

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



Daily devotional written by Adam Anglin for Fellowship Denver Church

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian liturgical year—a season that centers our hearts on hope, anticipation, and the promise of renewal.

The word Advent means “arrival of a notable person”. It holds two expressions:

THE FUTURE ADVENT

The return of King Jesus, who will wipe sin from the earth and make all things new (Revelation 21:5).

THE FIRST ADVENT

Detailed in the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). The humble arrival of Jesus as a baby, come to rescue His people from their sins.

As we move through this devotional leading up to Christmas, our focus will shift from the future Advent to the first. This journey invites us to recognize our deep need for Jesus and to set our hope in Him as we long for a world where:

*“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more,
neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor
pain anymore,
for the former things have passed away.”*

— Revelation 21:4

How to Use This Devotional

Each day includes five sections:

Scripture — A daily passage to read slowly and prayerfully. Try reading it 2 or 3 times

Reflection — A brief meditation to guide your thoughts

Prayer — A written or personal response to God.

Practice — A small act or discipline to embody the day's theme

Song — A musical reflection to deepen your contemplation

Take 10–15 minutes for each devotional. Write out your reflections, journal your practices, and revisit the previous day's reading before beginning the next. Let this rhythm shape your waiting.

WEEKLY THEMES

Week 1: The Long Night

Slow down. Fix your eyes on Jesus. Look longingly toward His return to make all things new. Recognize your need for personal transformation.

Week 2: Prepare the Way

Trust the Lord's timing. Cultivate hope and perseverance as you make room for His work.

Week 3: Joy of the Coming King

Build anticipation for the King's arrival. Stir your affections, remember God's faithfulness, and rejoice in Him.

Week 4: The Arrival

Christ has come! Let His people rejoice and be glad.

ADVENT PLAYLIST

Each day's song offers a creative way to reflect on the devotional theme. A QR code for the Advent playlist is provided below. Not every song is explicitly a worship song, yet each one has been chosen to widen our imagination and draw us deeper into the wonder of Advent.

Apple:



Spotify:



WEEK 1:

The Long Night

DAY 1 - THE CRY FOR DELIVERANCE

Scripture: Isaiah 64

Reflection: Advent begins not with a “silent night” but a loud shout for God to “rend the heavens and come down” for we are wasting away in our iniquities.

Prayer: Lord, keep me from numbness and save me from my sin.

Practice: Lament one injustice aloud.

Song: When The Light Is Gone - Paul Zach

DAY 2 - THE WORLD NOT AS IT SHOULD BE

Scripture: Habakkuk 1:1–4

Reflection: Justice goes forth perverted as prophets shake their fists. Holy impatience. Faith refuses to call darkness light.

Prayer: Lord, give me prophetic honesty and remove injustice within me.

Practice: Take a moment to name the world's false comforts and where you feel most tempted.

Song: Grace - Hiss Golden Messenger

DAY 3 - WAITING WITHOUT CONTROL

Scripture: Psalm 130

Reflection: Advent is for those who wait without power, without

answers. "More than watchmen for the morning." Those who know darkness by name.

Prayer: Lord, teach me patient hope and grant me trust that You are faithful.

Practice: Light a candle and sit in silence for 3 minutes.

Song: Sleeping Ute - Grizzly Bear

DAY 4 - HOPE AGAINST HOPE

Scripture: Romans 8:18–25

Reflection: Hope here is courageous. It is not timid or afraid. This is a strong, confident and powerful hope. One that endures with patience for its present suffering will not compare to the "glory that is to be revealed".

Prayer: Lord, birth new hope in me.

Practice: Encourage someone living in pain.

Song: To Dance With Death - Liz Vice

DAY 5 - THE JUDGE WHO COMES TO SAVE

Scripture: Psalm 96

Reflection: Judgment sounds like a gavel of dread, yet Scripture insists it is joy for the creation. The Judge arrives to put things right. Every wrong is unmade. Every lie silenced.

Prayer: Lord, judge me faithful in Christ.

Practice: Where did I notice wrong today? Ask God to make it right.

Song: Kingdom - Allie Paige

DAY 6 - THE IN-BREAKING OF GOD

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

Reflection: John thunders through the desert: Someone stronger is coming. The kingdom of God is not an idea but an invasion.

Prayer: Lord, make straight what is crooked in me.

Practice: Confess your sin and practice one act of repentance.

Song: Saturn - Sleeping At Last

DAY 7 - THE GOD WHO INTERRUPTS

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Reflection: Mary's "yes" interrupts the regular order of the universe. Advent faith agrees to be disrupted by God's rescue mission.

Prayer: Lord, give me a willing heart.

Practice: Rearrange one plan today in obedience to love.

Song: Take My Life and Let It Be - Paul Zach (featuring Liz Vice)

WEEK 2:

Prepare The Way

DAY 8 - A LIGHT FOR THOSE IN SHADOW

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reflection: Light dawns where death casts its shadow. God does not avoid darkness; light sets up camp in it.

Prayer: Lord, break my fear of the dark.

Practice: Sit in silence and observe the quiet space around you.

Song: All Shall Be Well - John Van Deusen

DAY 9 - GOD'S REVOLUTION BEGINS IN THE WOMB

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Reflection: Magnificat is a battle song. Exalted valleys. Toppled thrones. A teenage girl proclaims the end of tyranny.

Prayer: Lord, make me fearless with hope.

Practice: Give money or time towards someone in need.

Song: When Your Kingdom Comes - Paul Zach (featuring Jessica Fox)

DAY 10 - THE HOLY OFFENSE

Scripture: Matthew 11:2-6

Reflection: Jesus offends expectations. His power comes disguised in weakness. Advent reveals a Savior not as we would choose.

Prayer: Lord, deliver me from selective belief.

Practice: Confess one expectation you must surrender.

Song: Be Still - Loud Harp

DAY 11 - THE PATIENCE OF THE FARMER

Scripture: James 5:7-10

Reflection: Faith is not passive waiting; it is tense, alert expectation. Farmers trust invisible processes.

Prayer: Lord, ripen my perseverance.

Practice: Tend to something growing: a plant, a relationship, your faith.

Song: Waiting On The Lord - Allie Paige

DAY 12 - THE WILDERNESS SCHOOL

Scripture: Exodus 16:1-18

Reflection: God trains His people in the barren places where idols crumble. Wilderness stirs a hunger for the Lord and his provision.

Prayer: Lord, feed me with enough. Be my provision and root out all this is not of You.

Practice: Simplify one consumption habit.

Song: Slow Me Down - Jon Guerra and Sandra McCracken

DAY 13 - THE NEARNESS OF THE KINGDOM

Scripture: Luke 10:1-12

Reflection: The kingdom presses close, seeking welcome.

Prayer: Lord, make me a herald of peace.

Practice: Wish peace to a stranger.

Song: Everything That Rises - Sufjan Stevens

DAY 14 - A FURNACE OF REFINING

Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4

Reflection: Advent fire purifies what love cannot tolerate. Gold is revealed in heat.

Prayer: Lord, refine my stubborn soul.

Practice: Choose one habit to surrender to God's cleansing.

Song: I Must Believe In The Morning - Tow'rs

WEEK 3:

Joy Of The Coming King

DAY 15 - JOY IN ALL THINGS

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7

Reflection: Joy here is a command. Christ's nearness is the source, not our circumstances.

Prayer: Lord, guard my heart with peace.

Practice: Thank someone who has carried you in a hard season.

Song: Have You Stopped To Notice - S. Carey

DAY 16 - BLOSSOMS IN THE DESERT

Scripture: Isaiah 35

Reflection: God brings a carnival to a desolate place. Dry land becomes an orchestra. Creation itself rejoices in splendor.

Prayer: Lord, give me eyes for hidden beauty.

Practice: Take a walk. Notice one living thing persevering.

Song: A City No Longer Forsaken - Jamie Barnes

DAY 17 - OFFENDED JOY

Scripture: Luke 7:18–23

Reflection: Joy persists even when Jesus does not behave the way we expected. Joy trusts His works over our assumptions.

Prayer: Lord, grant me holy surprise.

Practice: Affirm one thing that perplexes you about God.

Song: Hej, Me I'm Light - Phosphorescent

DAY 18 - PRISONERS OF HOPE

Scripture: Zechariah 9:9–12

Reflection: The King returns triumphant, disarming warhorses and speaking peace to the nations. Ruling from sea to sea.

Prayer: Lord, lead me out of my inner prison.

Practice: Release one grievance.

Song: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - Page CXVI

DAY 19 - THE DANCE OF MERCY

Scripture: Luke 15:1–10

Reflection: Joy in heaven erupts not at polished perfection, but at lost ones found.

Prayer: Lord, shape my heart to celebrate redemption today.

Practice: Celebrate someone who has recently come to faith.

Song: Ancient Doors - Josh Garrels

DAY 20 - ADVENT IN THE PIT

Scripture: Psalm 40:1-5

Reflection: God enters mud before lifting us out.

Prayer: Rescue me from the pit.

Practice: Name the pit honestly, to God or to a trusted friend.

Song: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus - John Van Deusen

DAY 21 - STRENGTH FOR WEAK HANDS

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-3

Reflection: Christ runs before us. Joy carries Him through suffering. We follow in His steps of victory.

Prayer: Lord, fix my eyes on Jesus.

Practice: Encourage someone weary in faith.

Song: What Child Is This? - John Van Deusen

WEEK 4:

The Arrival

DAY 22 - THE KING IN SWADDLING CLOTH

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

Reflection: Power comes wrapped in vulnerability. Straw becomes a throne.

Prayer: Lord, rule my heart in humility.

Practice: Serve someone unnoticed.

Song: Silent Night - Sufjan Stevens

DAY 23 - GLORY FOR THE LOWLY

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Reflection: The first to hear good news are those who smell like sheep. Shepherds. God favors the overlooked watchmen of the night.

Prayer: Lord, help me seek Your glory in unlikely places.

Practice: Bless someone who often feels unseen.

Song: O Come All Ye Faithful - Garden City Music

DAY 24 - GOD WITH US IN THE RUINS

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-18

Reflection: Bethlehem's joy shakes Herod's throne. The birth of Christ provokes violence because evil knows its time is short. Christmas is not escape; it is revolt.

Prayer: Lord, would you protect the vulnerable.

Practice: Pray for the vulnerable in your community.

Song: Comfort, O Comfort - Caroline Cobb

DAY 25 - THE WORD MADE FLESH

Scripture: John 1:1-14

Reflection: Everything Advent aches for arrives in a Person. God enters in. The future invades the present. The Light shines and refuses to go out.

Prayer: Lord, make Your home in me that I would be welcomed in as a child to Your family.

Practice: Feast with thanksgiving. Christ has come. Christ will come again.

Song: Joy To The World - Nat "King" Cole

Journey through Advent with Handel's Messiah

George Friderich Handel's Messiah is a great way to enjoy Advent.

Debuting in 1742, the composer's work puts the words of Scripture to music, moving from the Psalms and Prophets to Gospels to Revelation.

Fellowship Denver member Larry Hunt has written a guide to Messiah. It includes explanations of each major movement and links to the best recorded performances.

Enjoy it at lshunt.substack.com



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