

# ADVENT: READINGS & PRAYERS

## Christmas Celebration



[Re-light the first four candles.]

### READING

In the season of Advent we have prepared for this great celebration of the birth of Christ. When we lit the first candle, we asked God to come and be with us as we wait. When we lit the second candle, we asked God to come and forgive our sins. When we lit the third candle, we felt joyful even in our longing for Christ to come. When we lit the fourth candle, we remembered that Christ would come as a son - the son of Mary, the Son of David, and the Son of God! This Son has been born! He is Immanuel - God with us! Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ, Jesus the Good Shepherd, Jesus who forgives our sins, Jesus who will come again, Jesus the son of Mary, the Son of David, and the glorious Son of God!

### PRAYER

God, as we light the final candle today, may we celebrate with full joy the birth of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen!

### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

[As someone lights the final candle, the following should be read or paraphrased.]

We light this candle with great joy and celebration, because Christ is born in Bethlehem. God's Son has come into the world to be our Savior! And he will come again in glory.

### PRAYER

God, as we light this candle, we rejoice in the birth of your Son. May we worship him, welcome him, and make room for him in our hearts. O come, let us adore him! Amen!

### CLOSING SONG

[To be sung to the tune of "O come let us adore him" from "O Come All Ye Faithful."]

O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!