



**ADVENT PRAYER
GUIDE**

WHY ADVENT?

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The holidays are upon us! And when I say “upon us,” I mean it in the same sense as, “The Philistines are upon us!” The Thanksgiving feast has just wound down and people are busily replacing their faux fall foliage with evergreens and twinkling lights. Ready or not, it’s Christmas, everyone!

This is how our consumer culture marks time. It was Thanksgiving. Now it is Christmas. Next comes New Year’s. Then Valentine’s Day. And on and on it goes. And therein lies the problem. The way we mark time carries within it an insidious falsehood. It whispers, “On and on it goes.” We move so briskly through our cultural calendar that there is no place to turn out and take in the long view of what lies ahead. There is no designated time when we, as a culture, consider what happens when the calendar runs out of days. There is no season to meditate on the fact that at some of our holiday meals, there are empty seats at the table that will never be filled again. Time has marched on, and it has left some of us behind. At what point in the year do we stop and reckon with this? What would we call this holiday and what box of décor do we pull out to set the mood?

It may sound morbid, but the Church does have a time set aside for that exact purpose: Advent. Everyone marks time in some fashion, but the question is: How should Christians mark time in light of the truth that “time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away”? What is history and where is it heading? We look behind and see the uninterrupted cycle of life and death. The temptation is to look ahead and assume that this cycle will simply continue forever—that the future will be just a longer version of the past. That, the wheel in the sky will keep on turnin’.

But Advent interrupts that assumption.

Advent enters into our yearly calendar just prior to the celebration of the birth of the Son, in order to teach us the ultimate goal of His birth. This Child comes to make all things new. As wonderful as that is, it presupposes a reality that we try our best to forget, that all things need to be made new. This present existence isn't good enough, no matter how much we try to cover the ugliness and hurt by wrapping it up in shiny paper and smothering it in sentiment. We have pain. We cause pain. We sin and are sinned against. We have the scars and the list of regrets to prove it. And, in the end, we all die, and we have the innate sickening sense that we will have to answer for all we have done. How can we as mortal creatures cope with this reality looming large on the horizon of our lives? Plan the next event and do it quickly!

Thankfully, Advent confronts us with the very thing we work hard all year long to ignore: the end. But through that confrontation, Advent graciously trains us to see both the magnitude of our need and the magnitude of the gift given to the needy at Christmas. Advent lifts our eyes to the God-man who interrupted human history to deal with our sin and misery once for all. And Advent reminds us that this same Jesus will interrupt history again to end the cycle of our madness and grant us peace in its place. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

This Advent Prayer Guide is designed to provide a simple, structured way to slow down each day and enter into Advent with reflection, repentance, and hope. Each day you'll walk through a confession of sin, assurance of pardon, Scripture reading, prayer, and doxology—using the call-and-response cues when praying with others. After the assurance, read the assigned Old and New Testament passages from the reading schedule on the final page. Use the open time in the prayer section to lift up personal needs, family concerns, and intercessions for the church before concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

ADVENT PRAYER

Opening Sentences

THIS PRAYER GUIDE
CAN BE USED BY
INDIVIDUALS OR
HOUSEHOLDS.
IF PRAYING WITH
OTHERS, USE THE
CALL AND
RESPONSE ICONS.

☩ Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight
in the desert a highway for our God.

O God, Make speed to save us.

☩ **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

☩ Our King and Savior draweth nigh.

☩ **O Come, let us adore Him.**

Confession of Sin

☩ CALL
☩ RESPONSE

☩ The Lord is near to all who call upon Him in
truth, therefore let us confess our sins together.

☩ **Almighty and most merciful Father,**

we have erred and strayed

from Your ways like lost sheep,

we have followed too much

the devices and desires of our own hearts,

we have offended against Your holy laws,

we have left undone those things

which we ought to have done,

and we have done those things

which we ought not to have done,

and there is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy upon us,

spare those, O God, who confess their faults,

restore those who are penitent,

according to Your promises declared unto us

in Christ Jesus our Lord;

and grant, O merciful Father, for His sake,

that we may hereafter live a godly,

righteous, and sober life,

to the glory of Your holy name. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

✠ The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

✠ The peace of the Lord be with you!

℟ **And also with you!**

Scripture Reading

✠ The Word of the Lord!

℟ **Thanks be to God!**

Prayer

...praying now, even as our LORD has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory forever. Amen

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

USE THE ADVENT
READING SCHEDULE
ON THE FINAL PAGE.

TAKE THIS TIME TO
PRAY FOR YOUR NEEDS
AND THOSE OF
YOUR FAMILY AND THE
CHURCH. CONCLUDING
WITH THE
LORD'S PRAYER.

WITH HANDS RAISED

Advent Reading Schedule

Date	Old Testament	New Testament
Mon Dec 1	Genesis 8:1–19	Romans 6:1–11
Tue Dec 2	Genesis 9:1–17	Hebrews 11:32–40
Wed Dec 3	Isaiah 54:1–10	Matthew 24:23–35
Thu Dec 4	Isaiah 4:2–6	Acts 1:12–17, 21–26
Fri Dec 5	Isaiah 30:19–26	Acts 13:16–25
Sat Dec 6	Isaiah 40:1–11	John 1:19–28
Sun Dec 7	Second Sunday of Advent Divine Service	
Mon Dec 8	Isaiah 24:1–16	1 Thessalonians 4:1–12
Tue Dec 9	Isaiah 41:14–20	Romans 15:14–21
Wed Dec 10	Genesis 15:1–18	Matthew 12:33–37
Thu Dec 11	Ruth 1:6–18	2 Peter 3:1–10
Fri Dec 12	Ruth 4:13–17	2 Peter 3:11–18
Sat Dec 13	1 Samuel 2:1–8	Luke 3:1–18
Sun Dec 4	Third Sunday of Advent Divine Service	
Mon Dec 15	Isaiah 29:17–24	Acts 5:12–16
Tue Dec 16	Ezekiel 47:1–12	Jude 17–25
Wed Dec 17	Zechariah 8:1–17	Matthew 8:14–17, 28–34
Thu Dec 18	2 Samuel 7:1–17	Galatians 3:23–29
Fri Dec 19	2 Samuel 7:18–22	Galatians 4:1–7
Sat Dec 20	2 Samuel 7:23–29	John 3:31–36
Sun Dec 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent Divine Service & Advent Feast	
Mon Dec 22	Isaiah 11:1–9	Revelation 21:1–5
Tue Dec 23	Malachi 3:1–4	Luke 1:57–66
Wed Dec 24	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service	

Join us at Providence Presbyterian Church for worship each Sunday at 10am.
Visit providencetemecula.com for more information.