



HARBOR
CITY
CHURCH

EMMANUEL

A WORD ABOUT ADVENT

There are two great cycles within the church year which are anchored by Christmas and Easter. The Christmas cycle moves from Advent to Christmas and concludes with Epiphany and the arrival of the wisemen and their gifts, this season celebrates the birth of Jesus. The Easter cycle moves from Lent, with its focus on Christ's resolute commitment to go to Jerusalem and the cross, through Holy Week, with Christ's passion and crucifixion, on into Easter with the joyful celebration of his resurrection, followed by Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit, his Spirit, through whom he gives the church explosive growth throughout the world.



ADVENT THEMES

The season of Advent starts the new church year. Advent's beginnings are hidden in the early centuries of church history, but we do know that it originated as a time of preparation for the celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany (much like Lent is a time of preparation for Easter and Pentecost). Advent means "coming"; it is a four-week period in which the church remembers Jesus' first coming and looks forward to his coming again. Advent reminds us that we live between the times of Christ's first and second comings and that we must live by faith in Christ and as faithful stewards of the grace he has entrusted to us as we wait for his return. Just as John the Baptist was born to prepare the way for Jesus' first coming, so we are given to each other in the community of the church to encourage each other and challenge the world around us to prepare for his coming again.

The mood of Advent is that of longing, of expectation, and of waiting. Advent is a time when we yearn for Jesus to come back, to completely make all things new as the returning King. The cry of Advent is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance from a God who hears the cries of the oppressed and who brings them deliverance.

Of course, as the Old Testament prophets remind us, there is the problem of longing for vindication from an evil world when we are contributors to that evil! And so, as a season of preparation, Advent is a time to repent and believe: to turn away from the false hopes and drives that capture our hearts and define our lives and twist us so much that we end up using and oppressing others, and to turn toward Jesus, who frees us from slavery to our idols in order that we may serve one another in hope and love as we await his return.

ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES

The Advent wreath is a relatively new tradition, but an increasingly popular one, that prepares us for the celebration of Christmas. The Advent wreath and candles are a great way to pull young children into the season and make it come alive for them. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God himself, of his eternity and endless mercy. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. The candles associated with the wreath symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of his Son. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ. The fifth candle, placed in the center of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve, is the Christ candle, reminding us that all is not preparation; he really did come and he really will come again. The colors of the candles vary with different traditions, but there are usually three purple candles and one pink candle around the wreath, with the white Christ candle in the center, reminding us that Christ is at the center of all things and in him all things hold together.

The first candle is traditionally the candle of Prophecy. This draws attention to the anticipation of the coming of a Messiah that weaves its way like a golden thread through Old Testament history. As God's people were abused by power-hungry kings, they longed for a true king: great David's Son who would be greater than David himself, who would shepherd them as his flock and who would have the healing and renewing power of God in his hands. We will use the Bethlehem, Shepherds, and Angels themes for our second, third and fourth candles, respectively. The third candle is traditionally pink, symbolizing our joy at the coming of Christ. The pink Shepherds Candle brings to mind the joy of the proclamation made to them in the fields and the joy they felt as they knelt before the Child in the manger.

PREPARING FOR THE KING

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WEEK ONE OF ADVENT

WORDS OF ENTRANCE

Why do we light the Advent candles?

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.”

What is the meaning of the first lighted candle?

The first lighted candle is a reminder of the Light of Hope of the Prophets.

What do the Prophets say concerning this light?

Isaiah prophesied: “The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them the light has shined. For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given. And the government will be upon His shoulders, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

TEXT IN **BOLD** IS TO BE READ BY ALL WHO ARE
PARTICIPATING IN THE ADVENT READING

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE

CONFESSION OF FAITH

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

The appropriate readings for Sunday-through-Saturday are listed on the upcoming pages.

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Words: John Neale | Music: Thomas Helmore

Latin hymn, 1710

VENI EMMANUEL L.M.ref.

Plainsong, 13th cent.



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, that
2. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from
3. O come, thou Day - spring from _____ on high, and cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh; dis -
4. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home; make
5. O come, De - sire of Na - tions, bind in one the hearts of all _____ man kind; bid



mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God _____ ap - pear.
depths of hell thy peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er _____ the grave.
perse the gloom - y clouds _____ of night, and death's dark shad - ows put _____ to flight. Re -
safe the way that leads _____ on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
thou our sad di - vi - sions cease, and be Thy - self our King _____ of Peace.



joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

PRAYER | Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE SONG OF SIMEON (Nunc Dimittis)

Words: Luke 2:29-32

Para. James Quinn (b. 1919)

ST. COLUMBA C.M.
Old Irish hymn melody, alt. 1990

1. Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace, Your word is now ful - filled.
2. This is the Sav - ior of the world, The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light,
— These eyes have seen sal - va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
— God's glo - ry dwell - ing in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.

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WEEK ONE | SUNDAY

Reading from Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

WEEK ONE | *MONDAY*

Reading from Luke 1:5-7

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.



WEEK ONE | *TUESDAY*

Reading from Luke 1:8-17

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

WEEK ONE | *WEDNESDAY*

Reading from Luke 1:18-25

Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” The angel answered, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.” Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

WEEK ONE | *THURSDAY*

Reading from Luke 1:57-66

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.” They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.” Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

WEEK ONE | *FRIDAY*

Reading from Luke 1:67-75

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.



WEEK ONE | SATURDAY

Reading from Luke 1:76-80

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel.

WEEK TWO OF ADVENT

THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE

WORDS OF ENTRANCE

Why do we light the Advent candles?

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.”

What is the meaning of the second lighted candle?

The second candle is the Bethlehem candle whose light bears witness to the Savior who was born in Bethlehem.

What do the gospels say concerning Bethlehem?

Luke writes: “And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

TEXT IN **BOLD** IS TO BE READ BY ALL WHO ARE
PARTICIPATING IN THE ADVENT READING

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST & SECOND CANDLES

CONFESSION OF FAITH

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

The appropriate readings for Sunday-through-Saturday are listed on the upcoming pages.

Words: Phillip Brooks | Music: Lewis Redner

ST. LOUIS C.M.D.irreg.
Lewis H. Redner, 1868

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie; a - bove thy deep and
2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath - ered all a - bove, while mor - tals sleep, the
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts to
4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and

dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by: yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the
an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love. O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro -
hu - man hearts the bless ings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his com - ing, but
en - ter in; be born in us to - day. We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the

ev - er - last - ing Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
claim the ho - ly birth! And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
in this world of sin, where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
great glad tid - ings tell; O come to us, a - bid with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

PRAYER | Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

THE SONG OF SIMEON (Nunc Dimittis)

Words: Luke 2:29-32

Para. James Quinn (b. 1919)

ST. COLUMBA C.M.
Old Irish hymn melody, alt. 1990

1. Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace, Your word is now ful - filled.
2. This is the Sav - ior of the world, The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light,
— These eyes have seen sal - va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
— God's glo - ry dwell - ing in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.

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WEEK TWO | SUNDAY

Reading from Isaiah 7:14

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

WEEK TWO | *MONDAY*

Reading from Luke 1:26-33

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."



WEEK TWO | *TUESDAY*

Reading from Luke 1:34-38

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.” “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

WEEK TWO | *WEDNESDAY*

Reading from Luke 1:39-45

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"



WEEK TWO | *THURSDAY*

Reading from Luke 1:46-56

And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.” Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

WEEK TWO | *FRIDAY*

Reading from Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.



WEEK TWO | SATURDAY

Reading from Isaiah 11:1-2

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord .

WEEK THREE OF ADVENT

THE SHEPHERD CANDLE

WORDS OF ENTRANCE

Why do we light the Advent candles?

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.”

What is the meaning of the third lighted candle?

The third lighted candle is the shepherd candle signifying the Light of Joy that unexpectedly brightened the hearts of a humble band of shepherds at the announcement of Christ’s birth.

What do the gospels say concerning the shepherds?

Luke says: “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

TEXT IN **BOLD** IS TO BE READ BY ALL WHO ARE
PARTICIPATING IN THE ADVENT READING

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST THREE CANDLES

CONFESSION OF FAITH

HEBREWS 1:1-4

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

The appropriate readings for Sunday-through-Saturday are listed on the upcoming pages.

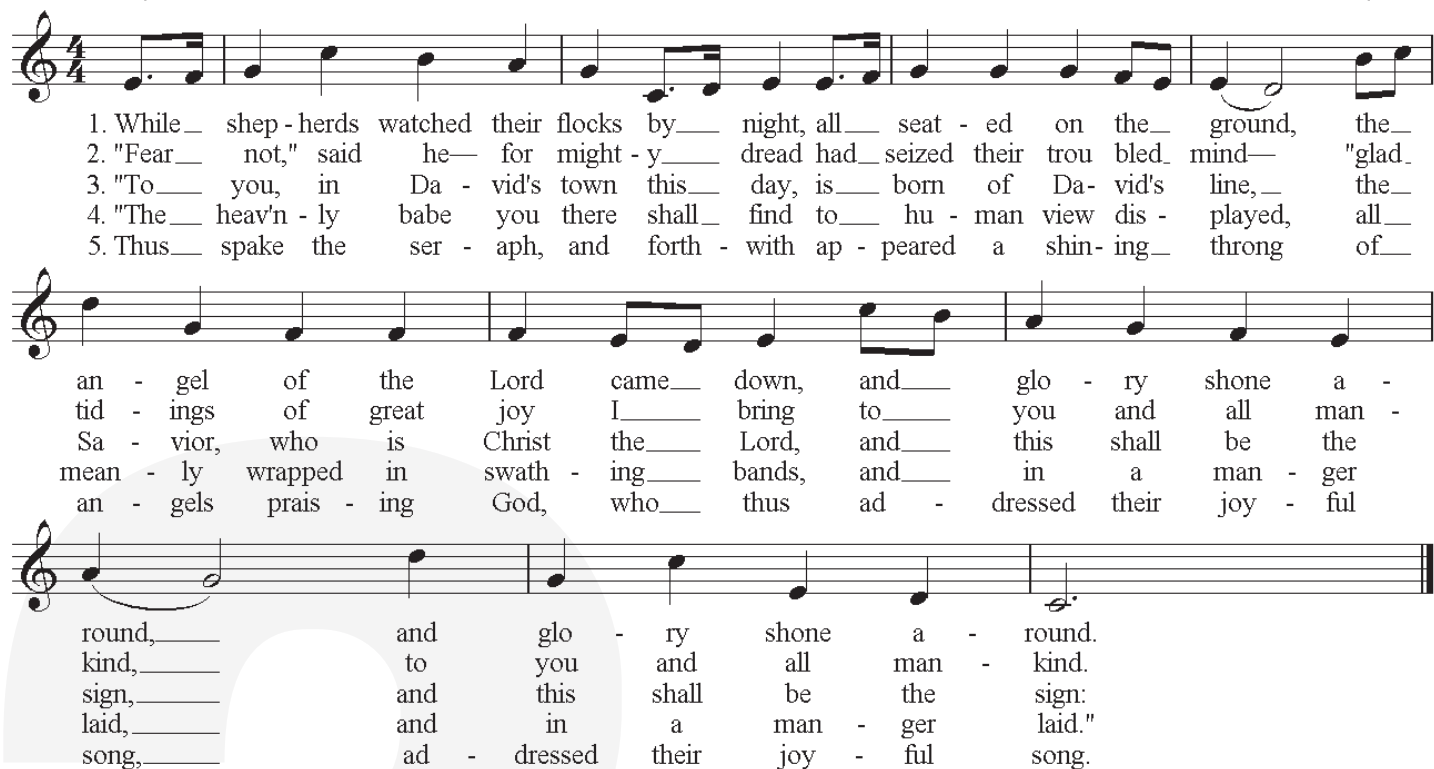
WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

Words: Nahum Tate | Music: George Handel

CHRISTMAS C.M.

G. F. Handel, 1728

Nahum Tate, 1700



1. While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground, the
2. "Fear not," said he for might - y dread had seized their trou bled mind— "glad
3. "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, is born of Da - vid's line, the
4. "The heav'n - ly babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis - played, all
5. Thus spake the ser - aph, and forth - with ap - peared a shin - ing throng of
an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a -
tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man -
Sa - vior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the
mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger
an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful
round, and glo - ry shone a - round.
kind, to you and all man - kind.
sign, and this shall be the sign:
laid, and in a man - ger laid."
song, ad - dressed their joy - ful song.

6. "All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth, from heav'n to men,
begin and never cease,
begin and never cease!"

PRAYER | O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE SONG OF SIMEON (Nunc Dimittis)

Words: Luke 2:29-32

Para. James Quinn (b. 1919)

ST. COLUMBA C.M.
Old Irish hymn melody, alt. 1990

1. Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace, Your word is now ful - filled.
2. This is the Sav - ior of the world, The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light,
— These eyes have seen sal - va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
— God's glo - ry dwell - ing in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.

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WEEK THREE | SUNDAY

Reading from Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

WEEK THREE | *MONDAY*

Reading from Micah 5:2-5

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.”



WEEK THREE | *TUESDAY*

Reading from Luke 2:1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

WEEK THREE | *WEDNESDAY*

Reading from Luke 2:8-14

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”



WEEK THREE | *THURSDAY*

Reading from Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

WEEK THREE | *FRIDAY*

Reading from Jeremiah 31:10-14

“Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.’ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness”, declares the Lord.



WEEK THREE | SATURDAY

Reading from Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

WEEK FOUR OF ADVENT

THE ANGEL CANDLE

WORDS OF ENTRANCE

Why do we light the Advent candles?

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.”

What is the meaning of the fourth lighted candle?

The fourth lighted candle represents the Angels who heralded the Good News of Light to a darkened world.

What do the gospels say concerning the angels?

Luke writes: “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”



TEXT IN **BOLD** IS TO BE READ BY ALL WHO ARE
PARTICIPATING IN THE ADVENT READING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

CONFESSION OF FAITH

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

The appropriate readings for Sunday-through-Saturday are listed on the upcoming pages.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Words: Traditional French Carol, translated by James Chadwick | Music: Traditional French melody

Angels We Have Heard on High

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.
Luke 2:14

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN
Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Traditional French carol

GLORIA 7.7.7.7.ref.
Traditional French melody
Arr. by Edward S. Barnes, 1937

PRAYER | Almighty God, you have given your Only-Begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

THE SONG OF SIMEON (Nunc Dimittis)

Words: Luke 2:29-32

Para. James Quinn (b. 1919)

ST. COLUMBA C.M.
Old Irish hymn melody, alt. 1990

1. Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace, Your word is now ful - filled.
2. This is the Sav - ior of the world, The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light,
— These eyes have seen sal - va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
— God's glo - ry dwell - ing in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.

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WEEK FOUR | SUNDAY

Reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord.

WEEK FOUR | *MONDAY*

Reading from 1 Peter 1:10-12

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.



WEEK FOUR | *TUESDAY*

Reading from Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

WEEK FOUR | *WEDNESDAY*

Reading from Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.



WEEK FOUR | *THURSDAY*

Reading from Hebrews 2:14-18

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

WEEK FOUR | *FRIDAY*

Reading from Jeremiah 31:10-14

“Hear the word of the LORD, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: ‘He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’ For the LORD will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD—the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty,” declares the LORD. This is what the LORD says: “A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”



WEEK FOUR | SATURDAY

Reading from Colossians 1:15-20

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

CHRISTMAS WEEK

THE CHRIST CANDLE

WORDS OF ENTRANCE

Why do we light the Advent candles?

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.”

What is the meaning of the lighted Christ candle?

The lighted candle is a reminder that Christ, the true Light, has come into the world as promised by the prophets.

What do the gospels say concerning Christ?

The Gospels assure us that “the true Light that gives light to every man has already come into the world, though the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”

TEXT IN **BOLD** IS TO BE READ BY ALL WHO ARE
PARTICIPATING IN THE ADVENT READING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES & THE CHRIST CANDLE

CONFESSION OF FAITH

JOHN 1:1-5,14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

The appropriate readings for Sunday-through-Saturday are listed on the upcoming pages.

JOY TO THE WORLD

Words: Issac Watts | Music: Lowell Mason

Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH C.M.
G. F. Handel, 1742

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her King; let ev - 'ry
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em - ploy; while fields and
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground; he comes to
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries
heart pre - pare him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
floods, rocks, hills, and plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
make his bless - ings flow far as the curse is found, far
of his righ - teous - ness and won - ders of his love, and
heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

PRAYER | O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

THE SONG OF SIMEON (Nunc Dimittis)

Words: Luke 2:29-32

Para. James Quinn (b. 1919)

ST. COLUMBA C.M.
Old Irish hymn melody, alt. 1990

1. Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace, Your word is now ful - filled.
2. This is the Sav - ior of the world, The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light,
These eyes have seen sal - va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
God's glo - ry dwell - ing in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Reading from Luke 2:1-20

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Reading from Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.



FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Reading from Luke 2:22-35

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Reading from Luke 2:36-38

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

THIRD DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Reading from Psalm 72:1-4; 8-11

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor.

May he rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. May the desert tribes bow before him and his enemies lick the dust. May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts. May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.

FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Reading from Isaiah 60:4-7

“Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD. All Kedar’s flocks will be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth will serve you; they will be accepted as offerings on my altar, and I will adorn my glorious temple.

FIFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Reading from John 3:16-21

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

SIXTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Reading from Philippians 2:1-11

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*



SEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Reading from 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

EIGHTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Reading from 2 Corinthians 8:9; Matthew 20:25-28

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

NINTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Reading from Hebrews 2:1-10

We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified: “What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet.” In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.



TENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Reading from 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”

ELEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Reading from Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY

Reading from Matthew 2:13-18

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”



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