



Advent Devotional
New Covenant Church



Promoting a Life-Changing Faith Within a Loving Fellowship

Whether you're a long-time member, are currently visiting, or were just handed this booklet from a friend, we're thankful to connect with you! Our church is a warm multi-generational Christ-centered community devoted to worshipping God and walking with him daily through the Holy Spirit. Please join us on Sundays at 9:30 am for our gathered worship service, followed by a time of connecting with one another over coffee and juice at 10:50 am, and stay for discipleship classes on various topics about the Bible and the Christian life at 11:10 am. You can learn more about our church activities online at www.ncchurch.net, but the best way to experience our community is to visit in-person, we'd love to see you!



New Covenant Church
301 Simpson Road
Anderson, SC 29621

Introduction



The purpose of this Advent devotional guide is to provide a weekly resource to help you read, talk, sing, and pray your way through the narrative of Christ's birth. Using Luke 2 as the foundation, we have prepared this guide to be accessible to all generations as a tool for personal and family worship. On each Lord's day, consider using it for your morning devotional. Or, open it up in the afternoon to continue feasting on Christ throughout the day. Or, gather together in the evening for a time of family worship.

Each week you'll find the Scripture passage of focus and a brief devotional thought on the left page, along with a complementary song on the right page. Below is our suggested rhythm for walking through this guide in about 15 minutes.

READ the full Scripture passage in the top right-hand corner.

ASK any kids present to briefly summarize the passage in their own words and point out their favorite part.

READ the devotional written by our church elders and staff.

TALK about how this message could apply to your lives.

SING as a worshipful response to God and his Word.

PRAY a prayer of praise and thanksgiving using some of the themes from the Scripture and devotional from the day.

The primary goal is not to check off every item on this list each Sunday, so feel free to get creative! Our hope is that you would see Jesus and treasure him more deeply. We are praying that God would grant you this year a fresh insight into this familiar story. The birth of Christ is more than a story, it is redemption: God himself coming to save lost sinners unto eternal life in Christ.

As we live every day in light of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, let us take this opportunity to consider how Jesus gives us peace, hope, and love that this world cannot offer. O come let us adore him!

To view a digital copy of this guide online, scan this QR code or go to ncchurch.net/advent.



November 27

What Child is This?

Luke 2:1-7

“...And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

One of my favorite commercials of all time was from the 1980's. A young guy is dabbling with an electric guitar at a bar. An older gentleman walks up and asks to play. After about 30 seconds of the most incredible riffs the young guy has ever heard, he asks, “You’re pretty good. What’s your name?” Les Paul replies back, “it’s on your guitar.” Finding out someone’s identity can be an incredible thrill.

The identity of this baby in our text at first glance seems hard to figure out. Two parents, not of noble reputation or status, traveling almost 100 miles in modest travel arrangements to register for a census and have a baby in a barn. He was born in a manger, a feeding trough for animals turned crib (not exactly from pottery barn). He probably had a soiled diaper within a few hours and likely spit up more than his parents thought possible. Yet those who are familiar with the scriptures know he is the one foretold who will reconcile a lost and broken people back to their creator. He will live a perfect life in perfect obedience to God the father, walk to his death on a cross and experience the wrath of God on our behalf overcoming death by rising again. Now, we have something so much better than a guitar with his name on it, we have his Spirit he sent to dwell in our hearts.

Have you made this connection when reading this passage in Luke before? That in addition to this great mystery of the gospel now revealed to us in Christ, this passage is the beginning of your reconciliation to God? The work he did in his life, on the cross, and now interceding for you in heaven has provided you and all who trust in him with the greatest gift imaginable. This Christmas, come and behold him in all his glory, majesty, and power. This is Christ the King. He is our only hope. Emmanuel, God with us.

-Tim Pitzer



What Child is This

Em D Em Bm

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap — is sleep - ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox - en now are feed ing?
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to ho - nor him;

Em D C B Em

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Christ - ian fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ving hearts en - throne him.

G D Em Bm7

This, this — is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard — and an - gels
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings — her lul - la - by:

G D C B Em

sing: haste, haste to bring him — laud, the — babe, the — son of Mar
 hail, hail — the Word made flesh, — the babe, the son — of Mar - y.
 joy, joy — for Christ is born, — the babe, the son — of Mar - y.

A note about chords above the staff:

When a chord appears as an inversion, the letter on the left indicates the chord value and the letter on the right indicates the note in the bass. Example: D/F# means for piano you play a D in the right hand and an F# in the left hand; for guitar you play a D chord and add an F# in the bass by putting your thumb or middle finger on fret 2 of the low-E string.

December 4

The Angels Worship

Luke 2:8-14

*“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

My favorite Christmas tradition is to simply take time to gaze upon a Christmas tree full of lights. I like to turn off all the other lights, grab a warm drink, cuddle up on the couch and just look at the beautiful tree. There is something about a decked out Christmas tree that gets me into the Christmas spirit and fills me with awe. We see something similar happening in Luke 2.

The news that a Savior will be born in Luke 2:8-14 causes the shepherds in the field to be filled with awe and the angels to be filled with praise. What about this news caused such a response? Why might the shepherds have been filled with fear? Why might the angels instantly rejoice? Because of the Gospel. This Creator God, the one true God, holy and perfect, will be reconciled to his people through His Son, Jesus. A people that were enemies with God because of sin now can be at peace with this holy God. How? Because of the Gospel. Jesus is to be born. He is to live a perfect life and is to die in the place of sinful people. Jesus' life and death will reconcile people to God.

Notice the spatial imagery in verse 14. The angels are praising God who is in the highest for mending the relationship with his people on earth. Do you see the contrast with the holy God in the highest now being at peace with the lowly, sinful men on earth? For believers, we are no longer enemies with God but are at peace with God. He is now pleased with us because of Christ. Christ lived the perfect life we could not. He died in our place. As we think about God making peace with men through Christ, we should be filled with awe and moved to worship like the multitude of angels. How might you now take a moment to worship the God in the highest for making peace with men on earth?

-Mikala Butler



Hark the Herald Angels Sing



1. Hark the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored - Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n-born prince of peace, Hail the Sun of right-eous-ness!



Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild; God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 Late in time be - hold him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies,
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, — Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty, —
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — Born that man no more may die —



With th'an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is - born in Beth - le - hem."
 Pleas'd as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to — give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

December 11

Run! Don't Walk!

Luke 2:15-21

“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste...”

Have you ever received news that demands a response? On the morning of the great 3-inch Anderson Blizzard in January 2022, I remember telling my 6-year old son to go look outside. There’s nothing like seeing snow in the reflection of a child’s eyes. After seeing the winter wonderland for himself, Nathan immediately jumps up, screaming, “Ellie! It’s snowing!” He just had to tell his 3-year-old sister this exciting news!

When the shepherds witness the glorious site of countless angels announcing the birth of Christ, doing nothing is not an option. They know it’s not just the angels speaking to them, but the news, and the gift, comes from the Lord.

Struck by this thrill of hope, they go “with haste,” dropping everything to meet the Prince of Peace. To their great delight, these lowly shepherds are counted as some of the first human eyes to gaze upon the Good Shepherd. This priceless experience demands another response, as they return home, bursting with praise and glorifying God with uncontainable joy.

If the cradle of Christ had such an effect upon them, how much more his cross and resurrection upon us! Today we live in light of the finished work of our Savior, who was born to die, that we might be raised to life with him. The Gospel of Jesus Christ demands your response. Run! Don’t walk!

Run to Christ as your greatest joy and true hope. Fall on your knees to worship Christ the Lord, to proclaim his power and glory forevermore. And in your joy, go and tell this weary world to come and see.

-Jonathan Wisdom



O Holy Night



1. O ho - ly night! — The stars are bright - ly shi - ning, it is the night of our
2. Tru - ly he taught us to love — one a - noth - er his law is love and his



dear Sav - ior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and er - ror pi -
gos - pel is peace. Chains shall he break for the slave is our bro -



ning 'til he ap - peared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the
ther and in his name all op - pres - sion shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in



wea - ry world re - joi - ces, for yon - der breaks a new and glo - rious morn.
grate - ful cho - rus praise we, let all wit - hin us praise his ho - ly name.



Fall _____ on your knees _____ O hear _____ the an - gel voi - ces O
Christ _____ is the Lord _____ O praise _____ his name for - e - ver His



night _____ di - vine _____ O night when Christ was born _____ O
po - wer and glo - ry _____ e - ver - more - pro - claim _____ His



night, _____ O ho - ly night, O night di - vine _____
po - wer and glo - ry e - ver - more pro - claim _____

December 18

The Waiting is Over

Luke 2:22-38

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel...”

CHRISTMAS!!! It seems like we've been waiting forever, but 365 days between Christmases is very short compared to Simeon's wait. Simeon faithfully waited his whole life for Jesus, and because he had the Holy Spirit, Simeon recognized many truths when he saw baby Jesus with Mary and Joseph.

First, Simeon received peace. God had been silent for over 400 years. The last time God spoke to Israel, Simeon's great, great, great, great, great grandparents were alive. It would've been easy for Simeon to forget or disregard God's promises like Isaiah 9:6-7, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this." But Simeon trusted God's promises. He was righteous, devout, and faithfully waited. When he saw Jesus, he knew the waiting was over; and he knew that he and Israel had peace with God.

Second, Simeon saw salvation. He knew that he and Israel were separated from God because of their sin. What if you could never be with the people you love? Simeon held Jesus and blessed him because Simeon knew that Jesus would make a way for us to be with God.

Finally, Simeon saw a light, not only for Israel but a light for you and me, a light for Gentiles. It's incredible that Simeon recognized that Jesus would save Israel and people from every tribe, tongue, and nation. How does light help you? Isaiah tells us that we all walked in darkness, and Jesus is a great light (Isaiah 9). Because of Jesus, we can see God's perfect way.

We have Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and we have all of God's counsel in the Bible. But we wait too. Not just for Christmas, we wait for Jesus's return. We wait for a time when the whole earth will be redeemed and there will be no more sin and death. I encourage you to be faithful like Simeon. Trust Jesus and love him by obeying his word while you wait. "Come, Lord Jesus!"

-Rob Wright



Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Capo 3: D

B m *E m7* *A sus* *A* *D/F#* *B m* *G* *A* *D*
F *D m* *G m7* *C sus* *C* *F/A* *D m* *B^b* *C* *F*

1. Come, thou long ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free.
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, born a child, and yet a king.

D *B m* *E m7* *A sus* *A* *D/F#* *B m* *G* *A* *D*
F *D m* *G m7* *C sus* *C* *F/A* *D m* *B^b* *C* *F*

From our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our re - st in thee.
 Born to reign in us for - e - ver, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

D/A *D sus/A* *B m* *E m7* *A*
F/C *F sus/C* *D m* *G m7* *C*

Is - rael's stre - ngth and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art.
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it, rule in all our Born a - lone.

D *E m7* *D/F#* *A* *D/F#* *G* *D/A* *A* *D*
F *G m7* *F/A* *C* *F/A* *B^b* *F/C* *C* *F*

Dear de - sire of e - v'ry na - tion, joy of e - v'ry long - ing heart.
 By thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - rit, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

December 24

Christmas Eve

A simple outline for personal or family worship

In lieu of a Christmas Eve service this year, we encourage you to set aside a time for gathering with family or friends and use this guide below for a home worship service. May this be a memorable time of reading, singing, and praying through the greatest gift ever given, Christ the Lord! As we enjoy the stillness of the night, let us prepare our hearts for worship together on the Lord's Day tomorrow!

READ Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

SING "O Holy Night"

PRAY Offer up prayers of thanksgiving to God for the hope, love, joy, and peace that are given to us through Christ. Consider letting different family members pray specifically for each theme.

SING "Away in a Manger"

READ Philippians 2:5-11

SING "What Child is This?"

READ 2 Corinthians 13:14

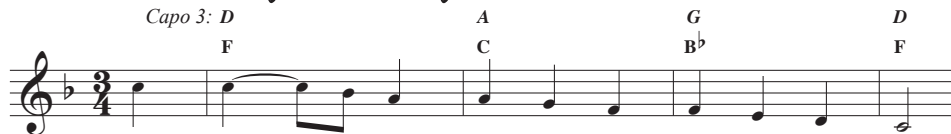
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



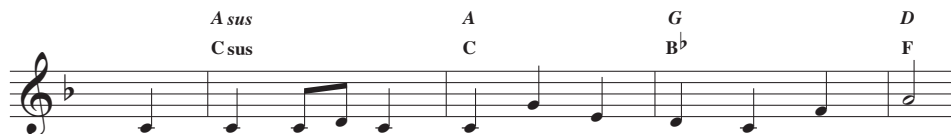
*See you in the morning for our
Lord's Day worship gathering at 10:00!*

Away in a Manger (Forever Amen)

Capo 3: D



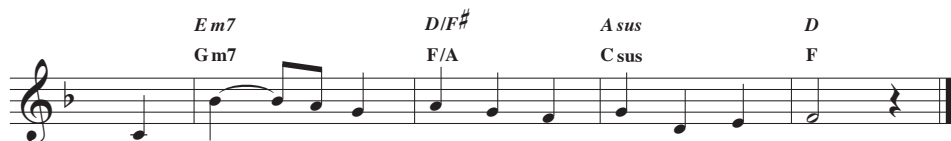
1. A - way — in a man - ger no crib for a bed,
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing the ba - by a - wakes,
 3. I wor - ship you Je - sus for all of my days.



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus lay down his sweet head;
 the dawn — of sal - va - tion be - gin - ning to break.
 The high - est of prais - es be un - to your name.



the stars — in the sky — look down where he lay,
 I love — thee, Lord Je - sus, oh gift from a - bove,
 My God — and my Sav - ior, my King and my friend,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 the King — of the heav - ens for - e - ver with us.
 For yours — is the glo - ry for - e - ver - a - men.

Verse 1: Anonymous

Verse 2 alt, and 3: Phil Wickham, Jonathan Smith

MUELLER 11.11.11.11.

James R. Murray, 1887

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December 25

Maker of Mary. Mary's Son

Luke 2:39-52

“And he said to them, ‘Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’”

Home Alone is for many of us a favorite Christmas movie. Home Alone 2: Lost in New York, is understandably beloved but it is not the OG. The end of Luke chapter 2 is “Passover 12: Lost in Jerusalem” for Jesus and his family.

In Luke 2:41 Jesus and his family celebrated the Feast of the Passover. Every Year. Was it routine? Was it lacking pizzazz? Well this year would be one passover to never forget... or one to treasure in your heart. Jesus’s parents took him on the long journey (multiple days) from Nazareth to Jerusalem to observe the great feast of God’s gracious passing over the Israelites in Egypt. God had been gracious in the past. He promised to be gracious in the present and future as well. Jesus took the liberty of this great family trip to stay behind and provide an opportunity for several sleepless nights and days of anxious searching for him by his parents. Have you ever lost a favorite toy or shirt? How about jewelry? Ever left your child behind (or teddy bear)? Heart-pounding anxiety takes over upon the gut wrenching instant of knowing, “He is not here. I think we left him behind.” In the biggest city in the country.

Here is the big idea about Joseph and Mary searching for Jesus when they realized he was way back in the big city: He was never lost. At 12 years old, he plainly tells them when they find him (after 3 days plus a day of travel), “you should have known right where to find me.” In this story in the Bible, Jesus was never lost; his parents were.

That is how it is with the gospel. God is not lost and wandering around. He seeks but he is not confused. He pursues but he is himself easily found. He is in his word. If you want to find Jesus, look no further than your Bible. He is on every page. Do you believe he has found you?

-Tom Buitter



Sing We the Song of Emmanuel



1. Sing we the song of Em-man - u - el; this the Christ who was long fore - told.
 2. Come we to wel-come Em-man - u - el; King who came with no crown or throne.
 3. Go spread the news of Em-man - u - el; joy and peace to the wear - y heart.



Lo in the shad-ows of Beth - le - hem, prom-ise of dawn now our eyes be - hold.
 Help-less He lay, the in - vin - ci - ble, Ma - ker of Ma - ry, now Ma - ry's son.
 Lift up your head for your king has come; sing, for the light ov - er - whelms the dark.



God most high in a man - ger laid; lift your voic - es and now pro - claim:
 O what wis - dom to save us all, shep - herds, sa - ges be - fore Him fall.
 Glo - ry shi - ning for all to see, hope a - live let the gos - pel ring.



Great and glo - ri - ous, love has come to us. Join now with the hosts of hea - ven.
 Grace and maj - es - ty, what hu - mil - i - ty. Come on bend - ed knee, a - dore him
 God has made a way, he will have the praise; tell the world hi name is Je - sus.



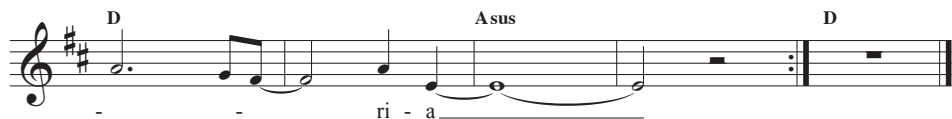
Glo - - - - ri - a - - - - Glo -



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**NEW COVENANT
CHURCH**