



PRAYERS AND PRACTICES FOR
Advent & Christmas
Year C

Dear Church Family,

We are so glad you are celebrating these holy days at home this year. Creating traditions at home for Advent and Christmastide is a wonderful, hands-on way to deepen our faith and celebrate the life and teachings of Jesus. Advent, in particular, helps us anticipate and prepare for the birth of Jesus, while Christmastide and Epiphany continue the celebration by reflecting on his presence among us and the revelation of his divinity.

Advent begins this year on Sunday, December 1. You have five candles: three purple, one pink and one white. The candles you have with your wreath are to be lit starting with one and adding an additional candle each week on Sundays. The last candle, the white Christ Candle, is lit on Christmas Eve. These readings contain a simple explanation of what each candle represents, as well as a Bible reading.

As we journey through this sacred season, may the lighting of each candle serve as a reminder of the light Christ brings into our lives. Let us embrace the hope, peace, joy and love that each week represents, and carry these gifts into the New Year. May this time of celebration and reflection deepen your faith and draw you closer to the heart of God. Wishing you a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas.

If you have young children, we suggest choosing 2-3 parts of the prayer time.

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What is Advent?

Advent is a word that means “coming” or “arrival.” It is a season of remembrance and hope. It’s a time to look both backward at what God has done and forward at what he has promised he will do.

During Advent, we make space to remember and to retell God’s story of his love for his people. We remember how the prophets anticipated the coming of the messiah. And we retell the story of how God’s people waited for Jesus’ birth. We also make space to wait and to watch. We wait in hope for our broken world to be healed and restored. We watch with joy for Jesus to come again and make all things new.

As we retell the story, we remember that Jesus first came to us as a baby, born to Mary. As we watch for Jesus to come again, we prepare our hearts for all that Jesus will bring in the future.

The season of advent is marked at St. Andrew’s by the color blue, but can also be marked by purple.

What is Christmastide?

Christmastide is the season following Advent in the church year. It’s a time when we celebrate the fulfillment of God’s promise—the birth of Jesus! God promised a savior, and he kept that promise.

The season of Christmastide is marked by the color white.

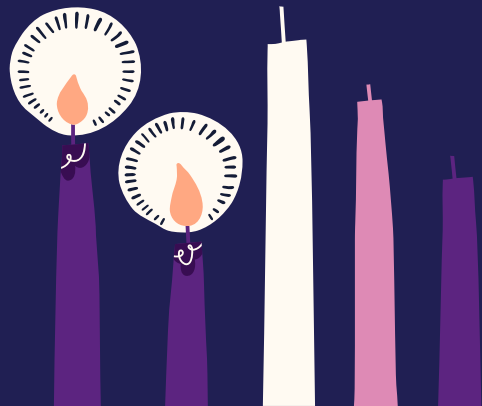
PRAYERS & PRACTICES FOR advent

December 1-24, 2024
4 weeks of fasting
Blue is for Preparation

We hope for light and behold, darkness and for brightness, but we walk in
gloom. *Isaiah 59:9b*

ADVENT PREFACE

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to Judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.



DECEMBER 1
First Sunday of Advent—Hope

Lighting of the Candle

Light the first purple candle

Leader In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

All **Our King and Savior now draws near:**

Leader O Come, let us adore him.

Leader Today we light the first candle of Advent, a candle of hope. As we light this candle, we remember the hope we have in Christ. Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one appointed by God to be judge over all things. He is the one through whom God has promised to save and redeem his people. We light this candle today to remind us that Jesus is our hope—and the hope of the world. We thank God for the promises he has made to us and for the light he has brought into the world.

PSALM 50:1-6

¹ The Mighty One, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

² **Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.**

³ Our God comes; he does not keep silence;
before him is a devouring fire,
around him a mighty tempest.

⁴ **He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:**

⁵ "Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

⁶ **The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge!**

Reading

Choose a reading from holy scripture or "Song of the Redeemed"

LUKE 21:25-28

²⁵ "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

THE SONG OF THE REDEEMED

Magna et Mirabilia

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,

great deeds are they that you have done,

surpassing human understanding.

Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth,

O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord, and sing the praises of your Name?

for you only are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you,

because your just and holy works have been revealed. *Revelation 15:3-4*

The Lord's Prayer

All 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Closing

All We thank you God for the hope you give us.

DECEMBER 8
Second Sunday of Advent—Peace

Lighting of the Candle

Light the first purple candle and a second purple candle

Leader In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

All Our King and Savior now draws near:

Leader O Come, let us adore him.

Leader Our peace is found in God and in his son, Jesus Christ. John the Baptist and all the prophets remind us that to receive peace we must be prepared for it. We light this candle today to remind us that Christ is the Prince of Peace— he is the one promised from the beginning of the world. We thank God for the hope he gives us and for the peace he bestows.

PSALM 126

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

We were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then they said among the nations,

“The Lord has done great things for them.”

³ The Lord has done great things for us;

We are glad.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,

like streams in the Negeb!

⁵ Those who sow in tears

shall reap with shouts of joy!

⁶ He who goes out weeping,

bearing the seed for sowing,

shall come home with shouts of joy,

bringing his sheaves with him.

Reading

Choose a reading from holy scripture or "Song of the Redeemed"

LUKE 3:1-6

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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All nations will draw near and fall down before you,

because your just and holy works have been revealed. *Revelation 15:3-4*

The Lord's Prayer

All 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Closing

All We thank you God for the hope you give us, and the peace you bestow upon us.

DECEMBER 15

Third Sunday of Advent—*Gaudete Sunday*

Lighting of the Candle

Leader The third Sunday of advent is known as *Gaudete Sunday*; from the latin word *Gaudete* meaning “rejoice.” On *Gaudete Sunday* the pink candle is lit to reflect the joy of Christ’s coming.

Light the first purple candle, second purple candle and the pink candle.

Leader In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

All **Our King and Savior now draws near:**

Leader O Come, let us adore him.

Leader Our joy is in God and in his son Jesus Christ. Like peace, joy is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done and what he has promised to do. As we light the third candle, we remember the joy we have in Christ. We light this candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming again—so that all people might have a rich and abundant life. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, and for the joy he pours into our hearts.

PSALM 85:7-13

⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

⁸ **Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**

⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

¹² Yes, the Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.**

Reading

Choose a reading from holy scripture or "Song of the Redeemed"

LUKE 3:7-14

⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³ And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

THE SONG OF THE REDEEMED

Magna et Mirabilia

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,
great deeds are they that you have done,
surpassing human understanding.
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth,
O King of all the ages.
Who can fail to do you homage, Lord, and sing the praises of your Name?
for you only are the Holy One.
All nations will draw near and fall down before you,
because your just and holy works have been revealed. *Revelation 15:3-4*

The Lord's Prayer

All 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Closing

All We thank you God for the hope you give us, the peace you bestow upon us, and for the joy you pour into our hearts.

DECEMBER 22

The Fourth Sunday of Advent—Love

Lighting of the Candle

Light three purple candles and the pink candle

Leader In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

All **Our King and Savior now draws near:**

Leader O Come, let us adore him.

Leader Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's perfect love in human form. Those who believe in him and live in him, live in love. love transforms and perfects all things. It never ends. We light this candle today to remind us that God is love. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows on us, for the joy he pours into our hearts, and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.

PSALM 80:1-7

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

² **Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,**

stir up your might

and come to save us!

³ Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

⁴ **O Lord God of hosts,**

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶ **You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,**

and our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Reading

Choose a reading from holy scripture or "Song of the Redeemed"

LUKE 1:39-56

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." ⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

THE SONG OF THE REDEEMED

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surpassing human understanding.

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O King of all the ages.

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for you only are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you,

because your just and holy works have been revealed. *Revelation 15:3-4*

The Lord's Prayer

All 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Closing

All We thank you God for the hope you give us, the peace you bestow upon us, for the joy you pour into our hearts, and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.

Our **HOPE** is in God and in his son
Jesus Christ.

Our **PEACE** is found in God and in
his son Jesus Christ.

Our **JOY** is found in God and in his
son Jesus Christ.

God is **LOVE**.

Practices

The four weeks of Advent are sometimes observed with these themes:

Week 1: The Patriarchs

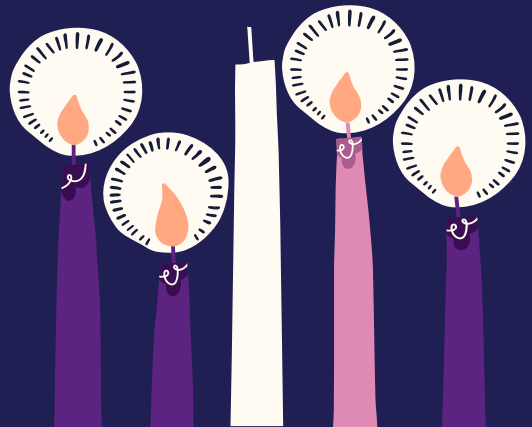
Week 3: John the Baptist

Week 2: The Prophets

Week 4: The Virgin Mary

The Patriarchs naturally focus on Abraham, our father in faith, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born. The Prophets give an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was foretold. John who proclaimed the coming Savior, and Mary, who bore him in her womb, complete the picture.

Common Advent practices involve lighting the Advent wreath weekly, fasting, prayer, and acts of generosity. Many conclude Advent by participating in a candlelight vigil on the eve of Christmas.



DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve

Lighting of the Candle

Light all 5 candles

Leader Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:10-11*

All **Alleluia, to us a child is born:**

Leader O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

PSALM 96:1-4, 11-12

¹ Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!

² **Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

⁴ **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.** ...¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹² **let the field exult, and everything in it!**
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

Reading

LUKE 2:1-14

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

The Lord's Prayer

All 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Closing

All O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

DECEMBER 29
First Sunday after Christmas

Lighting of the Candle

Light all 5 candles

Leader Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:10-11*

All **Alleluia, to us a child is born**

Leader O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

PSALM 147:13-21

¹³ For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you.

¹⁴ **He makes peace in your borders;**
he fills you with the finest of the wheat.

¹⁵ He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.

¹⁶ **He gives snow like wool;**
he scatters frost like ashes.

¹⁷ He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs;
who can stand before his cold?

¹⁸ **He sends out his word, and melts them;**
he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.

¹⁹ He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and rules to Israel.

²⁰ **He has not dealt thus with any other nation;**
they do not know his rules.

Praise the Lord!

Reading

JOHN 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son[d] from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

The Lord's Prayer

All 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Closing

All Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, kindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

JANUARY 5
2nd Sunday after Christmas

Lighting of the Candle

Light all 5 candles

Leader Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:10-11*

All **Alleluia, to us a child is born**

Leader O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

PSALM 84

¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!

² **My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

³ Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴ **Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!**

⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶ **As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.**

⁷ They go from strength to strength;
each one appears before God in Zion.

⁸ **O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!**

⁹ Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed!

¹⁰ **For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

¹¹ For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

¹² **O Lord of hosts,
blessed is the one who trusts in you!**

Reading

MATTHEW 2:1-12

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Lord's Prayer

All 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Closing

All O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS & PRACTICES FOR christmastide

The twelve days of Christmas begin with a vigil on Christmas Eve.

“This is the Lord for whom we have waited; Let’s rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” *Isaiah 25:9b*

Attend one of St. Andrew’s Christmas Eve candlelight services at 3, 5 or 10 p.m.

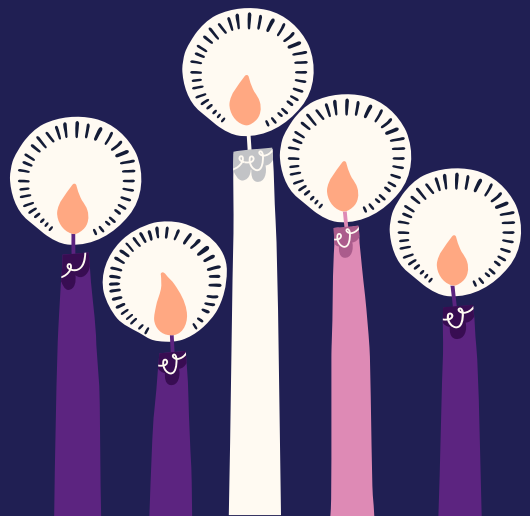
Common Christmas practices involve lighting the Christ Candle on Christmas morning and every day through Christmastide. After the advent candles & greenery are put away, the Christ candle can continue to be used until Good Friday.

Other practices include a Christmas Eve candlelight vigil, singing of carols, feasting, or observing Christmas lights. Consider opening gifts throughout the 12 days of Christmas, or extending the celebration in other ways.

If you use a nativity scene, the Jesus figure could be added to the scene on Christmas morning. The Magi can begin to follow the star from across the house or room to arrive & worship Jesus at Epiphany (January 6).

CHRISTMASTIDE PREFACE

...you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son to be born for us; who, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right to become your children.



Special moments in the 12 Days of Christmas

1ST DAY The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

2ND DAY Feast day of St. Stephen the deacon

3RD DAY Feast day of St. John the apostle

4TH DAY Feast day of the Holy Innocents

8TH DAY January 1st has not always been observed as the first day of the new year. However, it is, traditionally, a time of celebration and hospitality. The traditional English drink for this season was Wassail (from the Saxon "Was haile", meaning "to your health").

9TH DAY: Feast of the Circumcision and Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ

12TH DAY: Many concluded Christmastide with a bonfire using their Christmas tree and greenery. This is a festive and powerful reminder of the spiritual great light that has come into the world and a foreshadowing of what will come as we continue to journey through the life of Christ in the church's liturgical year.

A Prayer at the Bonfire

O God, who once sent heavenly flames upon Elijah's offering, guided the Israelites through the wilderness with a fiery pillar, led the wise men from the East to the abode of Wisdom through a brilliant star, spoke to Moses through a burning bush, and fulfilled the prophecy of John the Forerunner by sending Christ, who bestows both the Holy Spirit and the fire of passion through baptism: remind us of the true Light who came into the world, and who ignites us with the Holy Spirit to lead us on our pilgrimage with the fire of his Love; through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Practices For Epiphany

St. Andrew's Epiphany Party January 5, in between services 10-10:50 a.m.



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
A COMMUNITY OF GOD'S GRACE AND HEALING

Family Leadership Network

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