



Advent Booklet

First Baptist Church
of Ann Arbor

Hello!

We are glad you joined us for Countdown for Christmas! We hope that the materials you received will enrich your season of waiting. Advent is a holy time of preparing to celebrate and welcome the coming of Christ into the world. You will find Advent songs for these devotions at www.fbca2.org/countdown.

We have Advent worship each Sunday at 10:00a in person and online (on our First Baptist Church Facebook page and YouTube channel).

We warmly invite you to join us for worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day,, too!

The Nativity Story - December 24 at 4:00p

We will sing Christmas carols and watch the Nativity story come to life during this simple, informal, family-friendly service.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols - December 24 at 7:30p

Modeled on the world-famous carol service from King's College in Cambridge, England, this service consists of Christmas music interspersed with brief Scripture readings.

God With Us! - December 25 at 10:00a

Join us for a casual, fun, family-friendly service featuring a participatory Christmas tableau.

We wish for you a season of wonder, hope, and joy!

Advent blessings,



At FBCA2 we believe that all humanity is created in God's image and is of sacred worth. Therefore, compelled by faith in Jesus Christ, the sign of God's inclusive and boundless love for the world, we joyfully welcome and affirm individuals of any age, race, ethnicity, nationality, physical and mental ability, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, level of education, economic circumstance, and religious background to participate fully in all aspects of the life and ministry of our church.

The Meaning of Advent

Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming.” Each year during this season, we prepare for the arrival of Christ in our hearts and homes, in our lives, and in our church; both now and in some future day which will surprise us!

Advent marks the beginning of the church’s liturgical year and it lasts the four weeks before Christmas.

In December we see shortened days, longer nights, and the quieting of the earth for winter. The shift in seasons compels us inward – into our homes that we brighten in response with candles, evergreens, and song, and into our inner selves, which we adorn with silence, prayer, meditation, and the reading of scripture.

When we do these things in Advent, we become better ready to receive, at Christmas, the brightness of yet another birthday of Christ, in and around us.

We hope this Advent booklet provides some ideas for observing the Advent season in your own home in a way that is quiet and creative, and filled with wonder and expectation.

The Advent Wreath

Use your Advent Wreath during meals or during your prayers at night, to remind you to get your heart ready for Jesus' coming. Light one candle for each week of Advent.

1. The round shape, which has no beginning and no end, reminds us of God, who had no beginning and will have no end. God always was and always will be.
2. The green leaves remind us of life, and especially the new life we have when Jesus is in our hearts.
3. The red berries remind us of Jesus' blood, which he shed when he died on the cross.
4. The four candles remind us of the four Sundays of Advent.
5. Purple is a color for royalty, and the purple candles remind us that Jesus came to be our King. The pink candle (lighted on the third week of Advent) is the "Rejoice!" candle - the birth of the Christ child is near!
6. The light of the candles reminds us that Jesus came to be the Light of the World.

Advent Devotions

Reader: Christ, be our light.
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.

All: Christ, be our light!

The candle(s) is (are) lit.

Reader: Thank you, God, for this candle flame. Lead us through the waiting of Advent towards the hope which comes from you alone.

All: Amen.

A Reading from Scripture

Read the Scripture for the corresponding day.

November 28: Isaiah 11: 1-2
November 29: Isaiah 11: 6-7
November 30: Isaiah 11: 8-10
December 1: John 1:1-5
December 2: Isaiah 9:2-4
December 3: Isaiah 9:6-7
December 4: Jeremiah 33:14-16
December 5: Luke 1:5-10
December 6: Luke 1:11-17
December 7: Luke 1:18-25
December 8: Luke 1:26-34
December 9: Luke 1:35-38
December 10: Matthew 1:18-21
December 11: Matthew 1:22-26

December 12: Luke 1:39-45
December 13: Luke 1:46-56
December 14: Luke 2:1-5
December 15: Luke 2:6-7
December 16: Luke 2:8-12
December 17: Luke 2:13-14
December 18: Luke 2:15-18
December 19: Luke 2:19-20
December 20: Micah 5:2-5
December 21: Matthew 2:1-2
December 22: Matthew 2:3-6
December 23: Matthew 2:7-8
December 24: Matthew 2:9-12
December 25: John 1:14

A Song May be Sung

Songs are available in this booklet. Recordings of each song can be found at www.fbca2.org/countdown.

Closing Prayers

Read the prayer for the given week.

First Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you are light even in the darkest places.
Help us to trust in you when we are lost or lonely.
Shine hope into our hearts we pray. **Amen.**

Second Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you are peace even when there is hatred.
Help us to forgive like you when we are hurt or wounded.
Bring peace into our hearts we pray. **Amen.**

Third Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you are joy even in the saddest times.
Help us to praise you when we are upset or grieving.
Shine joy into our hearts we pray. **Amen.**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you are love even if we are afraid.
Help us to pray to you when we are scared or fearful.
Bring love into our hearts we pray. **Amen.**


Christmas Day

Jesus, you came to be light in our darkness.
Jesus, you came to be peace in our conflicts.
Jesus, you came to be joy in our sadness,
and to bring your love in our fears.
Today we celebrate your birth. **Amen.**

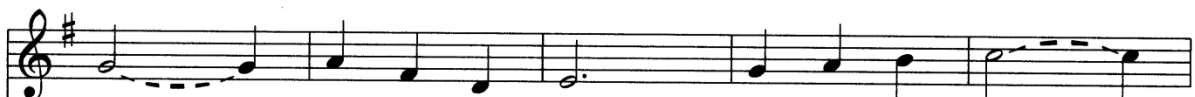
~ Lord's Prayer Words

Advent Songs


Longing for light



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less, long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the




truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone has
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants




your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.____
 pow - er to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.____
 bro - ken for o - thers, shared un - til all are fed.____
 shel - ter - ing o - thers, wall made of liv - ing stone.____
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.____


Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.



Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!



Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.____

1.-4. | Last time

Prepare the Way of the Lord

My Heart Sings Out, used with permission.

Canon

1
Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and

2
all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre

3
4

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Come and fill our hearts

♩ = 66

D Bm , D A ,

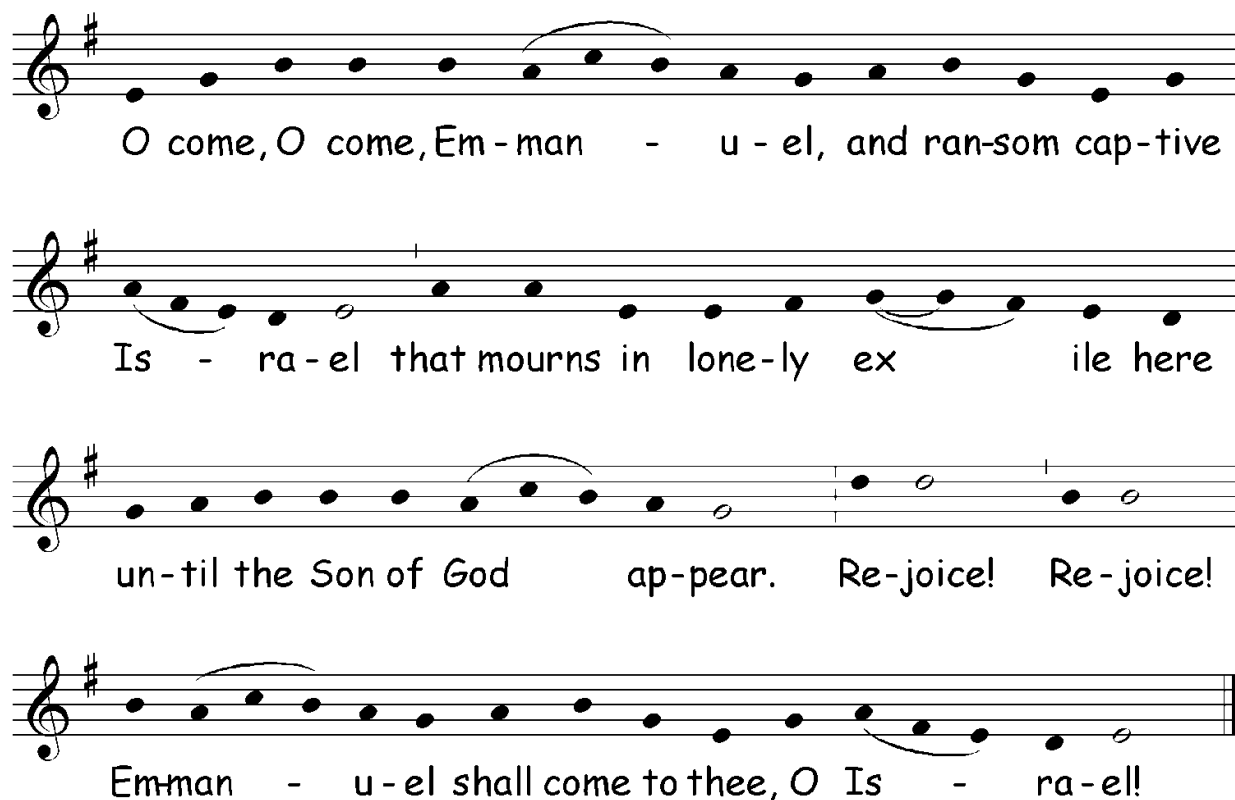
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Em C , Em A D ,

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no, al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al - le - lu - ia!

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O Come, O Come Emmanuel



O come, O come, Em-man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive

Is - ra-el that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here

un-til the Son of God ap-pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra-el!

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife.