

The Living Hope Advent Liturgy

Rituals and Reflections for your Household



Welcome to the Season of
Advent!

Weekly Household Reflections

- Advent 1 - Nov 29
- Advent 2 - Dec 6
- Advent 3 - Dec 13
- Advent 4 - Dec 20
- Advent 5 - Dec 24

What's inside?

This simple liturgy is an invitation to pause and reflect during this busy season.

Step into the sights and sounds of Advent through Scripture, music and art.

What is Advent?

Look - Listen - Explore

Advent is the season of reflection and anticipation leading up to Christmas Eve. As the Christmas season rolls along, full of the plans, activities, decorations and pressures, Advent reminds us to take a moment to consider, to reflect on who makes all of this preparation worthwhile.

These weekly liturgies are each based on a song and a character from the Christmas story as told to us in the book of Luke.

Each weekly reflection invites readers to reflect and wonder through scripture accompanied by a song and an image.

Take a moment to add these songs to your household playlist. And look closely at these images - What do you notice? What do you feel? What do you wonder?

Use these liturgies in any way that works best for your situation.

An Advent wreath with 5 candles is traditional, however, your household might choose to only light one candle. Or perhaps you create an Advent collection through the weekly Explore activities. Maybe your household uses a special calendar.

These physical expressions are important for embodying the season.

Choose a way to embody the season that works for your household.



Your Advent Celebrations don't have to be complicated!

Week 1

Song of Mary - Hope

Luke 1:46-55

Mary responded,

**"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.
How my spirit rejoices in God my
Savior!"**

**For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will
call me blessed.**

**For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.
He shows mercy from generation to
generation to all who fear him.**

**His mighty arm has done tremendous
things!**

**He has scattered the proud and haughty
ones.**

**He has brought down princes from their
thrones and exalted the humble.**

**He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty
hands.**

**He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.**

**For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever."**

The *Jesus Storybook Bible* says that "Mary trusted God more than what her eyes could see. And she believed" when the angel spoke to her. This is the song that came from her heart when she believed.

What does it look like to trust God "more than your eyes can see"?

Trust is a hopeful posture. How does trust feel? How does hope feel?

I wonder how Mary felt when she saw the angel? I wonder what he sounded like?

I wonder what "tremendous things" you have seen God do. What do you hope He will do?

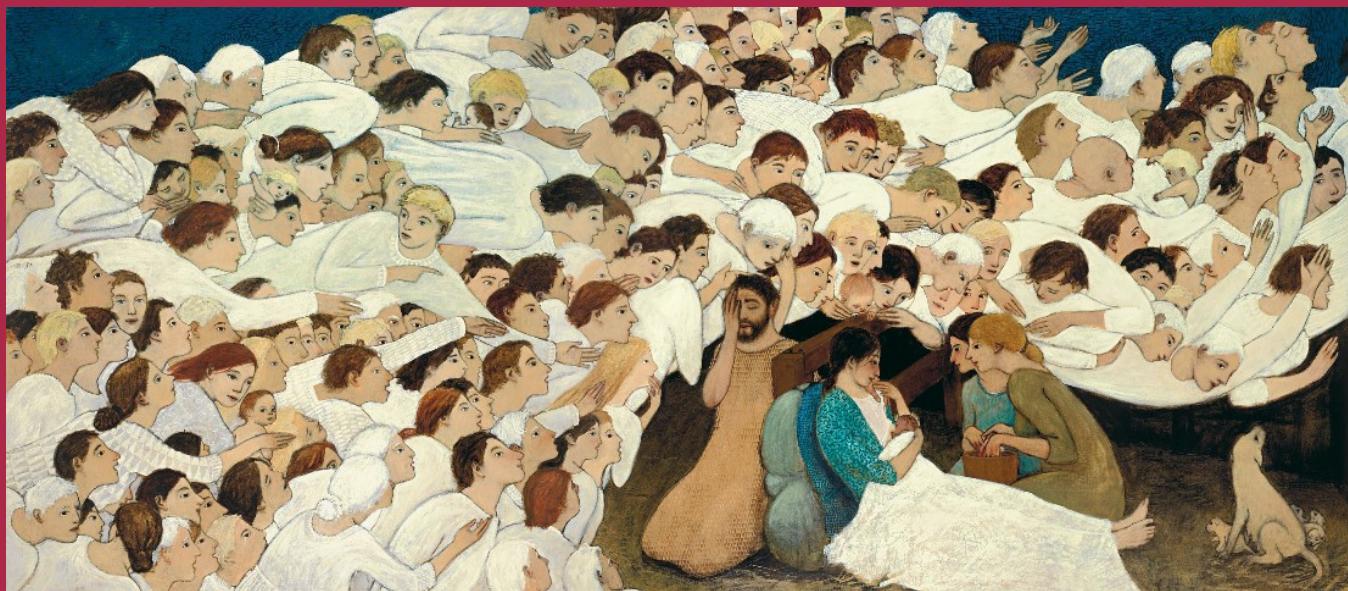
Hope

Look

What do you notice?

What do you feel?

What do you wonder?



"Nativity"

by Brian Kershner

Explore

Explore in your backyard or a nearby outdoor space to find something that reminds you of God doing tremendous things our world. Choose a special spot for it somewhere in your home as a symbol of Hope in this Advent season.

Listen

"Gabriel's Message"
by
Matt Maher

Pray

Invite a member of your household to pray to our God who does tremendous things! Do you feel thankful?

Hope

Week 2

Song of Zechariah - Peace

Luke 1:67-79

Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy:

**"Praise the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has visited and redeemed his
people.**

**He has sent us a mighty Savior
from the royal line of his servant David,
just as he promised
through his holy prophets long ago.**

**Now we will be saved from our enemies
and from all who hate us.**

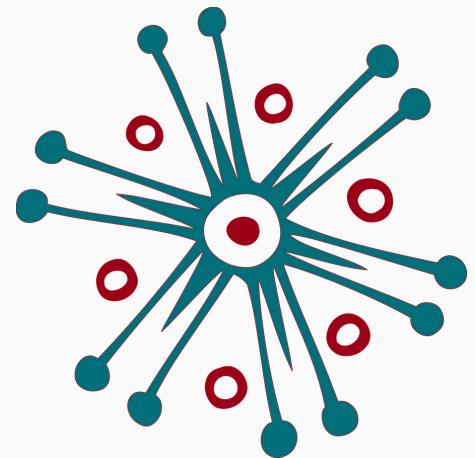
**He has been merciful to our ancestors
by remembering his sacred covenant—
the covenant he swore with an oath
to our ancestor Abraham.**

**We have been rescued from our enemies
so we can serve God without fear,
in holiness and righteousness
for as long as we live.**

**"And you, my little son,
will be called the prophet of the Most High,
because you will prepare the way for the Lord.**

**You will tell his people how to find salvation
through forgiveness of their sins.**

**Because of God's tender mercy,
the morning light from heaven is about to
break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and
in the shadow of death,
and to guide us to the path of peace."**



**Read the story of
Zechariah in Luke 1:57-
66 along with today's
passage.**

**These words of praise
are Zechariah's first in
nine months. What did
Zechariah think about
in silence?**

**This passage reminds
us that, everyone, even
little ones can be
called to big things. I
wonder where God is
calling you?**

**I wonder what God's
tender mercies look
like? Have you seen his
tender mercy?**

**God's path is one of
peace. Where do you
see His peace? Where
do you hope to see it?**

Peace

Look

What do
you
notice?

What do
you feel?

What do
you
wonder?



"Nativity"

by James B. Janknegt

Explore

Explore this week where you could extend mercy to those around you.

Look for ways to create peace and forgiveness in your world - a kind word, an unexpected gift, generous forgiveness.

Share with your household where you might find these opportunities to spread peace.

Listen

"Hope would be Light of the World"
by
Lauren Daigle

Pray

Invite a member of your household to pray to our God of tender mercies. Invite him to show his love to you and others.

Peace

Week 3

Song of the Angels - Joy

Luke 2:8-14

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them.

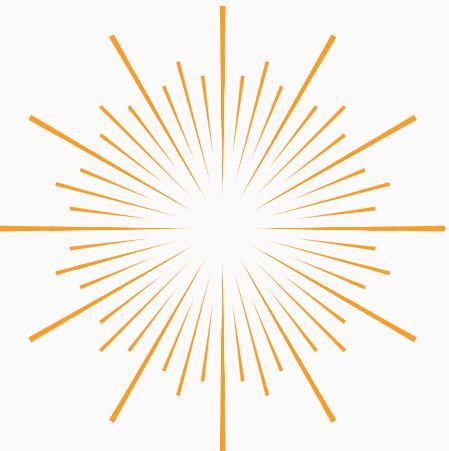
They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.

The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!

And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."



I wonder when you have ever been surprised. Can you describe the difference between joyful-surprised and scared-surprised? How do you imagine these shepherds felt?

When you feel joyful, with whom do you want to share your good news first?

I wonder what an angel choir sounds like? Sweet? Deep? High? Humming? Imagine that together.

I wonder if you understand that this announcement is for you - that God is pleased in you?

Joy

Look

What do
you
notice?

What do
you feel?

What do
you
wonder?



"Nativity"
by He Qi

Explore

Explore listening to the song "Angels we Have Heard on High" by the Piano Guys together as a family with your eyes closed and notice what part of the music you like best...are you drawn to the piano notes, are you joining with the singers, feeling the sound of the drummer or perhaps you just feel like dancing in response?

Listen

"Angels we Have Heard on High"
by
The Piano Guys
(watch:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n543eKIdbUI&ab_channel=ThePianoGuys)

Pray

Invite a member of your household to pray with thanksgiving for your moments of joy this season.

Joy

Week 4

Song of Simeon - Love

Luke 2:25-32



At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel.

The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple.

So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there.

He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised.

I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people.

He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!"

Simeon waited a long time to see the Messiah. I wonder, have you ever had to wait for something? How does waiting feel?

Simeon walked with so much love for God, he could hear the Spirit leading him to the Temple. I wonder how the Spirit sounds? I wonder what it feels like to hear the Spirit speak. Do you believe the Spirit could talk to you?



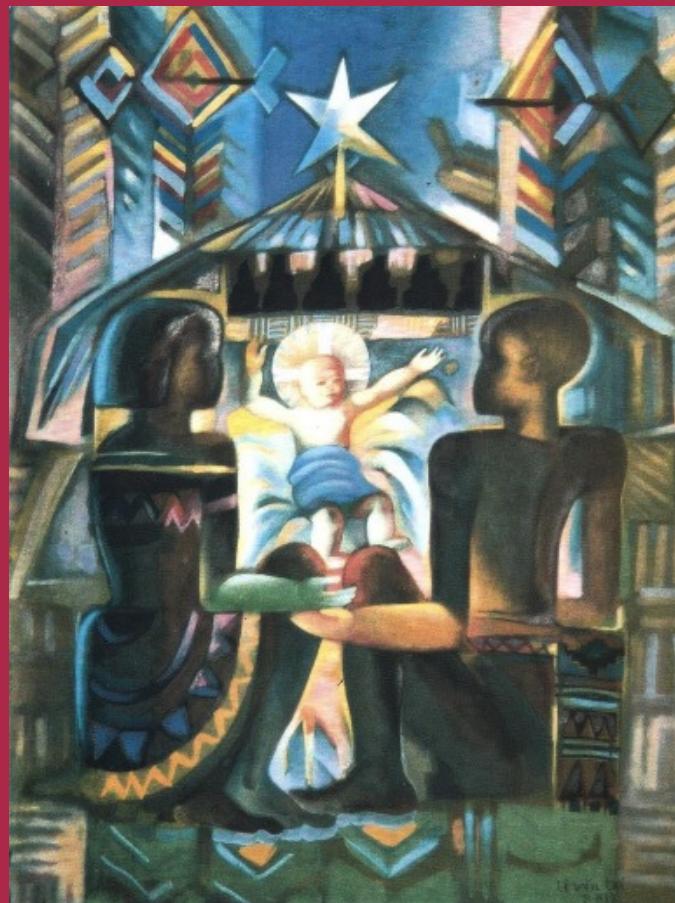
Love

Look

What do
you
notice?

What do
you feel?

What do
you
wonder?



"Nativity"
by Le Van Dai,
1980s, Vietnam

Explore

Explore in your art supplies to create an ornament for your tree that reminds you of a time this year when you were waiting for God; a time when you were aware of His Spirit guiding you in Love.

Listen

"We Are Waiting"
by
Three Streams Music

Pray

Invite a member of your household to pray and invite God to speak to you in this season.

Love

Christmas Eve Our Songs of Longing and Praise

o Holy Night

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine!
O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient land,
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;

He knows our need,
To our weakness no stranger!
Behold your King!
Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King! your King! before him bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease,
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his Holy name!

Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!



I wonder if you feel weary? Where do you feel this in your body?

This song reminds us that God knows our needs, I wonder how God is answering your needs today?

I wonder what words stand out to you in this song?

Read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-20. Where does this story make you feel hope?

Look

What do
you
notice?

What do
you feel?

What do
you
wonder?



"Nativity"
by Yu Jiade,

Explore

Explore what scene
you'd create when
listening to "O Holy
Night"
by Sara Groves.

You can use nativity
scene pieces to create
what you imagine
unfolding on
Christmas Eve, create
a drawing together of
the scene, or act it out
with movements.

Listen

"O Holy Night"
by
Sara Groves

Pray

Use the text
from this song
as a prayer for
your household
and the world.

Christmas Eve