

HE
SHALL
BE

ADVENT PRAYER
2024

**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.**

ISAIAH 9:6

WEEK 1

THE
PROMISE

As we move into the Christmas season, let us keep Christ as the focus. Amidst the fun, chaos, gift-giving, family, and parties, may we remember what we are truly thankful for, Jesus.

Each day spend a few moments meditating on the verse provided and repeat the prayer or take time to reflect, setting your heart on The One who is the greatest gift of all!

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14

The name Immanuel means, “God is with us.” As you reflect on the prophetic reminder from Isaiah, that Immanuel would come and walk among us, take a moment to consider the ways he has been present in your life. Make plans for intentional time with Him, as He awaits your willingness to be with Him as He is with you.

*But you, Bethlehem, David's country, the runt of the litter—
From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule Israel. He'll be no upstart, no pretender His family tree is ancient and distinguished.*

MICAH 5:2

Today, Lord, I pray that you would remind me that you sent your Son to the least likely place so that there would be no hindrance in my communion with you, as Father. You work big things together from small places. Today, I give you all of me, what little I may have to use and to glorify you in all that I do. As you gave your Son for me, I give myself to you today.

“For all these things were prefigured beforehand concerning Him, in order that when they came to pass, we might know the truth of the Scriptures and might have an undoubting faith in God.”

IRENÆUS OF LYONS

As you consider that Jesus putting on humanity was not a last minute decision, but was foretold long before it occurred, reflect on how it builds and sustains your faith. Where are you still struggling with doubts? Ask the Lord to continue revealing to you His truth and faithfulness.

I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel, and shall crush through the forehead of Moab, and tear down all the sons of Sheth.

NUMBERS 24:17

Lord, I thank you that Jesus would come to rule and reign and tear down the kingdom of darkness. In your coming I received forgiveness and now I await your promised return and the gift of knowing that you reign yesterday, while I wait, and in future wholeness and glory!

“The prophets’ words are not just ancient promises waiting for fulfillment. They are a protest against the present order, reminding us that God will bring about His reign of justice and peace through the coming Messiah. The birth of Jesus is a declaration that this new kingdom has arrived, even as the world continues in brokenness. In Christ, the future reign of God is already breaking into the present.”

**THOUGHTS OF
DR. ESAU MCCAULLEY**

The prophetic words of the Old Testament remind us that God always has a plan for His people. Reflect today on where you have seen God bring order out of chaos in your own life. Where are you potentially living in fear and not trusting that Jesus is not just going to reign, but reigns today... in our world, in our generation, and in our time?

REST &
REFLECT

During your Sabbath look back over the week's scriptures and thoughts and reflect on the reality that God set His plan long before it came to fruition.

Entrust your plans, dreams, and hopes to Him today, knowing His timing His perfect, and His why is ordained.

WEEK 2

THE
PREPARATION

Jesus came to the unlikely and through the unlikely, in the least ideal circumstances. As social, political, and religious tension flooded Judea, the timing would be tense.

These realities, among others, were a reminder of the need for a Savior. The prophecies in the Scriptures had created hope within people that the Messiah was on His way, and He was.

This week we will reflect on the preparation that took place in order for Him to come.

He will bring back many of the people of Israel 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 parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

LUKE 1:16-17

Jesus, just as John the Baptist was sent before your days of ministry, born just 6 months before you, in order to make people ready to receive you, would I be open to doing the same? In my workplace, home, family, and social circles, even amidst strangers, would I be a witness to your goodness and glory? Use me Lord to prepare people's hearts to receive you as I walk out my faith every day!

“The celebration of Advent means there is something on the way that is greater than we can imagine.”

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

Jesus, I am thankful daily for the reminder of your coming. Forgive me for taking advantage of the great gift your birth has produced in my life. Thank you, Jesus for coming to me and for me! The incarnation is a reminder of the incredible plan you have for all humanity. I am grateful to be a part of that plan.

But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.”

LUKE 1:30–31

Mary was chosen. Imagine for a moment the intimidation that might swell within you had you been chosen by God, an angel standing before you, for such a task. Mary responded that she was the Lord’s servant. (Luke 1:38) As you reflect on this young girl’s willingness to serve the Lord, ask God how you are being invited to serve Him. Ask Him to make you aware of the invitation He is specifically offering you. Will you say yes?

“When the fullness of time was come, and Christ, the eternal Son of God, was about to be born into the world, He chose to enter in a way that was most humble and lowly, to show us that greatness lies not in worldly power or prestige but in humility and love.”

**ST. BERNARD OF
CLAIRVAUX**

Lord, just as you came in humility and with the greatest demonstration of love, I ask that you would help me to live the same. Would my love for others show them your grace? Would I humbly serve you, honor you, and glorify you with my life? I choose to serve and love those you place in my path today. I will be sensitive to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant.

LUKE 2:4-5

By decree, Joseph had to take a pregnant Mary to Nazareth to register. They would make their way to Bethlehem, as prophesied in Micah 5:2. It is all coming together, and the stage is being set. Reflect today on the ways that you look back and see that God set the stage to meet you. Where do you now see Him having moved on your behalf, before your yes to Him?

REST &
REFLECT

During your Sabbath, reflect on the reality that Christ came in unconventionally. The King used the humble and lowly to bring about His purpose. This should give great hope that you too are part of His plan to bring hope into a lost and broken world.

Reflect on the people that you know He is calling you to. Repent of any fear or timidity that you are not worthy to be chosen to bring forth His glory.

WEEK 3

THE
FULFILLMENT

The prophecies have been spoken, the Jews await their coming Messiah, and the preparation has been made, and a vessel chosen.

This week we will take time to prayerfully consider and reflect on the power of the fulfilment of all that was foretold and prepared.

Our Messiah comes.

Then she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

LUKE 2:7

It is easy to forget that modern-day medicine was not available to Mary when she gave birth to Jesus. This miraculous time of joy was also filled with pain and discomfort. Mary would have found the joy and the exhilaration of seeing her firstborn son, Jesus, who would have conquered the hardship of birth. Reflect on your Savior. Pray through the trials you are facing and ask Jesus to remind you that He brings joy amid all trials. (James 1:2)

“He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.”

ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

Heavenly Father, bring me to a place of remembrance. Please help me remember what Mary and Joseph had to go through so that I would live in freedom through the birth of your Son. Remind me when I feel incapable and ineffective that you can use anyone to bring about your perfect will. You are a good Father who has good plans for His people, which will bring glory and honor to your name.

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.”

MATTHEW 2:1-2

The star was foretold in Numbers 24. The Magi had been waiting. When it burst forth, the fulfillment was clear. There was no hesitancy in their worship. The Magi (wise men) knew who this was. It was their greatest anticipation revealed. Hope came. They were prepared to worship their King. Take time today to worship Jesus. Place yourself at His feet, bow low, and honor your King.

“I’m so glad Jesus was born in a stable. Because my soul is so much like a stable. It’s poor and in unsatisfactory condition—yet I believe that if Jesus can be born in a stable, maybe he can also be born in me.”

C.S. LEWIS

Heavenly Father, what a joy it is to know you, not externally but intimately, in me. You love my imperfections and forgive me daily. You walk with me, not so far ahead of me that I cannot reach you. Your birth gave me a passport into pure salvation. You are bringing me to a place of sanctification as I sit in the wonder and amazement of Your holiness. I ask that you draw near to me as I continue to draw near to You. Thank you for never giving up on me. Amen.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:14

By choosing to dwell among us, Jesus bridges the vast chasm between God and humanity, inviting us into a relationship marked by intimacy and understanding. His glory, revealed in humility and vulnerability, defies earthly expectations of power and might. Instead, it is a glory filled with grace and truth—offering forgiveness, healing, and a path to reconciliation with the Father. How do we embody grace and truth in our interactions with others? How can we allow the presence of Christ to shape our hearts and communities?

REST &
REFLECT

This week you have witnessed the fulfillment of the prophetic through Jesus' birth. The promise of God to come, came. As you Sabbath today, take some time to reflect on the implications of this fulfillment and how it has impacted you.

How great is the Father's love for you that He would send His Son?

WEEK 4

THE
CELEBRATION

Entering into a time of celebration of the birth of our Savior. God sending His Son reveals humility and sacrifice. Jesus chose to enter our world not in power, but in vulnerability, illustrating that true strength lies in love and self-giving.

This week focuses on celebrating His love, sacrifice, and gift to us.

Ask God to adjust your priorities this week leading up to Christmas. He is not in a hurry, so slow down and be with Him.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes.

PSALM 96:11-13

God, you fulfill all promises! It is true when you say you will never leave nor forsake me. (Deuteronomy 31:6) You said you would and you did! Today, I thank you for the Son you sent so that I might have an abundant and free life in you. You paved a way and today, I accept you fully into every area of my life.

“Christ is born, glorify Him! Christ from heaven, go out to meet Him! Christ on earth, be exalted! Sing to the Lord, all the earth, and praise Him in gladness, O people, for He is glorified!”

ST. GREGORY OF NAZIANZUS

When Gregory calls, “Christ from heaven, go out to meet Him!” anticipation and readiness are expressed. There is a prompting to consider how your own heart is prepared to welcome Him. Today, reflect on how you respond to the joy and celebration of your Savior. What things get in the way of your worship? How can you run to Him with eager anticipation?

When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

GALATIANS 4:4-5

The celebration of Jesus' birth leads to the great reminder that you have now been adopted! You are an heir to the Kingdom of God. You are purposed. You are royalty. As you reflect on this, what does it stir up in you? What gratitude can you express to Jesus for His saving grace which pulled you into the most incredible family?

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.

ISAIAH 9:6

You are Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. I choose to reflect on you in this season. I will abide in you as I celebrate with friends and family this Christmas. May my heart be stirred to continually exalt your name, introduce others to you, and show the love you showed me by breaking into humanity. I am eternally grateful. I rest knowing you are with me, for me, and have good plans for me. Thank you, Jesus.