

ADVENT: READINGS & PRAYERS

Week 4 of Advent: Coming of Christ



[Re-light the first three candles.]

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 the coming of Christ the Messiah.

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

Luke 1:26-38

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

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

We light this candle because we look forward with eagerness to the birth of a child, the son of Mary and the Son of God!

PRAYER

God, as we light this candle, we look ahead with hope to the birth of your Son. May we be prepared to welcome him with open arms and open hearts. O come now, Son of David! Amen!

CLOSING SONG

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

O come now, Son of David,
O come now, Son of David,
O come now, Son of David,
Christ the Lord!