

DECEMBER 1, 2019
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Advent is the season of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	The coming of salvation
Monday	Isaiah 2:1-5	Peace that lasts forever
Tuesday	Romans 13:11-14	The day when Christ returns
Wednesday	Hebrews 11:1-7	The great faith of God's people
Thursday	Psalms 125	A song of trust in God
Friday	1 John 1:5-10	God is light
Saturday	Psalms 122	A song of praise
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!
Isaiah 2:5 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, you who are the light of the world, guide our steps to walk in your light. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may we eat and drink with thankful hearts this day, for all that you provide every day and in every way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May all go well with you and may peace be within you, through Christ our light and our salvation.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

This Little Light of Mine



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:

- Talk or think about a time you were waiting for someone or something with excitement.
- Advent means *arrival* or *coming*. How do you get ready for the coming of Jesus?
- In dark times Jesus brings light and hope. How do you experience hope?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Isaiah 2:1-5.

Advent is a season of hope and anticipation of God's action to redeem and save the world. That is Isaiah's message, too. Isaiah sees what others do not. Isaiah sees Jerusalem as the highest mountain, but Psalm 125:2 sees other peaks as higher. Isaiah sees the people walking in the paths of the LORD's teaching, but before and after Isaiah 2, judgment is announced for the people's disobedience. Isaiah sees weapons of violence and destruction that are turned into farming tools, but the nations of Israel and Judah were utterly destroyed by its neighbors. The message of Isaiah is a message of hope that the Christian faith holds to while brokenness and sin are still seen every day of our lives. What hope do you cling to as a follower of Jesus?

Pray: **Come Lord Jesus, come and bring peace between nations. May we see the light of your glory in all the world. Amen.**

SERVICE



In Psalm 122:8 it says: For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you." During this season of hope, list ways you can give hope to those who are sad or anxious and help them to feel "the peace within." How will you choose to let your light shine through acts of service to others during the four weeks of Advent?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Set up or make an Advent wreath for your home. There are four candles in a circle on the wreath and one in the center. The circle represents the eternity of God. The four candles are often blue to signify the hope of the Advent season. The center candle is white. It represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This first week you will light one candle. *Say:* This is the first week of Advent. Advent means "coming." We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the first Advent candle, the candle of Hope. [Light one candle] *Read:* O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5) *Respond:* Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us hope.

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope. May we walk in the light of the Lord and live in peace with all that you have made. Amen.**



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