

The image features decorative holly leaves and red berries in the corners. The main title is centered and reads "EVERYDAY ADVENT" in a large, orange, textured font. The word "EVERYDAY" is on the top line, and "ADVENT" is on the bottom line, with a large, stylized "A" connecting them.

EVERYDAY ADVENT


2024 ADVENT GUIDE




Park Cities
BAPTIST CHURCH

“FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN,
TO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND
THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE
UPON HIS SHOULDER, AND
HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR,
MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING
FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.”

ISAIAH 9:6



WELCOME TO OUR 2024 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE!



Advent is a significant season in the Christian calendar that marks the beginning of the church year. Spanning the four weeks leading up to Christmas, Advent is a time of anticipation and preparation for the celebration of Christ’s birth. The word “Advent” itself comes from the Latin “adventus,” meaning “coming” or “arrival,” which reflects the season’s dual focus on both the historic coming of Jesus into the world in Bethlehem, and the anticipation of his promised return.

Traditionally, Advent is characterized by a spirit of reflection and hope. Christians use this time to prepare their hearts and minds for the joy and significance of Christmas. This period of spiritual preparation is marked by special church services, beloved hymns and carols, and focused, personal reflection – all aimed at deepening our faith and supporting our spiritual readiness for the celebration of Christ’s arrival.

Our 2024 Advent Devotional Guide will help guide us as we join our hearts in preparation for the celebration of Christ’s birth. It is our prayer that you’ll share it with friends and family. Every day, you’ll get to experience a favorite, or perhaps a brand-new Christmas carol or hymn in a variety of styles, each one pointing us to the Christ-Child. You’ll find scriptures to read, lyrics to the songs (which are powerful devotionals in themselves), and links to choirs, groups, and individuals singing these wonderful songs, and much more. As you experience each day’s devotional at your own pace and share them with family and friends, it is our sincere prayer that you are all drawn closer to Christ and the incredible gift he has become to each of us.

Merry Christmas, church family!

In his love,
Dr. Jeff Warren
Senior Pastor

A NOTE FROM YOUR DISCIPLESHIP TEAM:



Merry Christmas, church family! Serving as your December Dwell Journal, the Advent Devotional Guide is meant to be *experienced* more than just read. Take your time. Spread it out throughout the day. Spend time with it. Read the scripture. and read the song lyrics.

Read about the author and the history of the song. Later, listen prayerfully to the song. Share it with family and friends. Respond to what the Lord is saying to you each day as you allow the Holy Spirit to position you and prepare you to celebrate the Advent of the Christ-Child like you never have before. As you do so, as a church family, we will all be reading, listening, and praying together as the Lord molds us and makes us into Christ's image.

Join us in praying: "In this season of joy, precious Lord, we come before you with hearts overflowing with gratitude for the gift of Christmas, a time to celebrate love, joy, hope, and the miraculous birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are grateful for the warmth of family and friends, the joy of giving and receiving, and the peace that floods our hearts. May Your light guide us in the coming year, and may we live out the spirit of Christmas in all that we do. Lord Jesus, thank you for the story of redemption you've written in our hearts. We celebrate your birth and thank you for the changed life you prepared for us beginning in that manger. As we prepare for this Christmas season, Lord, help us to see what a magnificent gift you've given us, and may our lives never be the same."

Your thankful people,
Amen

ENJOY OUR ADVENT WORSHIP SONG SELECTIONS ON BOTH SPOTIFY AND YOUTUBE:

PCBC SPOTIFY ADVENT PLAYLIST



SCAN QR CODE TO PLAY SONG

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your phone and hover over
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that appears.

PCBC YOUTUBE ADVENT PLAYLIST



SCAN QR CODE TO PLAY SONG

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your phone and hover over
QR code, then click the link
that appears.



O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

“O Come, All Ye Faithful,” also known as “Adeste Fideles,” is a cherished Christmas hymn with origins dating back to the 18th century. The exact date and author of the hymn remain uncertain, but it is believed to have been written by either John Francis Wade or an anonymous author in the mid-18th century. The hymn was first published in 1760 and has since become a staple of Christmas worship, celebrated for its joyful call to worship and adore Christ the Lord, reflecting the deep reverence and joy of the season.




SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15–16: *When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.*

PRAYER

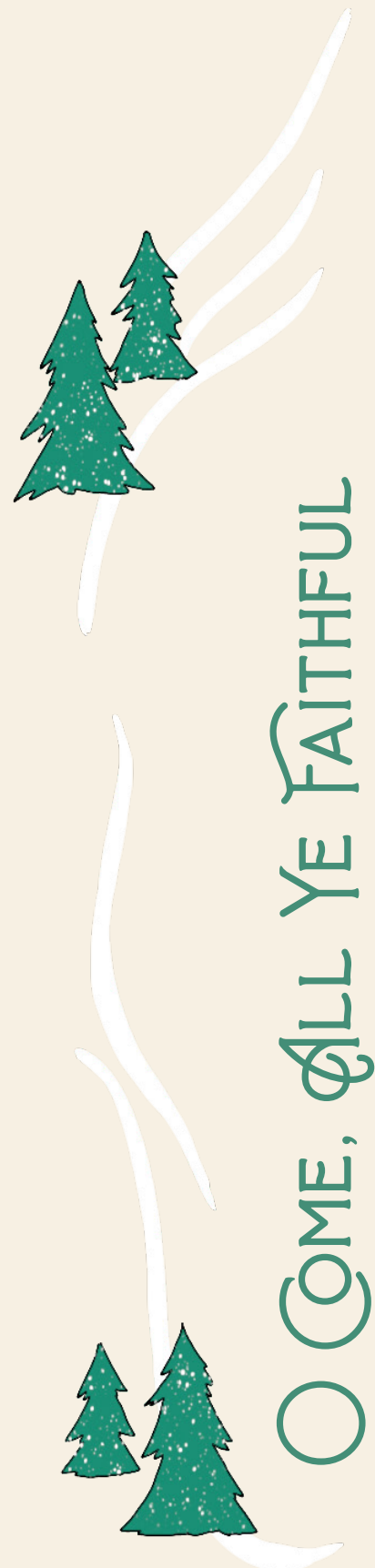
Heavenly Father, we come with hearts full of joy and reverence, eager to worship and adore your Son, Jesus, as we celebrate his miraculous birth and the hope he brings to our lives.



**SCAN QR CODE
TO PLAY SONG**

Open the camera app on your phone and hover over QR code, then click the link that appears.

Thoughts for today:



O Come all ye faithful
 Joyful and triumphant O come ye,
 O come ye to Bethlehem
 Come and behold Him
 Born the King of Angels
 O come, let us adore Him
 O come, let us adore Him
 O come, let us adore Him
 Christ the Lord!

O Sing, choirs of angels
 Sing in exultation
 Sing all that hear in heaven God’s holy word
 Give to our Father glory in the Highest
 O come, let us adore Him
 O come, let us adore Him
 O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord!
 All Hail! Lord, we greet Thee
 Born this happy morning

O Jesus! for evermore be Thy name adored
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing
 O come, let us adore Him
 O come, let us adore Him
 O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord



WELCOME TO OUR WORLD

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking
How we need to hear from God
You've been promised, we've been waiting
Welcome Holy Child

Hope that You don't mind our manger
How I wish we could have known
But long-awaited Holy Stranger
Make Yourself at home
Please make Yourself at home
Bring Your peace into our violence
Bid our hungry souls be filled
Word now breaking Heaven's silence
Welcome to our world

Fragile finger sent to heal us
Tender brow prepared for thorn
Tiny heart whose blood will save us
Unto us is born

So wrap our injured flesh around You
Breathe our air and walk our sod
Rob our sins and make us holy
Perfect Son of God

Welcome to our world

WELCOME TO OUR WORLD



“Welcome to Our World” is a contemporary Christmas song written by Michael W. Smith and co-written with James “Jim” Cowan. Released in 1992 as part of Smith’s album “The First Noel,” the song offers a heartfelt and evocative welcome to Jesus’ birth, expressing themes of hope and renewal. Known for its tender lyrics and poignant melody, “Welcome to Our World” invites listeners to reflect on the significance of Christ’s arrival and has since become a cherished addition to modern Christmas music.



SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:5–7: Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we welcome you into our hearts this Christmas, may your presence bring us comfort, renewal, and a deeper understanding of your boundless grace and love.

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Thoughts for today:



HERE COMES HEAVEN

“Here Comes Heaven,” a contemporary Christmas song, was released in 2018 by the worship band Elevation Worship. The song was co-written by Chris Brown, Mack Brock, and Matt Redman, and it was featured on the album “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” The song captures the joy and anticipation of Christ’s birth, blending modern worship with traditional Christmas themes to celebrate the arrival of Jesus as a transformative moment in history. Its uplifting melody and poignant lyrics reflect the band’s mission to bring new expressions of faith and worship to the Christmas season.

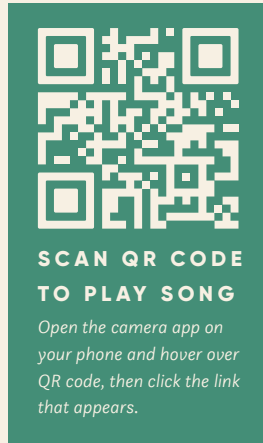


SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:6: *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.*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate the arrival of Jesus and the promise of heaven on earth, may his presence renew our spirits and fill our lives with your boundless grace and joy.



Thoughts for today:

HERE COMES HEAVEN

Children weep no more
Hope is on the horizon
Weary world behold
Your promised Messiah

Angels let your song begin
Here comes heaven
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Here comes heaven

Sinner wait no more
Love has broken the silence
Come let us adore
The Savior is with us

Angels let your song begin
Here comes heaven
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Here comes heaven
Here comes heaven

Now behold his glory
Glory in the highest
All the earth rejoice for Christ is born
Now behold his glory
Glory in the highest
All the earth rejoice for Christ is born

Over all who mourn
Breaks the dawn of salvation
Darkness reigns no more
For Jesus is greater
He is greater

Angels let your song begin
Here comes heaven
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Here comes heaven

Angels let your song begin
Here comes Heaven

All creation worship Him

Here comes Heaven
Here comes Heaven

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.



COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS



“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” is a classic Advent hymn written by Charles Wesley in 1744. The hymn reflects Wesley’s deep anticipation and longing for the arrival of the Messiah, expressing the hope and promise of Christ’s coming. Originally published in “Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord”, it has since become a staple of Advent and Christmas worship. Set to the melody of “Hyfrydol” by Rowland H. Prichard, the hymn combines rich theological insight with a moving melody, capturing the anticipation and joy of the Christmas season.



SCRIPTURE

Galatians 4:4–5: *But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.*

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we eagerly await your coming, fill our hearts with hope and prepare us to celebrate your arrival anew, transforming our lives with the joy and peace of your promised arrival.



**SCAN QR CODE
TO PLAY SONG**

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Thoughts for today:

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

In your palace warm, mighty king
Do you know what I know?

A Child, a Child shivers in the cold
Let us bring him silver and gold
Let us bring him silver and gold

Said the king to the people everywhere
Listen to what I say!

Pray for peace, people, everywhere
Listen to what I say!

The Child, the Child sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ
was born
And brought us all salvation that blessed
Christmas morn

Do you hear what I hear?
Said the night wind to the little lamb
Do you see what I see?

Way up in the sky, little lamb
Do you see what I see?

A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite
Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear?

Ringling through the sky, shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear?

A song, a song high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea
Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king
Do you know what I know?



DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?



“Do You Hear What I Hear?” is a popular Christmas song written by Noël Regney and Gloria Shayne Baker in 1962. Originally composed as a plea for peace during the Cuban Missile Crisis, the song was inspired by the desire for harmony and hope amidst global tension. The carol’s narrative, which unfolds through the perspectives of a night wind, a shepherd boy, and a mighty king, has resonated with audiences for its poignant message and beautiful melody. It has since become a cherished part of Christmas music, celebrated for its evocative imagery and timeless appeal.



SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:17–18: *When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*

PRAYER

Lord, as we listen to the call of the Christmas season, help us hear your message of peace and hope clearly, and inspire us to share this joyful news with a world in need.



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Thoughts for today:



NOEL




“Noel” is a contemporary Christmas song written by Chris Tomlin and his collaborators Matt Redman and Ed Cash. Released in 2017 as part of Tomlin’s album “Adore: Christmas Songs of Worship”, the song celebrates the birth of Jesus with a blend of traditional and modern musical elements. The hymn is known for its powerful chorus and reflective verses that emphasize the joy and reverence surrounding the Nativity. “Noel” has quickly become a favorite in contemporary Christmas worship for its rich lyrical content and uplifting melody.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:11: *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*

PRAYER

Lord, as we rejoice in the message of “Noel,” may the wonder of Christ’s birth inspire us to live with renewed hope and to invite those around us to come and see what God has done.



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Love incarnate, love divine
 Star and angels gave the sign
 Bow to babe on bended knee
 The Savior of humanity
 Unto us a Child is born
 He shall reign forevermore

Noel, Noel
 Come and see what God has done
 Noel, Noel
 The story of amazing love!
 The light of the world, given for us
 Noel

Noel, Noel
 Come and see what God has done
 Noel, Noel
 The story of amazing love!
 The light of the world, given for us
 Noel

Noel, Noel
 Come and see what God has done
 Noel, Noel
 The story of amazing love!
 The light of the world, given for us
 Noel, Noel

NOEL

Son of God and Son of man
 There before the world began
 Born to suffer, born to save
 Born to raise us from the grave
 Christ the everlasting Lord
 He shall reign forevermore

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, Holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glory streams from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia.
Christ the Savior is born.
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent Night, Holy Night
Son of God, Love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

SILENT NIGHT



"Silent Night," a beloved Christmas hymn, was first penned in 1818 by Joseph Mohr, a young Austrian priest, and later set to music by Franz Xaver Gruber, a schoolteacher and organist. The hymn was composed in the small village of Oberndorf, Austria, and it gained its place in Christmas tradition following its debut at a midnight Mass. Originally performed with guitar accompaniment due to a broken organ, "Silent Night" has since become a global symbol of peace and the serene spirit of the Christmas season.



SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:7: *And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, in the stillness of this holy night, may we experience the profound peace of Christ's birth and be compelled to carry his brilliant light to the world around us.

Thoughts for today:



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IN THE FIRST LIGHT

“In the First Light” is a contemporary Christmas song written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, first released in 2001. The song explores the wonder of the Nativity and the profound impact of Jesus’ birth on the world, blending traditional themes with modern musical elements. Known for its rich theological content and evocative melody, “In the First Light” offers a reflective and powerful celebration of the arrival of Christ and the promise of redemption.



SCRIPTURE

John 8:12: *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, may the joy and light of Christ’s birth illuminate our lives and guide us to reflect his love and grace to the world.



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Thoughts for today:

IN THE FIRST LIGHT

In the first light of a new day
No one knew He had arrived
Things continued as they had been
While a new born softly cried.

He had left it to redeem us,
But before His life began
He knew He’d come back not as a baby
But as The Lord of ev’ry man.

But the heavens wrapped in wonder
Knew the meaning of His birth
In the weakness of a baby
They knew God had come to earth.

Hear the angels as they’re singing
On the morning of His birth
But how much greater will our song be
When He comes again to earth
When He comes again

As His mother held him closely,
It was hard to understand
That this baby not yet speaking
Was the Word of God to man.

Hear the angels as they’re singing
On the morning of His birth
But how much greater will our song be
When He comes again to Earth

He would tell them of His kingdom,
But their hearts would not believe
They would hate Him and in anger
They would nail Him to a tree.

When He comes to rule the Earth!
When He comes back,
When He comes back
To rule the Earth!

But the sadness would be broken
As the song of life arose
And the First born of creation
Would ascend and take his throne.





O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM



“O Little Town of Bethlehem” is a cherished Christmas carol written by Phillips Brooks in 1868. Brooks, an Episcopal priest, penned the lyrics based on his experiences visiting Bethlehem and reflecting on the humble Nativity scene. The hymn was first published in 1868 and later set to music by Lewis T. Houghton. It captures the peaceful yet profound nature of Christ’s birth, contrasting the quiet of Bethlehem with the significance of the event. The carol has since become a staple of Christmas worship, celebrated for its poignant imagery and serene melody.

SCRIPTURE

Micah 5:2: *But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.*

PRAYER

Lord, as we contemplate the humble birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, may his quiet arrival inspire us to find peace and hope in our own lives and to share his love with those around us.



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Thoughts for today:

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem	No ear may hear his coming
How still we see thee lie	Yet in this world of sin
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep	Where meek souls will receive him still
The silent stars go by	The dear Christ enters in
Yet in thy dark streets shineth	O Holy Child of Bethlehem
The everlasting Light	Descend to us, we pray.
The hopes and fears of all the years	Cast out our sin and enter in
Are met in thee tonight	Be born in us today
How silently, how silently	We hear the Christmas angels
The wondrous gift is giv’n	The Great glad tidings tell.
So God imparts to human hearts	O come to us, abide with us,
The blessings of his heav’n	Our Lord, Emmanuel

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes
The dawn of salvation beginning to break
I love Thee Lord Jesus oh gift from above
The King of the heavens forever with us

I worship You Jesus for all of my days
The highest of praises be unto Your name
My God and my Savior my King and my Friend
Yours is the glory forever amen
Yours is the glory forever amen
Yours is the glory forever amen

AWAY IN A MANGER



“Away in a Manger” is a beloved Christmas carol that first appeared in the late 19th century. The lyrics are often attributed to Martin Luther, though there is no conclusive evidence to support this claim. The carol was published in two versions, one in 1885 and another in 1892, with the latter set to the melody by William J. Kirkpatrick. Known for its simple and soothing portrayal of the Nativity scene, the song depicts the quiet and tender moments of Jesus’ birth, and has become a cherished piece for its gentle reflection on the infant Christ’s early life.



SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:6: *While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.*

PRAYER

Gracious God, we thank you for the quiet, humble birth of Jesus in a manger, and we ask that his peace and presence fill our hearts as we celebrate his arrival and embrace his love.



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Thoughts for today:

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon a midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold

Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world

Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

All ye beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow

Look now for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing
And hear the angels sing

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR



“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” is a classic Christmas carol written by Edmund H. Sears in 1849. Sears, a Unitarian minister, composed the hymn during a period of great social upheaval in America, reflecting his desire for peace and reconciliation. The lyrics, set to a melody by Richard Storrs Willis, convey the angelic announcement of Christ’s birth and a call for peace on Earth. Known for its serene and contemplative nature, the carol has become a cherished part of Christmas celebrations, embodying the hope and peace of the Nativity season.



SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8–9: *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.*

PRAYER

Lord, as we reflect on the message in this hymn, may the peace and joy proclaimed by the angels fill our hearts and guide us to share that peace with a world in need.

Thoughts for today:



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THE FIRST NOEL

“The First Noel” is a cherished Christmas carol with origins dating back to the 18th century, though its exact date and author remain uncertain. It was first published in 1823 by William Sandys, an English musicologist, who included it in his collection “Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern.” The hymn’s roots are believed to trace back to traditional English folk carols, and it tells the story of the Nativity with a focus on the shepherds’ encounter with the angel and the birth of Jesus. Its evocative melody and lyrical narrative have made it a staple of Christmas celebrations around the world.




SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:9–10: *After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.*

PRAYER

Gracious God, as we reflect on the first Noel and the shepherds’ awe at your birth, fill our hearts with the same wonder and joy, and help us to honor your Son with our lives and love.



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TO PLAY SONG**

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Thoughts for today:

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heaven and earth of naught
And with His blood mankind hath bought
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel





O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL



“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” is a traditional Advent hymn with roots tracing back to the 12th century. The hymn’s text is based on the “O Antiphons,” ancient liturgical chants used in the days leading up to Christmas. The English translation, often attributed to John M. Neal in 1851, brought the hymn into broader use in English-speaking Christian communities. The hymn’s haunting melody and evocative lyrics capture the themes of longing and anticipation for the Messiah, making it a central piece of Advent worship as it reflects on the waiting for Christ’s arrival.




SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:14: *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

PRAYER

Lord, as we sing this song today, may your presence fill our hearts with hope and anticipation, and guide us to live out the promise of your salvation and peace.



SCAN QR CODE TO PLAY SONG
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O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel
 And ransom captive Israel
 That mourns in lonely exile here
 Until the Son of God appear
 Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, o Bright and Morning Star
 And bring us comfort from afar
 Dispel the shadows of the night
 And turn our darkness into light
 Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, o Israel

O come, O King of Nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind
 Bid all our sad divisions cease,
 And be Yourself our King of Peace
 Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, o Israel



JOY TO THE WORLD

“Joy to the World,” a beloved Christmas hymn, was first published in 1719 with lyrics by Isaac Watts. The hymn is based on Watts’ interpretation of Psalm 98 and was initially intended as a Christian hymn rather than a specific Christmas carol. Its melody was later adapted by George Frideric Handel, and it has since become a cornerstone of Christmas celebrations, renowned for its exuberant proclamation of Christ’s arrival and the joy it brings to the world. The hymn’s enduring popularity is a testament to its powerful message and uplifting spirit.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 98:5–9: *Make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn—shout for joy before the Lord, the King. Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.*

PRAYER

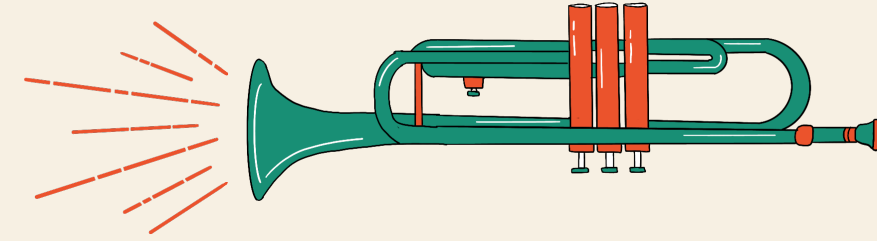
Lord, as we celebrate Christ’s birth with “Joy to the World,” may the joy of Christ’s coming fill our hearts and overflow into our lives, spreading peace and goodwill to everyone around us.



**SCAN QR CODE
TO PLAY SONG**

Open the camera app on your phone and hover over QR code, then click the link that appears.

Thoughts for today:



Joy to the world, the savior reigns

Let men their songs employ

While fields and floods

Rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

And we will sing, sing, sing

Joy to the world

We will sing, sing, sing

He rules the world with truth and grace

And makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness

Wonders of His love

And wonders of His love

And wonders, wonders, of His love

We will sing, sing, sing

Oh, joy to the world

We will sing, sing, sing

Joy to the world

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee

God of glory, Lord of love

Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee

Op’ning to the sun above

We will sing, sing, sing

Joy to the world

We will sing, sing, sing

Joy to the world the Lord is come

Let earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare Him room

And Heaven and nature sing

And Heaven and nature sing

And Heaven and Heaven and nature sing

We will sing sing sing

Joy to the world

We will sing sing sing

JOY TO THE WORLD



ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” is a Christmas carol written by James Montgomery in 1816. Montgomery, a prominent hymn writer and editor, composed the lyrics as part of a collection of hymns for the Christmas season. The hymn reflects the Nativity story through the perspective of the angelic hosts announcing Christ’s birth and inviting all creation to join in worship. Set to various melodies over the years, it has become cherished for its vivid imagery and joyful proclamation of the Christmas message. Its enduring popularity lies in its ability to capture the celebratory and reverent spirit of the holiday.

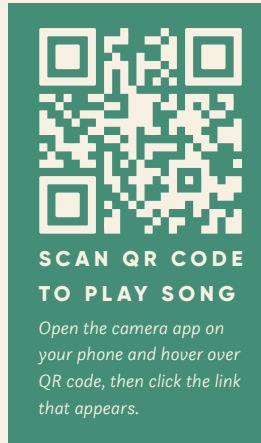


SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:19–20: *And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”*

PRAYER

Lord, as we join the heavenly hosts in joyously proclaiming Christ’s coming, may we be inspired to worship him with our lives and share his message of salvation and peace with all.



Thoughts for today:

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o’er all the earth;
ye who sang creation’s story
now proclaim Messiah’s birth:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:



Hark the herald Angels sing	Veiled in flesh, the God had seen
“Glory to the newborn king”	Hail the incarnate deity
Peace on Earth, and mercy mild	Pleased, as man with men to dwell
God and sinners reconciled	Jesus, our Emmanuel
	Hark the herald Angels sing
	“Glory to the newborn king”
Joyful all ye nations rise	
Join the triumph of the skies	Hail the Heaven born Prince of peace
With Angelic host proclaim	Hail the son of righteousness
“Christ is born in Bethlehem”	Light and life to all He brings
Hark the herald Angels sing	Risen with healing in his wings
“Glory to the newborn king”	
	Born to realize his pouring life
Christ, by highest Heaven adored	Born that man no more may die
Christ the everlasting Lord	Born to raise the sons of Earth
Late in time, behold Him come	Born to give them second birth
Offspring of the favoured one	Hark the herald Angels sing
	“Glory to the newborn king”

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING



“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” is a classic Christmas hymn with lyrics penned by Charles Wesley in 1739. Wesley’s original text was adapted and published in 1758 by George Whitefield, who modified the wording and contributed to its enduring popularity. The hymn was later set to music by Felix Mendelssohn in 1840, adding to its widespread acclaim. Known for its joyful proclamation of Christ’s birth and its emphasis on peace and goodwill, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” has become a staple of Christmas celebrations, cherished for its powerful message and uplifting melody.



SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:13–14: *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men.”*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we join the angels in proclaiming the joy of Christ’s birth, may your peace and glory fill our lives, inspiring us to live out the message of love and redemption this Christmas season.

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 Open the camera app on your phone and hover over QR code, then click the link that appears.

Thoughts for today:



BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM

“Because of Bethlehem” is a contemporary Christmas song written by Max Lucado and set to music by Chris Tomlin and Matt Maher, released in 2015. The song is featured on Tomlin’s album “Adore: Christmas Songs of Worship” and reflects on the profound impact of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem. It explores themes of hope and redemption, celebrating the significance of the Nativity and its transformative power in the lives of believers. Known for its reflective lyrics and uplifting melody, “Because of Bethlehem” has quickly become a modern favorite for its heartfelt celebration of the Christmas message.



SCRIPTURE

John 3:16: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we reflect on the transformative gift of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem, let his love and grace shape our lives and inspire us to spread his light and hope to all.



SCAN QR CODE TO PLAY SONG

Open the camera app on your phone and hover over QR code, then click the link that appears.

Thoughts for today:



Just a tiny nowhere town with a tiny no-room inn
This is where the greatest story ever told begins
Where just a tiny beating heart had
all creation leaning in
That night the world forever changed
because of Bethlehem

It’s where a star led to a stable
A baby’s cry made angels sing
And the search to find a savior
Led to Heaven’s humble King

Where the wise men found the answer
The shepherds found the lamb
And I found my Immanuel
Because of Bethlehem

Love is born, hope is here
Heaven’s light has made the darkness disappear
Peace on Earth, good will to men
God with us all because of Bethlehem

From a child in a cradle to a king upon a cross
He knew the road was leading Him to pay a crimson cost
And when no other arms could carry
The weight of all our sin
He took the fall and it happened all
Because of Bethlehem

Love is born, hope is here
Heaven’s light has made the darkness disappear
Peace on Earth, good will to men
God with us all because of Bethlehem
Because of Bethlehem

Love is born, hope is here
Heaven’s light has made the darkness disappear
Peace on Earth, good will to men
God with us all because of Bethlehem
Because of Bethlehem

From a tomb that love left empty to a
Father’s right-hand throne
And a promise He’s preparing us a place
we’ll soon call home
He who came to Earth from Heaven
is coming back again
And our eyes will see eternity because of Bethlehem

Love is born, hope is here
Heaven’s light has made the darkness disappear
Peace on Earth, good will to men
God with us all because of Bethlehem
God with us all because of Bethlehem

BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM



ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH



“Angels We Have Heard on High” is a traditional Christmas carol that traces its origins to the 18th century. The lyrics are based on a French hymn titled “Les Anges dans nos Campagnes,” which was published in 1862 by the French composer and priest Adolphe Adam. The English version, which became popular in the United States, was translated by James Chadwick and published in 1865. The carol is known for its joyful refrain, “Gloria in excelsis Deo,” and celebrates the angelic announcement of Jesus’ birth with a jubilant and melodic chorus, making it a beloved fixture of Christmas worship and festivities.



SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:10: *And the angel said unto them, “Fear not, for I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.”*

PRAYER

Lord, as we remember the angel chorus proclaiming Christ’s birth, may their message of joy and peace inspire us to share your love and grace with others during this holy season.



SCAN QR CODE TO PLAY SONG

Open the camera app on your phone and hover over QR code, then click the link that appears.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

See Him in a manger laid,
Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
sing with us our Savior's birth.

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

For unto us a child is born,
To us a son is giv'n;
The government shall rest on Him,
Th' anointed One from Heav'n.
His name is Wonderful Counselor,
The Mighty God is He,
The Everlasting Father,
The humble Prince of Peace.

The increase of His government
And peace shall never end;
He'll reign on David's ancient throne
As ruler of all men.
Upheld with justice and righteousness,
Forever His kingdom will last;
The zeal of the Lord God Most High
Will bring these things to pass.

Lord Jesus, come now and reign in me,
Be Lord of my life this hour.
Come be my counselor and my God,
My source of wisdom and power.
Watch o'er me with Your Father care,
My heart and my mind, fill with peace.
I worship You, my Lord and king,
My praise will never cease.



FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN



“For Unto Us a Child Is Born” is a renowned Christmas anthem composed by George Frideric Handel in 1741. It is a part of Handel’s oratorio “Messiah”, which premiered in Dublin in 1742.

The text for the piece is adapted from Isaiah 9:6 and was included in the “Messiah” as a celebration of the prophecy of Christ’s birth. The composition is known for its majestic and uplifting quality, embodying the joy and reverence associated with the Christmas season.

Handel’s work remains a central piece in Christmas music, celebrated for its powerful declaration of Jesus’ arrival as a gift to humanity.



SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18: *Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate the birth of your Son and the fulfillment of your promise, may his arrival fill our hearts with joy and guide us in living out his message of love and salvation.



**SCAN QR CODE
TO PLAY SONG**

Open the camera app on your phone and hover over QR code, then click the link that appears.

Thoughts for today:

MARY, DID YOU KNOW?

Mary did you know that your baby boy will someday walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God.

Oh Mary did you know...
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb.

Mary did you know that your baby boy is
Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy
would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is
heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding
is the great I am.



MARY, DID YOU KNOW?



“Mary, Did You Know?” is a contemporary Christmas song that reflects on the profound and prophetic nature of Mary’s role in the birth of Jesus. The song was written in 1991 by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene. Lowry, a Christian singer and humorist, was inspired while working on a Christmas musical, contemplating the significance of Mary’s experience. The song’s lyrics are a series of questions directed at Mary, pondering the full extent of her child’s divine nature and future impact.



SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:30-33: *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. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”*

PRAYER

Lord, grant us the wisdom to recognize the profound mystery of Christ’s birth, just as Mary was called to witness the fulfillment of your divine promise.

Thoughts for today:



WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

“What Child Is This” is a classic Christmas carol with lyrics written by William Chatterton Dix in 1865. Originally composed as a poem, Dix’s text was later set to the traditional English folk tune “Greensleeves” by composer and arranger William H. Cummings. The carol reflects on the humble birth of Jesus and poses the question of His identity, offering a profound meditation on the Nativity. Its timeless melody and evocative lyrics have made it a beloved piece in Christmas celebrations across generations.

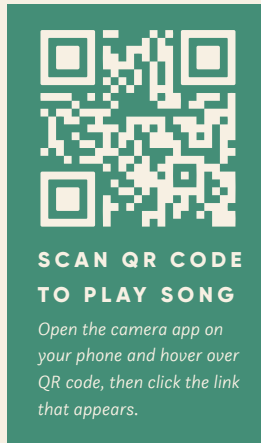


SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:21: *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*

PRAYER

Lord, as we reflect on the mystery of the infant Jesus lying in a manger, open our hearts to fully grasp the depth of his love and the significance of his humble arrival as our Savior.



Thoughts for today:

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!



O HOLY NIGHT

“O Holy Night” is a classic Christmas carol written by French poet Placide Cappeau in 1847, with music composed by Adolphe Adam. Initially titled “Minuit, chrétiens” (Midnight, Christians), the song was originally a French poem celebrating the Nativity. It was set to Adam’s stirring melody and quickly gained popularity in France. The carol’s English translation, done by John Sullivan Dwight, was published in 1855, which helped it become a beloved Christmas anthem in the English-speaking world. Known for its powerful, evocative lyrics and dramatic musical arrangement, “O Holy Night” remains a profound and enduring expression of the Christmas spirit.



SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:12: *This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we marvel at the sacred beauty of “O Holy Night,” may the profound significance of Christ’s birth fill us with reverence and ignite a deep and lasting peace in our hearts.



SCAN QR CODE TO PLAY SONG

Open the camera app on your phone and hover over QR code, then click the link that appears.

O HOLY NIGHT

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of our dear Savior’s birth.
Long lay the world, in sin and error pining,
‘Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices.
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
O night divine, O night, O night divine.

Truly He taught us to love one another.
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for His child is our brother.
And in His name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy, in grateful chorus raise we.
Let all within us praise His holy name!
Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices.
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
O night divine. O night, O night divine.



DWELL READINGS



Thursday – Titus 1

Friday – Psalm 6

Monday – Titus 2

Tuesday – Titus 3

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