

PRACTICING

Advent

EMMANUEL

BY MALCOLM GRITE

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us
O long-sought With-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name Come
Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame, O
quicken little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands And
make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

Night's Lodging

BY LUCI SHAW

Across the purple-patterned snow
laced with light of lantern-glow,
dappled with dark,
comes Christ, the Child born from the skies.
Those are stars that are his eyes.
His baby face is wise
seek by my candle spark.
But is he cold from the wind's cold blow?
Where will he go?
I'll wrap him warm with love,
well as I'm able,
in my heart stable.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

There is a “time-bending nature” to the season of Advent. As Christians, we live in an in-between time: the now and the not yet between Jesus Christ’s first and last coming. The first Advent began in a manger in Bethlehem and led to Jerusalem and the cross; the second will bring judgment and all things made new. Bernard of Clairvaux wrote that to live with Christ between these two Advents is to sleep between the arms of God with his left hand under our head and his right hand embracing us.

Our location in this in-between time places us in the midst of much darkness and the constant signals that all is not well in our sin-soaked world. Realities like injustice, sickness, weariness, isolation, death, and grief make us viscerally aware of this heartache and stir up our restless hearts to long for the lasting rest and peace of God (St. Augustine). Waiting is hard! Yet, for those who are in Christ there is the unwavering assurance that all shall be made well when justice and mercy meet. We wait “for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

Of course we’re not idle as we wait! God’s word is rich with readings which tell of God’s promises and their fulfillment in Christ. As we reflect and meditate on these ‘waiting Scriptures’ God’s Spirit fills our hearts and minds with gospel hope and redirects them away from the tinsel and traffic of commercial Christmas towards the beauty of Jesus, who alone can satisfy our deepest longings.

This book is designed for family discipleship around the table. We encourage you to move a candle ahead each day on the accompanying Advent Calendar and then read the daily Scripture and engage in the additional activities as you are able.



We have created a [Spotify playlist called “Practicing Advent”](#) with all the songs in the devotional.

The first devo (Galatians 4) should be done prior to Advent to orient your family to the season and its meaning. The calendar begins on the first Sunday in Advent. You may not need all of the readings depending on how many days there are in Advent, so skip to the Christmas Eve reading when the time comes.

We have also included a simple liturgy for morning and evening prayer if you would like to incorporate the readings into a structured rhythm of prayer and family worship. Extra Liturgy Sheets may be printed up for each member of the family. May these readings and resources strengthen and equip you to love and serve the Lord as you reflect on his promises this Advent season. "

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!



FAMILY PRAYER SERVICES

Our homes are essential and often overlooked places of discipleship and formation in Christ. This is especially true for children and families. Our daily rhythms of prayer, work, play, worship, and rest shape our children's hearts and minds. We hope these simple liturgies will help your family create structured space to daily seek God together. Routines are helpful and formative for children. We would encourage you to find a regular time (morning or evening) when you can pray together. However, family life can be complicated and messy so remember to be gracious and patient with yourselves: the practice of family prayer is a tool to help us, not a law to rule us. It is important to bring your children along slowly, especially if regular family prayer is a new discipline in your home.

MORNING PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.



MORNING COLLECT

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day: defend us by your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor run into any danger; and that, guided by your Spirit, we may do what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Turn to the daily reading in the advent devotional booklet and mark the day on your advent calendar.

ADVENT COLLECT

PRAYERS

Use these daily questions to help guide your prayers to God.

Sunday	What are you looking forward to?
Monday	What is something you are worried about?
Tuesday	Who needs God's protection or comfort?
Wednesday	How can you love your family and friends?
Thursday	Who needs to hear about Jesus?
Friday	What do you need help with?
Saturday	Where did you see God at work this week?

O God, Most High and Holy, Three in One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we offer to you this day ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice. To you be all praise and glory. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. Amen.

CONFESSION

We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, through our own grievous fault. Therefore we pray God to have mercy upon us. Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins and deliver us from all evil, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



PARDON THROUGH THE CROSS

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace; that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Turn to the daily reading in the advent devotional booklet and mark the day on your advent calendar.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

ADVENT COLLECT

PRAYERS: Use these daily questions to help you thank God in prayer for the ways He is at work in your life.

Sunday	How did God give you rest today?
Monday	Where did you see God's peace?
Tuesday	Where did you see God's kingdom growing?
Wednesday	How did God protect you today?
Thursday	How did God guide you?
Friday	How did God give you strength?
Saturday	Where did you see God at work this week?

ANTIPHONS

In peace we will lie down and sleep;

For you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

For the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning.

So do we look for you, O Christ.

Preserve us, O Lord, while waking

And guard us while sleeping,

That awake we may watch with Christ,

And asleep we may rest in peace.

COMMENDATION The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night, and at the last a perfect end; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be with us this night, and for evermore. Amen.

ADVENT COLLECTS

THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE

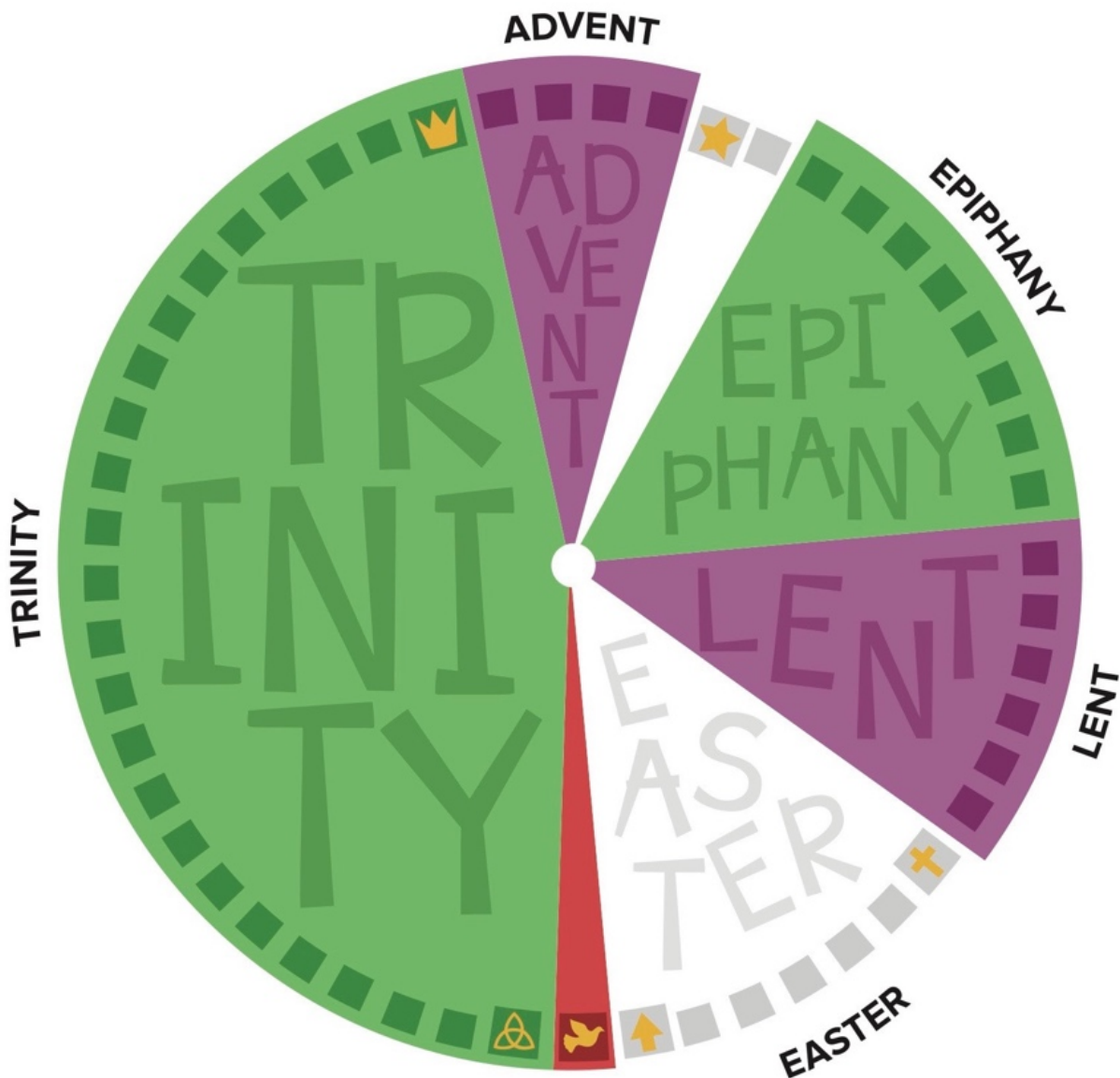
O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born [this day] of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

ORIENTATION TO ADVENT

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. HEBREWS 13:8



Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.



How the Church Tells Time
<https://vimeo.com/484302090>



Gather Round, Ye Children,
Come by Andrew Peterson

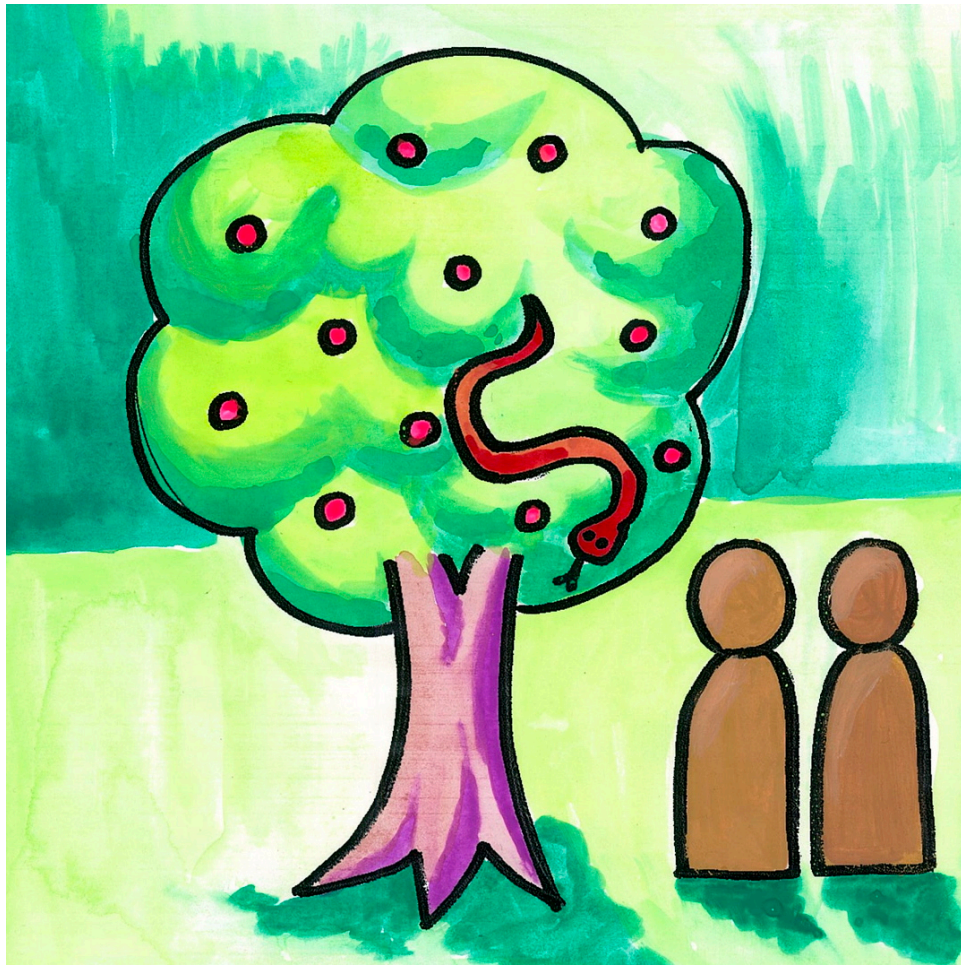
HOPE

WEEK 1



HOPE

First Sunday in Advent



Genesis 3:1-7, 14-15

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You [shall not eat of any tree in the garden]’?” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths...

¹⁴ So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”



Mary Consoles Eve by Rain for
Roots ft. Sandra McCracken

HOPE

First Monday of Advent



Genesis 12:1-3

¹ The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."



Genesis 17:1 & 7

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ⁷ I will make my covenant with you last forever. It will be between me and you and your family after you for all time to come. I will be your God. And I will be the God of all your family after you.

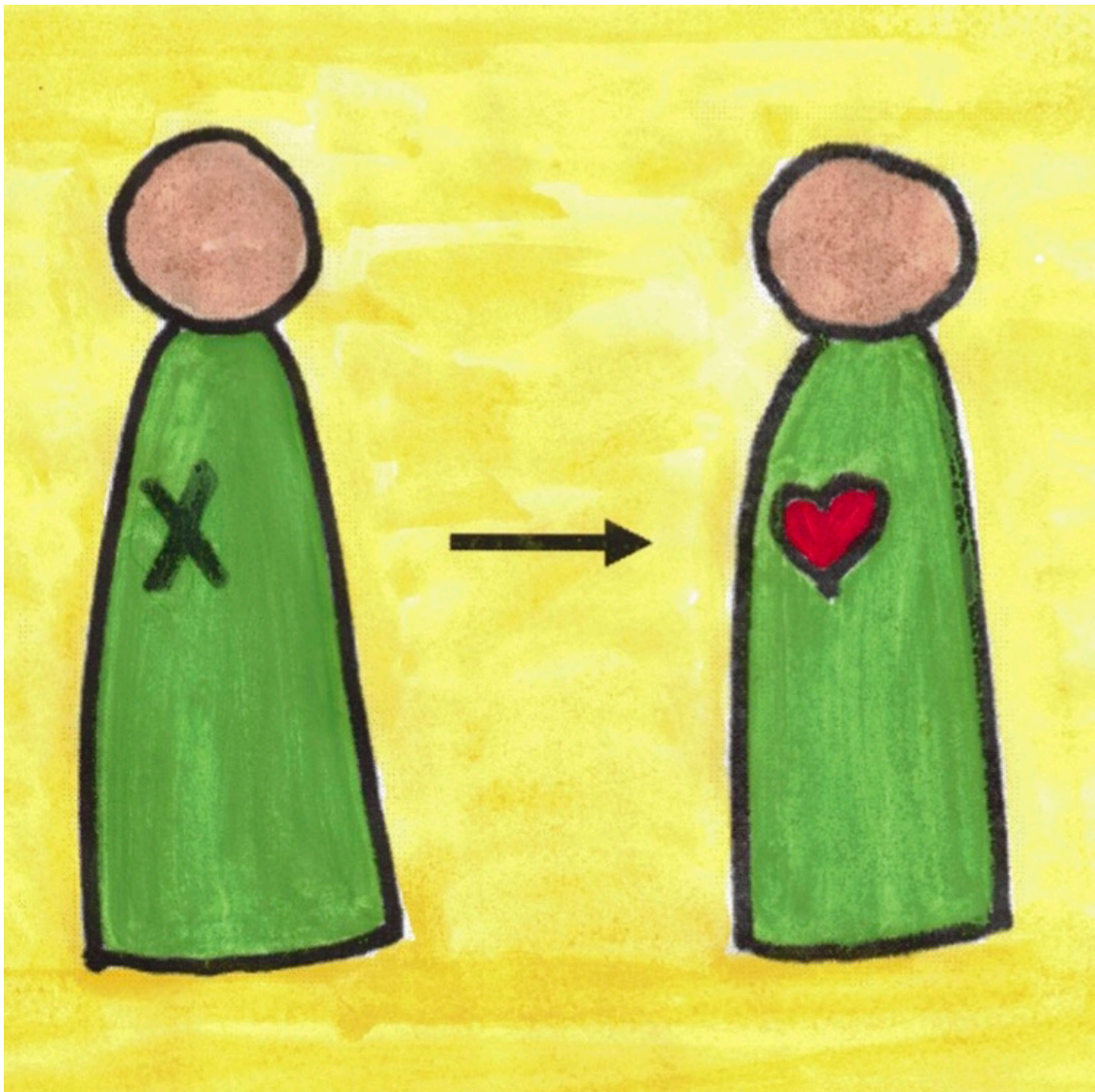


The Bible Project Video: Covenants

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/covenants/>

HOPE

First Tuesday of Advent



Ezekiel 36:24-28

²⁴ I will take you out of the nations. I will gather you together from all the countries. I will bring you back into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle pure water on you. Then you will be 'clean.' I will make you completely pure and 'clean.' I will take all the statues of your gods away from you. ²⁶ I will give you new hearts. I will give you a new spirit that is faithful to me. I will remove your stubborn hearts from you. I will give you hearts that obey me. ²⁷ I will put my Spirit in you. I will make you want to obey my rules. I want you to be careful to keep my laws. ²⁸ Then you will live in the land I gave your people of long ago. You will be my people. And I will be your God.



White as Snow (Based on Psalm 51)
by Jon Foreman

HOPE

First Wednesday of Advent



Psalm 130

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; ² Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

³ If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

⁷ Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. ⁸ He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.



Come Light Our Hearts

by Rain for Roots ft. Sandra
McCracken, Skye Peterson

HOPE

First Thursday of Advent



Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ He suffered the things we should have suffered.
He took on himself the pain that should have been ours.

But we thought God was punishing him.
We thought God was wounding him and making him suffer.

⁵ But the servant was pierced because we had sinned. He was crushed
because we had done what was evil.

He was punished to make us whole again. His wounds have healed us.

⁶ All of us are like sheep. We have wandered away from God. All of us
have turned to our own way.

And the Lord has placed on his servant the sins of all of us.



Bible Project Video: Sacrifice &
Atonement

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/sacrifice-and-atonement/>



Behold the Lamb of God
by Andrew Peterson

HOPE

First Friday of Advent



Luke 1:76-79

⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."



A Message for Zachariah
<https://youtu.be/ZzwtVuk7JbY>



Zachariah by Rain for
Roots ft. Kate Bowser

HOPE

First Saturday of Advent



Revelation 21:1-4

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

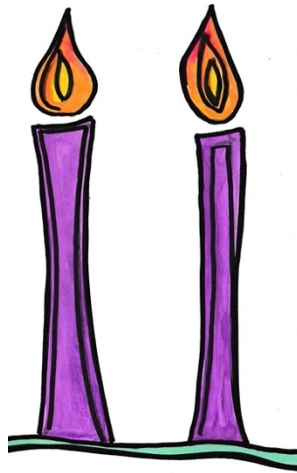


God's Kingdom Now and Forever

<https://vimeo.com/578207637>

PEACE

WEEK 2



PEACE

Second Sunday of Advent



Genesis 1:31-2:3

³¹ God saw everything he had made. And it was very good. There was evening, and there was morning. It was day six.

² ¹ So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing. So on that day he rested from all his work. ³ God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. He blessed it because on that day he rested from all the work he had done.

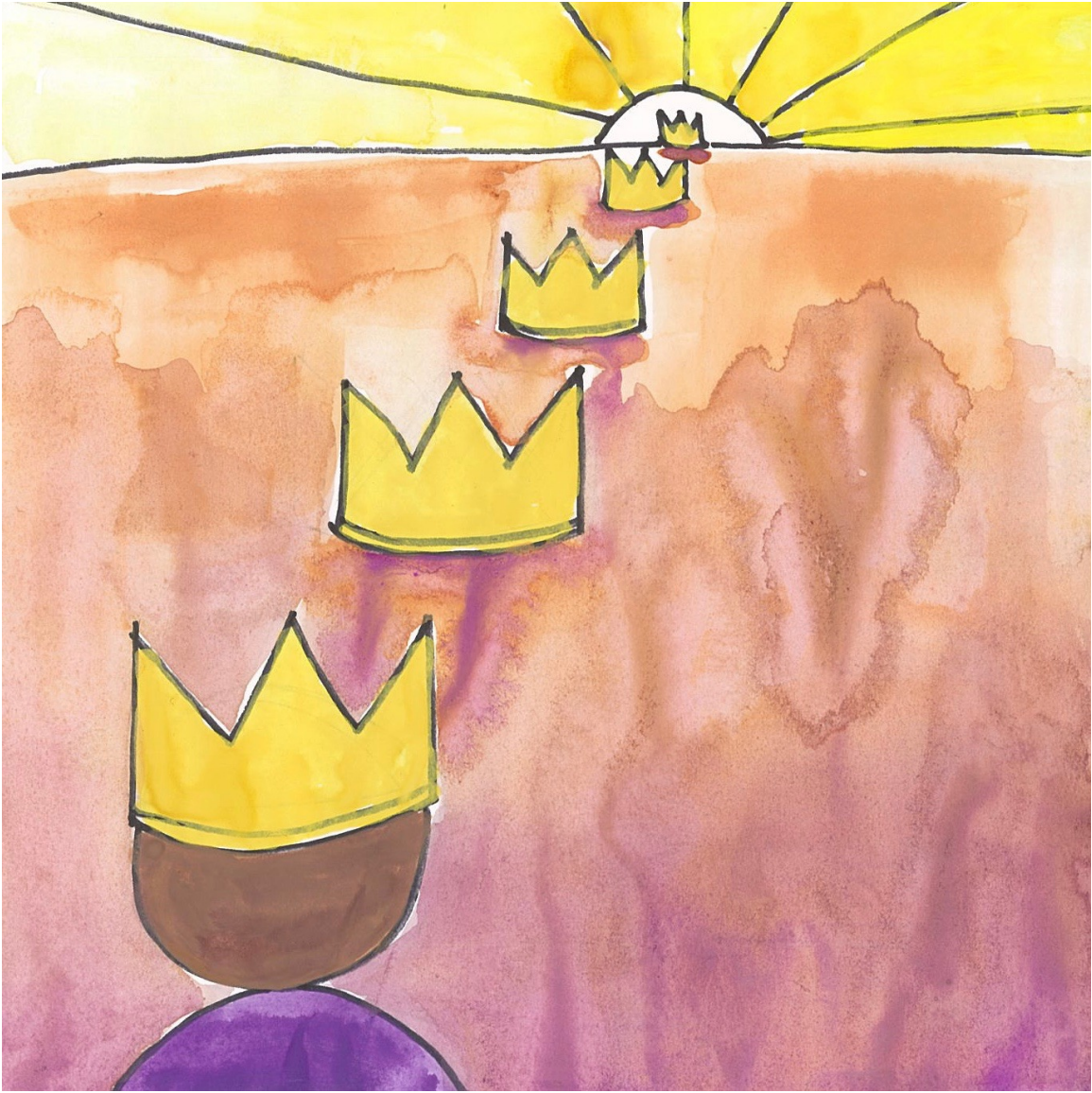


The Bible Project—Sabbath

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/sabbath-video/>

PEACE

Second Monday of Advent



2 Samuel 7:11-13,16

¹¹ "I tell you that I, the Lord, will set up a royal house for you. ¹² Some day your life will come to an end. You will join the members of your family who have already died. Then I will make one of your own sons the next king after you. And I will make his kingdom secure. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house where I will put my Name. I will set up the throne of his kingdom. It will last forever...

¹⁶ Your royal house and your kingdom will last forever in my sight. Your throne will last forever. "



Hail to the Lord's Anointed

By Indelible Grace Music, ft. Sandra McCracken

PEACE

Second Tuesday of Advent



Isaiah 9:6-7

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.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government
and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and
over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it with
justice and righteousness

from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will
accomplish this.



For Unto Us (From Handel's Messiah)
By Filharmonia Narodowa

PEACE

Second Wednesday of Advent



Isaiah 11:1-4, 9

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—³ and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth...

⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

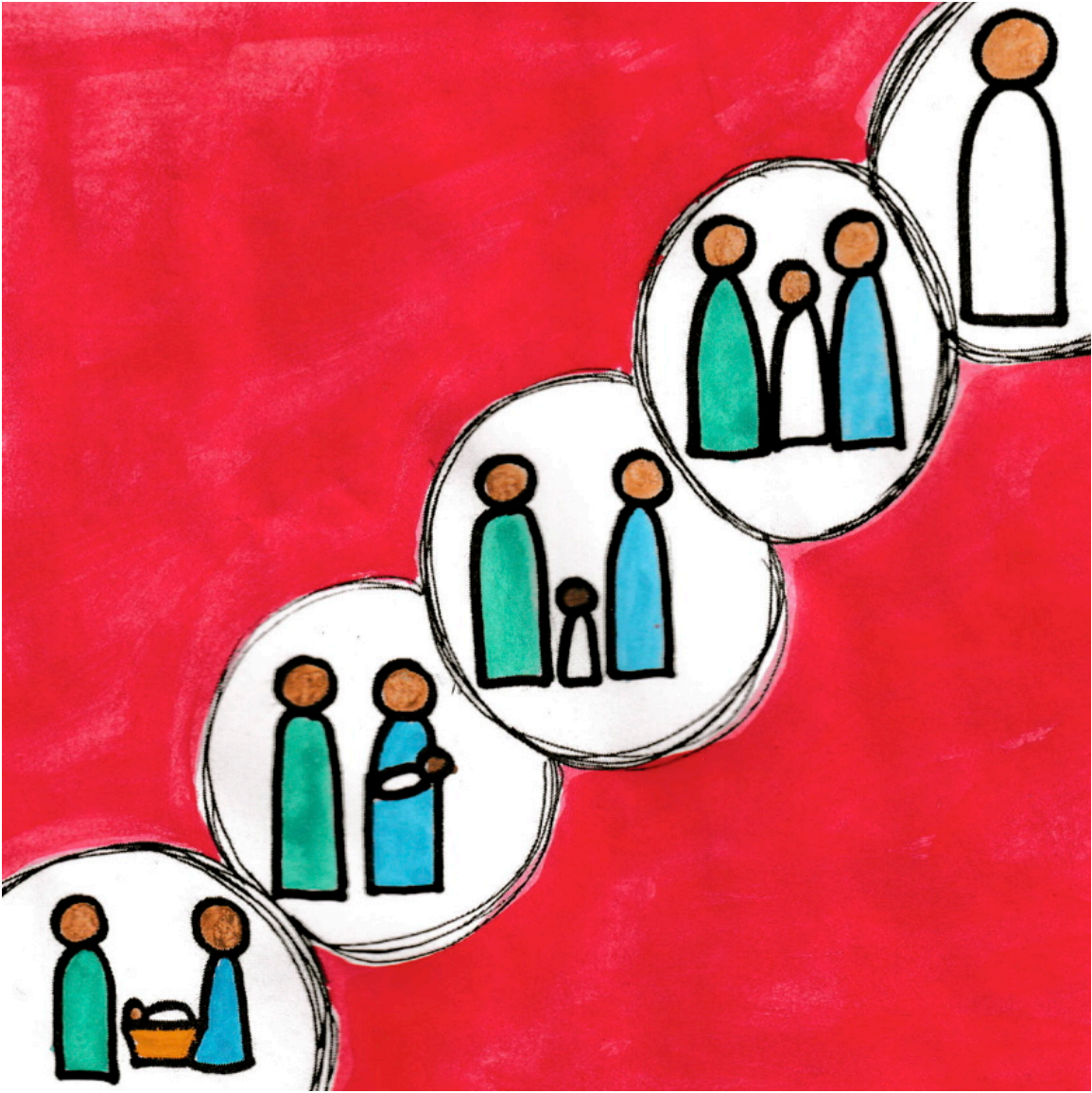


Isaiah 11

By Rain for Roots

PEACE

Second Thursday of Advent



Matthew 1:1, 16-17

¹ This is the written story of the family line of Jesus the Messiah. He is the son of David. He is also the son of Abraham...

¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary. And Mary was the mother of Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷ So there were 14 generations from Abraham to David. There were 14 from David until the Jewish people were forced to go away to Babylon. And there were 14 from that time to the Messiah.



Matthew's Begats
By Andrew Peterson

PEACE

Second Friday of Advent



Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² 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, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.



A Message for Mary

<https://youtu.be/P4aabmRd8N0>



He Shall Reign Forevermore

By Matt Maher

PEACE

Second Saturday of Advent



Micah 4:1-5

¹ In the last days the mountain where the Lord's temple is located will be famous. It will be the highest mountain of all. It will be lifted up above the hills. And nations will go to it.

² People from many nations will go there. They will say, "Come, let us go up to the Lord's mountain. Let's go to the temple of Jacob's God. He will teach us how we should live. Then we will live the way he wants us to." The law of the Lord will be taught at Zion. His message will go out from Jerusalem. ³ He will judge between people from many nations. He'll settle problems among strong nations everywhere. They will hammer their swords into plows. They'll hammer their spears into pruning tools. Nations will not go to war against one another. They won't even train to fight anymore. ⁴ Everyone will have their own vine and fig tree. And no one will make them afraid. That's what the Lord who rules over all has promised. ⁵ Other nations worship and trust in their gods. But we will worship and obey the Lord. He will be our God for ever and ever.



The Bible Project: Shalom / Peace

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/shalom-peace/>

JOY

WEEK 3



JOY

Third Sunday of Advent



Genesis 21:1-6

¹ The Lord was gracious to Sarah, just as he had said he would be. The Lord did for Sarah what he had promised to do. ² Sarah became pregnant. She had a son by Abraham when he was old. The child was born at the exact time God had promised. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah had by him. ⁴ When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him. He did it exactly as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

⁶ Sarah said, "God has given laughter to me. Everyone who hears about this will laugh with me."



God's Promise of
Descendants

<https://vimeo.com/468748510>



God Always Keeps His
Promises By Sovereign
Grace Music

JOY

Third Monday of Advent



1 Samuel 2:1-2, 7-8

¹ Then Hannah prayed. She said, “The Lord has filled my heart with joy. He has made me strong. I can laugh at my enemies. I’m so glad he saved me. ² “There isn’t anyone holy like the Lord. There isn’t anyone except him. There isn’t any Rock like our God...

⁷ The Lord makes people poor. He also makes people rich. He brings people down. He also lifts people up. ⁸ He raises poor people up from the trash pile. He lifts needy people out of the ashes. He lets them sit with princes. He gives them places of honor.



Great Rejoicing

By Rain for Roots ft. Sandra McCracken, Skye Peterson

JOY

Third Tuesday of Advent



Isaiah 40:1-5

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."



Every Valley (It's Hard to Wait) By Rain For Roots ft. Flo Paris



Comfort, Comfort My People By Page CXVI

JOY

Third Wednesday of Advent



Isaiah 60:1-5

¹ "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. ² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.



Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come
By Cardiphonia Music ft. Jered McKenna

JOY

Third Thursday of Advent



Zechariah 9:9-10

⁹“City of Zion, be full of joy! People of Jerusalem, shout! See, your king comes to you.

He always does what is right.

He will rule from ocean to ocean.

His kingdom will reach from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth.

He has won the victory.

He is humble and riding on a donkey.

He is sitting on a donkey's colt.

¹⁰ I will take the chariots away from Ephraim.

I will remove the war horses from Jerusalem.

I will break the bows that are used in battle. Your king will announce peace to the nations.



Jerusalem Welcomes Jesus

<https://vimeo.com/525254293>



Oh For Joy

By Folk Hymnal

JOY

Third Friday of Advent



Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."



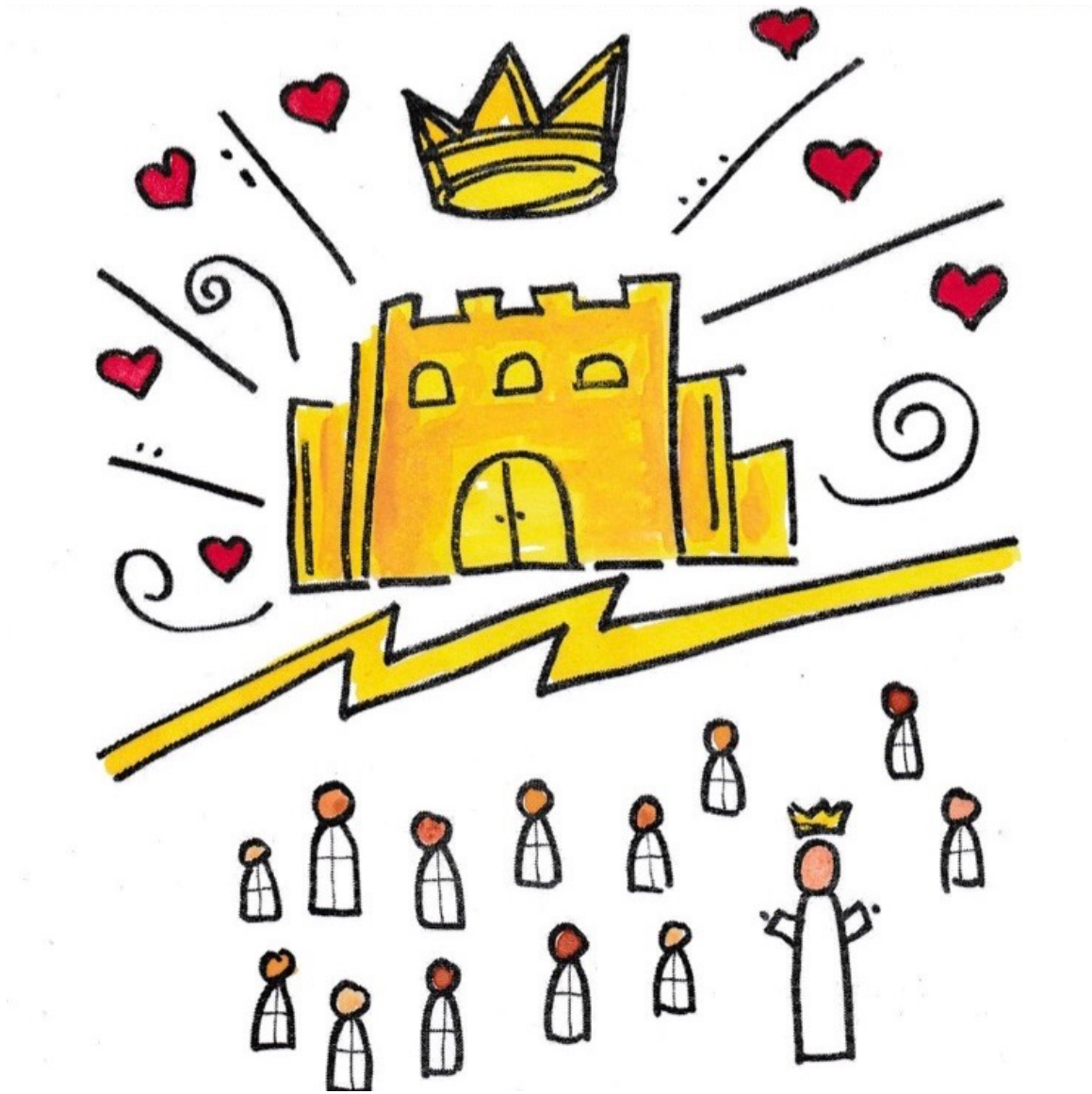
A Message for Joseph
<https://youtu.be/9KGN0ijPZlc>



Magnificat
By Keith & Kristyn Getty

JOY

Third Saturday of Advent



Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶ On Mount Zion the Lord who rules over all will prepare a feast for all the nations. The best and richest foods and the finest aged wines will be served. ⁷ On that mountain the Lord will destroy the veil of sadness that covers all the nations. He will destroy the gloom that is spread over everyone. ⁸ He will swallow up death forever. The Lord and King will wipe away the tears from everyone's face. He will remove the shame of his people from the whole earth. The Lord has spoken. ⁹ At that time they will say, "He is our God. We trusted in him, and he saved us. He is the Lord. We trusted in him. Let us be filled with joy because he saved us."



We Will Feast In the House of Zion
By Sandra McCracken

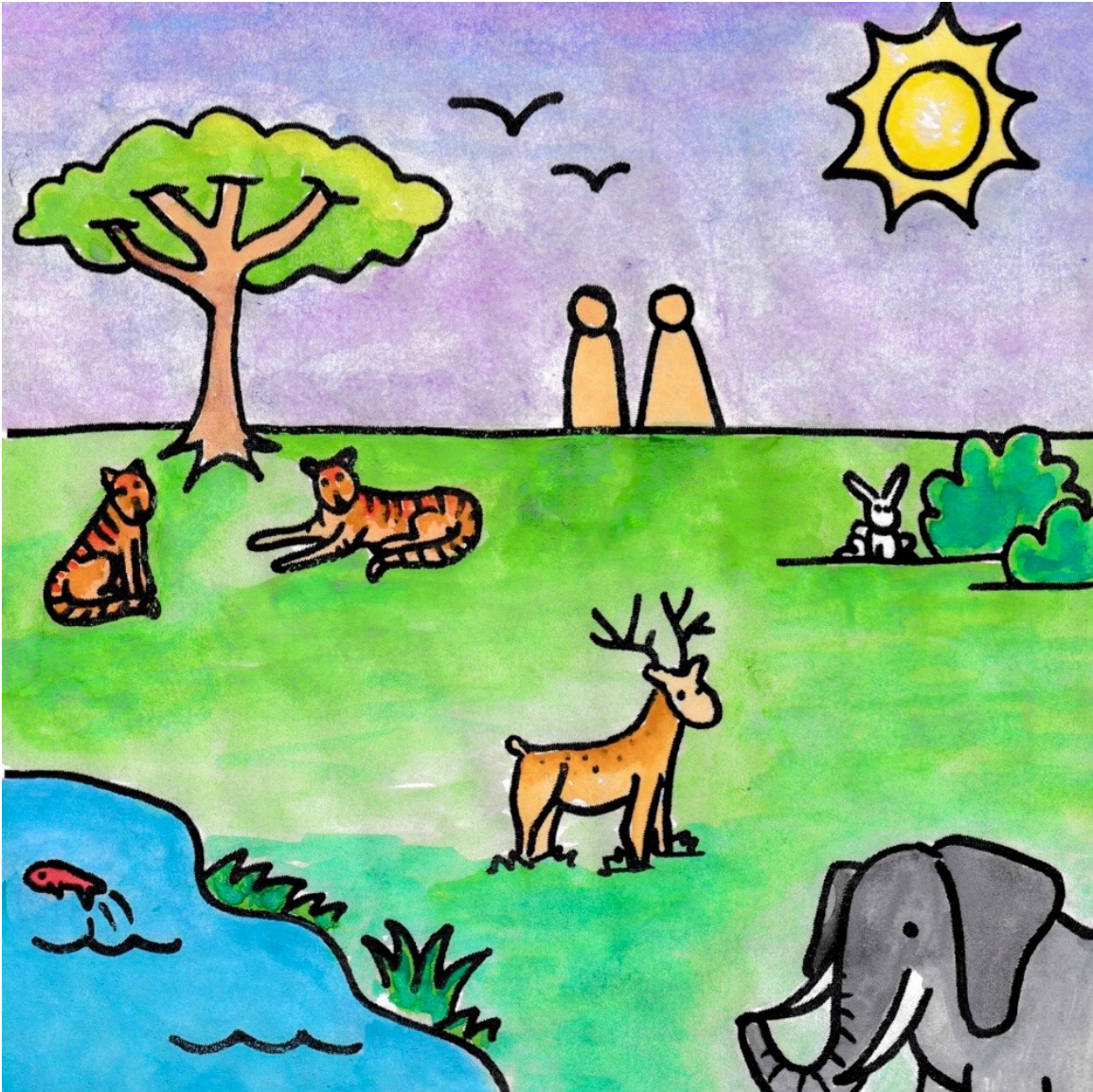
LOVE

WEEK 4



LOVE

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Genesis 1:1, 26-27, 31

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them...

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.



Creation (Form and Fill)

<https://vimeo.com/456755105>

LOVE

Fourth Monday of Advent



Deuteronomy 4:32, 37-40

³² Ask now about the days of long ago. Find out what happened long before your time. Ask about what has happened since the time God created human beings on the earth. Ask from one end of the world to the other. Has anything as great as this ever happened? Has anything like it ever been heard of?...

³⁷ He loved your people of long ago. He chose their children after them. So he brought you out of Egypt. He used his great strength to do it. ³⁸ He drove out nations to make room for you. They were greater and stronger than you are. He will bring you into their land. He wants to give it to you as your very own. The whole land is as good as yours right now.

³⁹ The Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. Today you must agree with that and take it to heart. There is no other God. ⁴⁰ I'm giving you his rules and commands today. Obey them. Then things will go well with you and your children after you. You will live a long time in the land. The Lord your God is giving you the land for all time to come.



O God Our Help in Ages Past
By Nathan Drake

LOVE

Fourth Tuesday of Advent



Jeremiah 31:19-20

¹⁹ After we wandered away from you, we turned away from our sins. After we learned our lesson, we beat our chests in sorrow. We were full of shame. What we did when we were young brought dishonor on us.' ²⁰ Aren't the people of Ephraim my dear children? Aren't they the children I take delight in? I often speak against them. But I still remember them. So my heart longs for them. I love them with a tender love," announces the Lord.

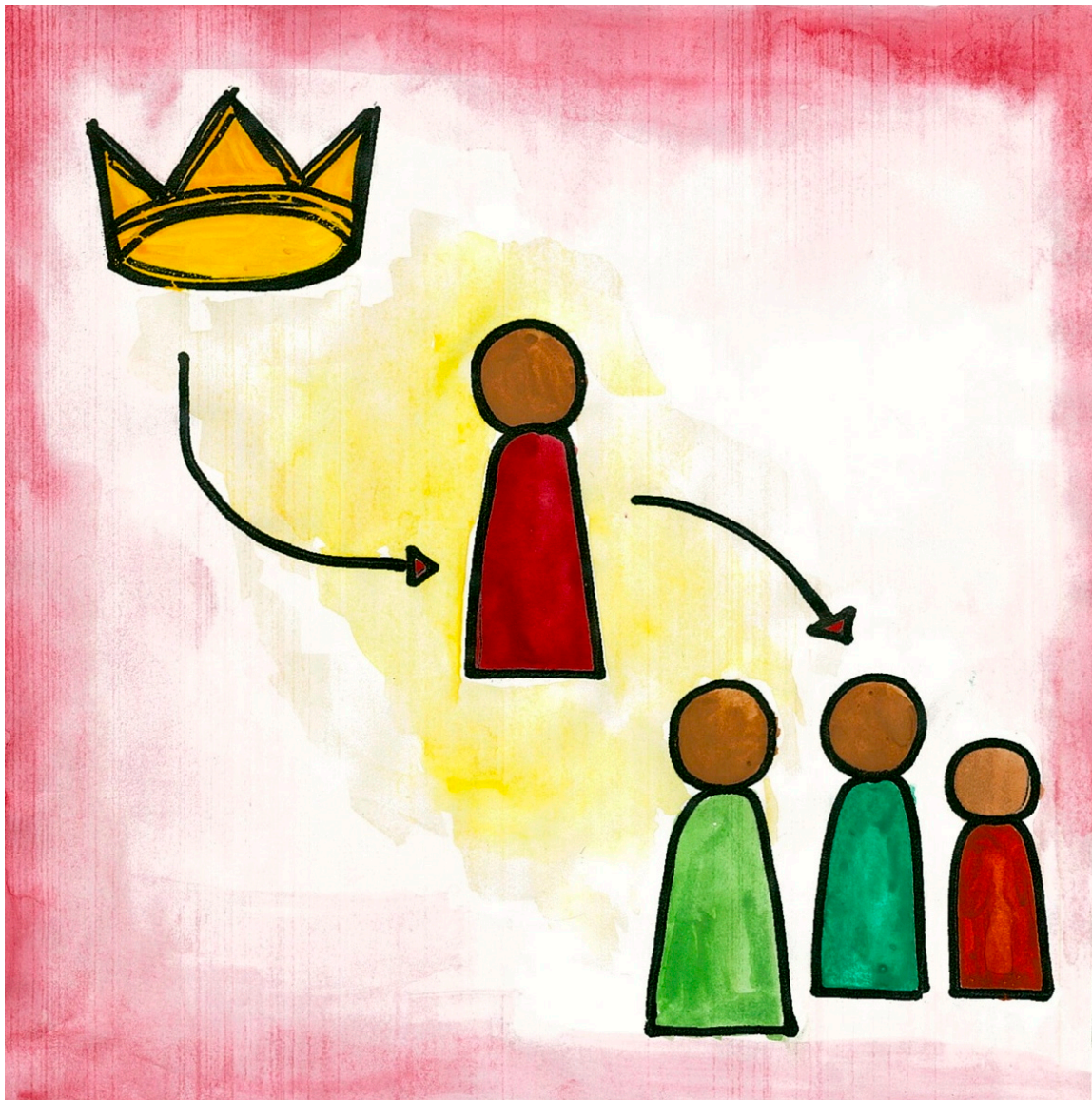


I Wait

By All Sons and Daughters

LOVE

Fourth Wednesday of Advent



Zephaniah 3:14-17

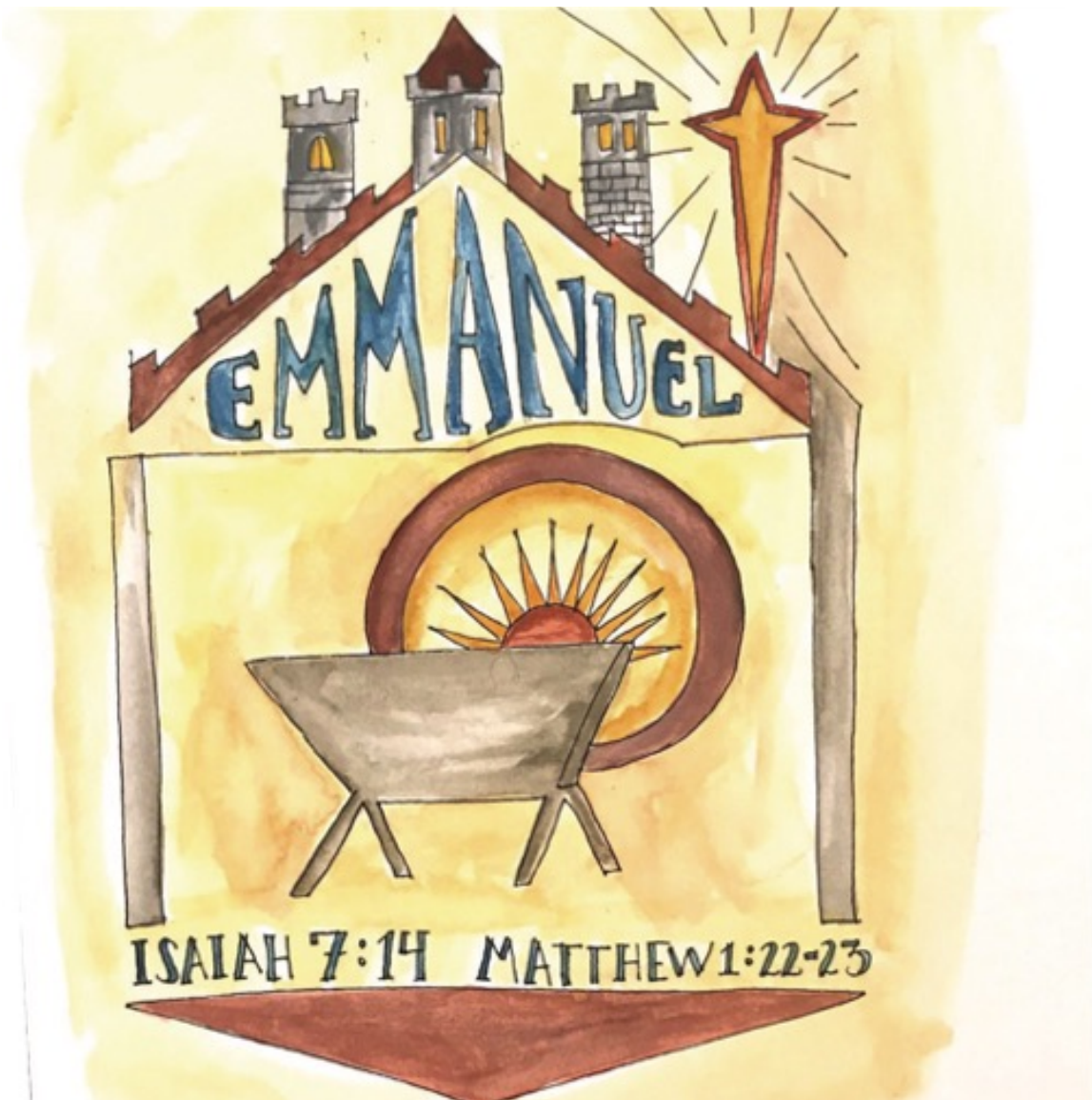
¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."



He Will Rejoice
By Slugs and Bugs

LOVE

Fourth Thursday of Advent



Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:20-23

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

1²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”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.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).



O Come O Come Emmanuel
By Red Mountain Church

CHRISTMAS

DEC 24-25

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24



Luke 2:1-21

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ 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.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.



Hark the Herald Angels Sing
By Citizens



Joy to the World
By Keith and Kristyn Getty



A Child Is Born
https://youtu.be/uw2gQRn_lhs

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25



John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 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 testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



O Come All Ye Faithful

By Choir of King's College, Cambridge



What Child is This?

By Sovereign Grace Music

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

BY CHRISTINA ROSSETTI

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.