




# The First Week of Advent

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

*This is a devotional guide for the first week of Advent, which will be followed by similar guides over the next three weeks.*

 God of power, as this season of Advent dawns, shatter the places of darkness in our lives with the light of your promised coming. Show your power to all the world, overwhelming us with your goodness, strengthening our faith, forgiving our sin. By your holiness make us holy, ready to receive the promise of your salvation. By your mercy, make us merciful, ready to share your light with the world. Amen.

*From New Song Episcopal Church, Iowa*

## Daily Scripture Readings

December 1	Sunday	<a href="#"><u>Isaiah 7:14-15</u></a>
December 2	Monday	<a href="#"><u>Isaiah 9:2-7</u></a>
December 3	Tuesday	<a href="#"><u>Isaiah 11:1-5</u></a>
December 4	Wednesday	<a href="#"><u>Isaiah 11:6-10</u></a>
December 5	Thursday	<a href="#"><u>Isaiah 40:1-5</u></a>
December 6	Friday	<a href="#"><u>Isaiah 40:9-11</u></a>
December 7	Saturday	<a href="#"><u>Isaiah 42:1-4</u></a>

## Simple Things To Enrich Your Advent This Week

- ❖ Make an Advent wreath for your house. Traditionally, an Advent wreath is a circle of greens with four blue candles (or 3 purple candles and 1 pink candle). In the first week of Advent, only one blue (or purple) candle is lit.
- ❖ Take the 2-minute Advent challenge: before going to sleep every night, think about things in life you've had to wait for. What makes something worth waiting for? How do you spend your time when you're waiting?
- ❖ Clean your room. Organize your desk. Straighten up the untidy areas of your life.
- ❖ Breathe deeply. Slow down. Listen for God.



# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**M**erciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to listen to their words and examine our own lives, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Savior, Redeemer, and Light in the Darkness. Amen.

*Adapted from the Collect (Contemporary) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent, BCP*

## Daily Scripture Readings

December 8	Sunday	<a href="#">Isaiah 42:6-7</a>
December 9	Monday	<a href="#">Isaiah 49:8-13</a>
December 10	Tuesday	<a href="#">Isaiah 53:4-9</a>
December 11	Wednesday	<a href="#">Isaiah 53:10-12</a>
December 12	Thursday	<a href="#">Isaiah 60:1-3</a>
December 13	Friday	<a href="#">Isaiah 60:4-7</a>
December 14	Saturday	<a href="#">Jeremiah 23:5-6</a>

## Simple Things To Enrich Your Advent This Week

- ❖ Light two blue (or purple) candles on your Advent wreath.
- ❖ Read [“Gift of the Magi”](#) by O. Henry, and think about what you would like to give to those you love most.
- ❖ Take the 2-minute Advent challenge before getting out of bed every morning: think about something you can do each day this week for someone else.
- ❖ Sort through your clothes and donate what you don’t need to charity.
- ❖ Watch. Wait. Turn down your volume.



## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**B**e our light in the darkness, O Lord, and show us the way home to you, so that we who are wearied by the changes and <sup>[1]</sup>~~sep~~ chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Based on Evening Prayers in the BCP*

### Daily Scripture Readings

December 15	Sunday	<a href="#"><u>Micah 5:2-4</u></a>
December 16	Monday	<a href="#"><u>Luke 1:5-25</u></a>
December 17	Tuesday	<a href="#"><u>Luke 1:26-38</u></a>
December 18	Wednesday	<a href="#"><u>Matthew 1:18-25</u></a>
December 19	Thursday	<a href="#"><u>Luke 1:39-56</u></a>
December 20	Friday	<a href="#"><u>Luke 1:57-79</u></a>
December 21	Saturday	<a href="#"><u>Luke 2:1-7</u></a>

### Simple Things To Enrich Your Advent This Week

- ❖ Light three blue (or two purple and the pink) candles on your Advent wreath.
- ❖ Go outside for a walk. Make a mental list of the blessings God has given you.
- ❖ Take the 2-minute Advent challenge: read the daily scripture passage, and give yourself a moment to think about what you read.
- ❖ It's a stressful time, so say a silent prayer for everyone around you when you're waiting – in your exams, stuck in traffic, or waiting for a ride.
- ❖ Breathe deeply. Look around you for signs of God's grace. Remember that nothing is impossible with God.



# The 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**L**ord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

## Daily Scripture Readings

December 22	Sunday	<a href="#"><u>Luke 2:8-14</u></a>
December 23	Monday	<a href="#"><u>Luke 2:15-20</u></a>
December 24	Tuesday	<a href="#"><u>John 1:1-5</u></a>

## Simple Things To Enrich Your Advent This Week

- ❖ Light all four candles on your Advent wreath.
- ❖ When you're wrapping gifts or writing cards, be intentional about saying a prayer or blessing for the recipient.
- ❖ Take the 2-minute Advent challenge: sit in a quiet place and spend your 2 minutes thinking about where God is moving in your life.
- ❖ Make plans with your family to go to church together on Christmas Eve.
- ❖ Focus on God's peace: within you, around you, and in everything you say to others. Be a peacemaker.