” This mystery was solved when Jesus came to us, visible and in a human body. Is God real? Yes, he was right here for people to talk to and touch! What is God like? He’s like Jesus!

*God, thank you for showing us yourself by sending Jesus to us in human form for us to see you. Thank you for letting us know you. Thank you for letting us see how kind and forgiving you are and for how faithful and true you are.*  
*Amen.*

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## **Week 1, Day 5: Friday**

Light the candle and read **John 12:44-46**.

Jesus said that he came so that people could see God. He said that his coming was like turning on a light in a dark room where God is. Before, people couldn’t see or know God, but now that he has come in a human body at Christmas, we can see and know God. Jesus came to be a light to let us see God!

*God, we can see you and know you now because Jesus came to us in a human body just like ours. He wasn’t invisible; he was a baby people could see and he became an adult whom people could see and listen to and get healed by. Thank you for giving us a light. Thank you for letting us know you through Jesus.*  
*Amen.*





WEEK 2:  
Jesus came to comfort us, his people!

**Week 2, Day 1: Monday**

Light two candles and read **Isaiah 40:1-2**.

God spoke through Isaiah the prophet and he said that he wanted to comfort us. He said he wanted to tell us that our sins would be forgiven. He said that he wanted to speak tenderly to us.

*God, thank you for wanting to speak to us like this. We need your comfort and we need your forgiveness for all the things we do and say that hurt you and hurt other people. Everyone in the world needs this too.*

*Thank you for your love and care for us.*

*Amen.*

## **Week 2, Day 2: Tuesday**

Light two candles and read **Isaiah 40:3-5** and **Mark 1:1-8**.

Isaiah saw the future and saw a person who would prepare people to welcome God when it was time for God to come to us so we could see him. It turned out that this person was John the Baptist who told everyone that Jesus was the one we've all been waiting for. He told everyone that Jesus is the God who came to comfort us and forgive our sins!

*God, just like Isaiah promised, and John the Baptist said, you did come to us to comfort us and forgive our sins. Jesus, we believe that you are God who created everything and who forgives our sins. You speak tenderly to us and we thank you. We believe you came to us at Christmas and you came to comfort us in all our troubles.  
Amen.*

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## **Week 2, Day 3: Wednesday**

Light two candles and read **Isaiah 40:9-11**.

Isaiah was talking about Jesus' coming. When we see Jesus, we can understand that he is our God! He comes to us with power to help us! He comes to us to take care of us, the way a shepherd cares for sheep: bringing us close to him, cherishing us, and gently leading us.

*Jesus, we believe that you are God and you came to us at Christmas with power to help us. You came to us with love to take care of us. Thank you for bringing us close to you, for cherishing us, for gently leading us. We are so glad you came to us at Christmas.  
Amen.*

## **Week 2, Day 4: Thursday**

Light two candles and read **2 Peter 3:4, 8-9**.

Jesus already came to us one time at Christmas, and he is going to come to us a second time. When he comes, he is going to complete all the good things he wants to do for us and for this world. Then, our comfort will be full and complete too. How come he hasn't come yet? Because he is patient, and he wants more and more people to be ready to welcome him when he comes.

*Jesus, we want you to come again soon. When you come, we will be so happy and we will welcome you with our worship, with thankfulness and excitement! We pray that more and more people will become ready to welcome you too.*

*Jesus, help people who don't know that you are God, our creator.  
Let them believe in you. Be a light to them  
so they can see you and see God.  
Amen.*

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## **Week 2, Day 5: Friday**

Light two candles and read **2 Peter 3:13-14**.

When Jesus comes again, he will make everything new: us, the earth, the universe. The new universe will be totally good, with nothing wrong in it. While we wait for his coming, we are supposed to obey God and be like Jesus. And we are supposed to be at peace with him.

*Jesus, while we are waiting for you to come, we want to be obedient to you. We want to be like you in your love, goodness, joy, forgiveness, and self-control. We want to be close to you every day, living at peace with you.  
Amen.*





## WEEK 3: Jesus' coming is good news!

### **Week 3, Day 1: Monday**

Light three candles and read **Luke 4:14-19**.

Jesus said that he would announce good news to the poor, free prisoners, make the blind see, and rescue suffering people. His coming would start a special time of God's healing and forgiveness and love. We are living in that special time!

*Jesus, we believe that you came to announce good news to the poor, free prisoners, make blind people see, and rescue suffering people. We thank you for doing so much of that. We know we can find healing and comfort from you.*

*We also know that we, and other people, still need more. There is still so much suffering. We pray for your comfort and help now in suffering, and we wait for your complete comfort when you come to us again.*

*Amen.*



## Week 3, Day 2: Tuesday

Light three candles and read **Psalm 103:1-6**.

God heals us, forgives our sins, gives us second chances, treats us with love and compassion, and satisfies us with good things. He defends and helps people who are mistreated.

*God, thank you for all these things. We remember your forgiveness, your second chances, your healing, and your help. We praise you with all of our hearts! Let more and more people receive these things from you!*

*Amen.*

*“Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul, worship his holy name  
Sing like never before, o my soul, worship his holy name!”*

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## Week 3, Day 3: Wednesday

Light three candles and read **Luke 2:8-18**.

When Jesus was born, angels announced his birth to some shepherds in a field nearby. The angels said that Jesus was the Lord, the one who would save the world from sin, the one who would bring peace to people. The shepherds saw the baby Jesus in a manger just like the angels said. And they praised God for his coming!

*God, we praise you for the birth of Jesus, our Lord, who saves us from sin and brings us peace! Be glorified!*

*Amen.*

*“Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see, Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.”*

### **Week 3, Day 4: Thursday**

Light three candles and read **Isaiah 53:3-6**.

From the day he was born on a manger until the day he died on a cross, Jesus felt a lot of sadness and suffering even though he is our creator and comforter. Why did he want to have it like this? For us. He was hurt so that we would be healed. He was treated like a sinner so that our sins would be forgiven.

*Jesus, we believe that you died to forgive our sins and bring comfort to us.  
You are so loving to us. Thank you for doing so much for us  
and suffering so much for us.  
Amen.*

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### **Week 3, Day 5: Friday**

Light three candles and read **John 10:14-18** and **John 15:13**.

Jesus says he is a good shepherd to us, such a good shepherd that he is willing to die for us. He didn't have to die for us but he gave up his life because he wanted to obey God the Father and because the Father loved us so much. Jesus shows us how to love each other—giving up good things for better things for our friends.

*God, thank you for sending Jesus, a good shepherd who gives up  
his own life for us. Thank you for his obedience and love.  
Help us to love other people with that kind of love.  
Amen.*





WEEK 4:  
Let us worship Jesus!

**Week 4, Day 1: Monday**

Light four candles and read **Matthew 2:1-12**.

A little while after Jesus was born, while his family was still living in Bethlehem, magi came to see him there because they wanted to worship him and treat him as the king. They brought gifts for Jesus, gifts for a king.

*Jesus, we worship you too. You are our creator, you are our Savior,  
you are our good shepherd, and you are our King.  
Our hearts are full of praise for you.  
Amen.*

*“Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul, worship his holy name  
Sing like never before, o my soul, worship his holy name!”*

## **Week 4, Day 2: Tuesday**

Light four candles and read **Revelation 7:9-12**.

God is the one who is able to save his people and he made a way by sending his own son, Jesus. Jesus is the Lamb who was sacrificed and slain for the sins of God's people. It was a costly way that God chose to save his people for himself.

*Let's say together in a loud voice:*

*"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"  
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power  
and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen!"*

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## **Week 4, Day 3: Wednesday**

Light four candles and read **I Timothy 2:1-6**.

God wants us to pray for all people—thanking God for them and asking for good things for them. The most important thing we can ask for is that people will be saved from their sins by believing that Jesus died for their comfort and forgiveness and healing. God wants this for all people.

*Think of people you know—friends, family, teachers, co-workers—and thank God for them, naming them. Pray for them, for good things, especially that they could believe in Jesus and receive God's forgiveness of sins.*

## Week 4, Day 4: Thursday

Light four candles and read **Titus 2:11-14**.

Paul writes to Titus about this “present age” – the time we live in now.

We live in a time of waiting, “waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (v. 13). But it is a hopeful waiting because God’s promises are sure and certain and trustworthy! So how do we live as we wait? We live as ones who belong to God, who are “zealous for good works”, living “self-controlled, upright, and godly lives.” And this life in the waiting is our daily spiritual worship to God. (Romans 12:1)

*God, thank you for the blessed hope we have in you. Let our lives show that we are yours. Let our lives show the work of your Spirit. Let our lives be worship to you. We eagerly await the coming of your Son!  
Come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen!*

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## Week 4, Day 5: Friday

Light four candles and read **Revelation 21:1-4 & Revelation 22:1-5, 20**.

When Jesus comes again, sins will not only be forgiven but there will be no more sinning in the world! He will make a new world and we will be new too. We will see God, and we will live with him. And there will be no more death, or pain, or sadness. There will be no curse in the world, and we will all worship God!

*Lord Jesus, come to us again soon! Come, Lord Jesus! We are waiting for you!  
We welcome you, we receive you, and we believe that you are our Creator,  
our good shepherd who died for us, and our Savior from our sins.  
We know you will come to create a new world,  
and we eagerly wait for your return!  
Amen.*

Sing “Joy to the World” (reverse)

## **Joy to the World**

*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.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

*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.*

*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.*

