

# Table of Contents

<b>Preface</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction to Advent</b>	<b>5</b>
The Days of Advent	5
Advent Wreath Traditions	5
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>References and Abbreviations</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>First Week of Advent</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>1. Gabriel's Announcement to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)</b>	<b>15</b>
Gabriel's Message	15
How Will This Be? (Luke 1:34)	16
The Literal Son of God (Luke 1:35)	16
<b>2. Blessed Are You Among Women (Luke 1:39-45)</b>	<b>19</b>
Blessed Are You among Women	19
The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)	20
<b>3. Christ Comes to His Rightful Kingdom (Genesis 49:10)</b>	<b>22</b>
The Lion of Judah (Genesis 49:9; Revelation 5:5)	22
The Scepter, the Ruler's Staff (Genesis 49:10a-b)	23
Until He Comes to Whom It Belongs (Genesis 49:10c)	23
The Obedience of the Nations (Genesis 49:10d)	24
<b>4. The Seed and the Sacrifice (Genesis 22:8, 18)</b>	<b>26</b>
God Will Provide the Lamb (Genesis 22:2-14)	26
Through Your Seed All Nations Will be Blessed (Genesis 22:16-18)	26
The Seed is Christ (Galatians 3:16)	27
<b>5. A Great Light Has Dawned (Isaiah 9:1-2)</b>	<b>29</b>
Zebulun and Naphtali	29
Great Light	30
<b>6. For unto Us a Child Is Born (Isaiah 9:6)</b>	<b>33</b>
Wonderful Counselor	33
Mighty God	34
Everlasting Father	34
Prince of Peace	35

<b>7. Reigning on David's Throne (Isaiah 9:6-7)</b>	<b>37</b>
1. His Kingdom Is the Fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant	38
2. His Kingdom Will Continue to Increase	38
3. His Kingdom Will Bring Peace	38
4. His Kingdom Will Never End	38
5. His Kingdom Will Be Just and Righteous	39
6. His Kingdom Will Come by His Own Hand	39
<b>Second Week of Advent</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Day 8. The Angel Appears to Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)</b>	<b>41</b>
Pregnant (Matthew 1:18)	41
A Quiet Divorce (Matthew 1:19)	42
The Angel of the Lord (Matthew 1:20-21)	42
Emmanuel, God with Us (Matthew 1:22-23)	43
Joseph Obeys the Lord (Matthew 1:24-25)	43
The Two Names – Jesus and Emmanuel	43
<b>9. Today I Have Begotten You (Psalm 2)</b>	<b>45</b>
The Nations Conspire against the Messiah (Psalm 2:1-6)	45
You Are My Son (Psalm 2:7-9)	46
Kiss the Son (Psalm 2:10-12)	47
<b>10. A Priest Like Melchizedek (Psalm 110)</b>	<b>49</b>
Read in the Bible: Psalm 110	49
The Messiah Is Greater than David (Psalm 110:1)	49
A Universal Messianic Rule (Psalm 110:2-3)	49
The Eternal Priest from Melchizedek's Order (Psalm 110:4)	50
Messiah Will Subdue and Judge the Nations (Psalm 110:5-7)	51
<b>11. The Spirit Will Rest upon Him (Isaiah 11:1-3)</b>	<b>52</b>
Read in the Bible: Isaiah 11:1-10	52
A Shoot from the Stump of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1-5)	52
The Spirit of the Lord upon the Messiah (11:2-3a)	53
<b>12. Messiah's Righteousness and Justice (Isaiah 11:3-5)</b>	<b>55</b>
Justice for the Poor	55
A Special Focus on the Poor, the Needy, and the Alien	56
Righteousness Will Be His Belt (Isaiah 11:4b-5)	57
<b>13. The Peace of the Messiah (Isaiah 11:6-10)</b>	<b>59</b>
Read again in the Bible: Isaiah 11:1-10	59
Predators (Isaiah 11:6-8)	59

Prey (Isaiah 11:6-8)	61
Neither Harm nor Destroy (Isaiah 11:9a)	61
The Knowledge of the Lord (Isaiah 11:9b-10)	62
Knowing You	63
<b>14. In the Fullness of Time (Galatians 4:4-5)</b>	<b>65</b>
When the Time Had Fully Come (Galatians 4:4a)	65
God Sent His Son, Born of a Woman, Born under Law (Galatians 4:4)	66
To Redeem Those under the Law (Galatians 4:5a)	66
Adoption or Instatement as Sons (Galatians 4:5b)	67
Co-Heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17)	68
In God's Time	68
<b>Third Week of Advent</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>15. Birth in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)</b>	<b>69</b>
Jesus Is Born in History (Luke 2:1-2)	69
Jesus Is Born in David's Birthplace (Luke 2:3-4)	70
Jesus' Birth is Attended by Hardship (Luke 2:5-6)	70
Jesus Is Born in Humble Circumstances (Luke 2:7)	71
<b>16. Glory to God in the Highest (Luke 2:8-14)</b>	<b>74</b>
The Glory of the Lord (Luke 2:9)	74
The Good News Angel (Luke 2:10-11)	74
Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11)	75
At the Sign of a Manger (Luke 2:12)	76
Glory to God in the Highest (Luke 2:13-14)	76
<b>17. The Shepherds Visit the Christ Child (Luke 2:15-20)</b>	<b>79</b>
Shepherds	79
The Shepherd's Response (Luke 2:15-18)	80
Spreading the News (Luke 2:18)	80
Mary Ponders the Shepherd's Report (Luke 2:19)	80
Joyful Shepherds (Luke 2:20)	81
God Brings Good News to the Humble	81
<b>18. Image of the Invisible God (Colossians 1:15-20)</b>	<b>83</b>
Cameo 1. Image of the Invisible God (Colossians 1:15a)	83
Cameo 2. Firstborn Over All Creation (Colossians 1:15b-16)	84
Cameo 3. Before All Things (Colossians 1:17a)	84
Cameo 4. In Him All Things Hold Together (Colossians 1:17b)	85
Cameo 5. Head of the Body, the Church (Colossians 1:18a)	85

Cameo 6. The Beginning (Colossians 1:18b)	85
Cameo 7. Firstborn from Among the Dead (Colossians 1:18c)	85
Preeminence and the Fulness of God (Colossians 1:18d)	86
Reconcile All Things to God (Colossians 1:20a)	86
<b>19. Who Can Endure the Day of His Coming? (Malachi 3:1-4)</b>	<b>88</b>
The Two Messengers (Malachi 3:1)	88
1. The Messenger Who Prepares the Way	89
2. The Messenger of the Covenant	89
<b>20. The Blessing of Simeon (Luke 2:25-35)</b>	<b>92</b>
Pious Simeon (Luke 2:25)	92
Waiting for the Holy Spirit's Promise (Luke 2:25-26)	93
Simeon Meets the Holy Family in the Temple Courts (Luke 2:27-28)	94
Simeon's Prophetic Praise (Luke 2:29-33)	94
Simeon's Prophecy to Mary (2:34-35)	95
<b>21. The Blessing of Anna (Luke 2:36-38)</b>	<b>97</b>
The Prophetess Anna (Luke 2:36-37)	97
The Redemption of Jerusalem (Luke 2:38)	97
The Character of Useful Servants	98
<b>Fourth Week of Advent</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>22. Wise Men from the East (Matthew 2:1-6)</b>	<b>100</b>
Who Are the Magi? (Matthew 2:1)	100
What Kind of "Star" Did They See? (Matthew 2:2)	101
Why Was Herod Disturbed? (Matthew 2:3)	102
Where Was the Messiah to Be Born? (Matthew 2:4-6)	103
An Independent Streak	103
<b>Christmas Day. We Have Seen His Glory (John 1:1-14)</b>	<b>105</b>
Read in the Bible: John 1:1-14	105
The Word Was God (John 1:1-4)	105
The War between Light and Darkness (John 1:5)	106
The Light Is Not Recognized or Received by All (John 1:9-13)	106
The Word Became Flesh (John 1:14a)	107
Glory of the 'Only-Begotten' (John 1:14b)	107
<b>23. Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh (Matthew 2:7-12)</b>	<b>110</b>
Herod's Plot (Matthew 2:7-8)	110
Led by the Star (Matthew 2:9-10)	110
Worshipping the King (Matthew 2:11a)	111

Offering Gifts to the King (Matthew 2:11b)	111
Avoiding Herod (Matthew 2:12)	113
<b>24. The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-23)</b>	<b>114</b>
Joseph's Dream (Matthew 2:13)	114
The Road to Egypt (Matthew 2:14-15)	114
The Slaughter of the Innocents (Matthew 2:16-18)	115
Reflections	116
<b>25. The Everlasting Kingdom of the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14)</b>	<b>118</b>
One Like a Son of Man (Daniel 7:13a)	118
Coming with the Clouds of Heaven (7:13b)	118
Beginnings	120
<b>26. The Boy Jesus (Luke 2:39-52)</b>	<b>122</b>
Infused with the Grace of God (Luke 2:39-40)	122
Annual Trip to Jerusalem for Passover (Luke 2:41-45)	123
Sitting among the Teachers in the Temple (2:46-47)	123
My Father's House (Luke 2:48-50)	124
Obeying His Parents (Luke 2:51a)	124
<b>27. The Suffering Servant (Matthew 1:21; Isaiah 53:4-6)</b>	<b>127</b>
Stricken by God (Isaiah 53:4)	127
Pierced for Our Transgressions (Isaiah 53:5-6)	128
Christmas and the Cross	130
<b>28. He Emptied Himself (Philippians 2:5-11)</b>	<b>132</b>
Equality with God (Philippians 2:5-6)	132
Emptied Himself (Philippians 2:7-8a)	132
Humbled and Exalted (Philippians 2:8b-11)	134
Christmas and Christ's Humbling	135
<b>Appendix 1. Advent Sunday Candle Readings</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Appendix 1a. God's Blessings Candles (Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love)</b>	<b>137</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. The Hope Candle	137
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent. The Peace Candle	138
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent. The Joy Candle	139
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. The Love Candle	140
Christmas Day (or Christmas Eve). The Christ Candle	141
<b>Appendix 1b. Christmas Story Candles (Prophecy, Bethlehem, Shepherd, Angel)</b>	<b>143</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. The Messiah or Prophecy Candle	143
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent. The Bethlehem Candle	144

3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent. The Shepherd Candle	145
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. The Angel Candle	147
Christmas Day (or Christmas Eve). The Christ Candle	148
<b>Appendix 1c. UK Tradition Candles (Hope, Prophecies, John the Baptist, Mary)</b>	<b>150</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. The Hope Candle	150
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent. The Old Testament Prophets' Candle	151
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent. The John the Baptist Candle	152
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. The Mary Candle	153
Christmas Day (or Christmas Eve). The Christ Candle	155
<b>Appendix 2. Advent Dates 2021 – 2040</b>	<b>157</b>