

ADVENT: READINGS & PRAYERS

Week 2 of Advent: Forgiveness



[Re-light the first candle.]

READING

Today we remember the meaning of Advent. Advent is a word that means “coming.” In the Christian season of Advent, we prepare for the “advent” of Christ at Christmas. Our preparation includes remembering. We remember Israel’s hope for the coming of God’s Messiah to save, forgive, and restore. We remember we are in darkness and exile, in need of a Savior. We remember our hope for the second coming of Jesus. By lighting one candle each week of Advent, we prepare to welcome Jesus Christ into our world and hearts. Today we focus on God’s forgiveness.

PRAYER

God, thank you for this season of Advent that helps us prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. As we read your Word and light a candle, may excitement for Christ’s coming burn in our hearts. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

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

We light this candle because we need a Savior who will forgive our sins.

PRAYER

God, as we light this candle, we recognize our sin and our need for a Savior. We wait for your forgiveness in Christ. We long to know you and be your people. Come, Our Savior! Amen!

CLOSING SONG

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

O come to us, forgive us,
O come to us, forgive us,
O come to us, forgive us,
Christ the Lord!