

DECEMBER 21, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Advent is a season of love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	God is with us
Monday	Isaiah 7:10-16	A son named Immanuel
Tuesday	Romans 1:1-7	A salutation
Wednesday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Thursday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh
Friday	Isaiah 9:2-7	A child is born
Saturday	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Israel's restoration
Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Matthew 1:23 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and everlasting God, may the birth of Jesus remind us of your promise of salvation and lead us to trust in you and to serve and love others with thankful hearts. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, may this food give strength to our bodies and faith, hope, and love to our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God bless you with peace.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Light One Candle to
Watch for Messiah*

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What do you do to show love for someone?
- How does the birth of Jesus show the love of God for all the world?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 1:1-7.

The birth of Jesus is not about the sweet presence of a smiling baby. It is about the work of God to save the world by entering our experience and being with us (Matthew 1:23). Ours is the God who promised this beforehand through the prophets, who has come in the flesh in the line of King David, who rose from the dead and is recognized as the Son of God. We are the beloved of God and named holy. With the birth of Jesus comes the fulfillment of God's action to change the world of darkness and despair to the dwelling place of God's loving and saving presence for all the world. It includes a divine assignment to love all people with the good news of Jesus Christ. This is what Advent, Christmas, and the Christian faith are all about.

Discuss: How is this kind of love more of an action than a feeling?

Pray: Dear God, we thank you for entering our world and our lives with hope and love. Help us to love the world you love in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you share God's love with someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week light four candles on the Advent wreath: the Candle of Hope, the Candle of Peace, the Candle of Joy, and the Candle of Love. The Candle of Love reflects how God showed love for us by sending Jesus to be with us. During this Advent season we pray for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God through Jesus Christ.

Leader: This is the fourth week of Advent. Advent means *coming*. We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

[Light four candles]

All: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." (Matthew 1:23)

Leader: Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us love.

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope, peace, joy, and love. May we see with the eyes of faith the work of your kingdom in our lives and world. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org