

CROSS + CROWN
2023

ADVENT



Dear Cross+Crown Family,

This Fall we studied through the book of Daniel in a sermon series called Faith in Exile. There are so many pertinent themes presented in this book that relate to our day. Themes like: persevering through suffering; trusting that God is in control even when the world feels like it is out of control; witnessing the power of Godly character in ungodly situations. These continuously point to the assurance that God's Word remains both poignant and powerful, even in our world today.

Advent is about the arrival of King Jesus. The King brings a kingdom and we are invited in to become citizens in a kingdom that will endure forever—the everlasting kingdom of God. When Jesus took on humanity and entered into human history, He changed everything. He fulfilled the promises of a kingdom that will be ever increasing, and in this kingdom there will everlasting peace, justice and righteousness (Isaiah 9:7).

This Advent we will explore the themes of Hope, Love, Faith and Peace. The world will offer counterfeit versions of these, but they are only fully and truly found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. My prayer is that you might experience true Hope through the greatest Love the world has ever seen through Faith and, in turn, experience a Peace that cannot be shaken and will endure even through the most difficult circumstances.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Adam, for the Elders of Cross+Crown

HOPE

Our hope is fulfilled in Jesus.

LOVE

God loves the world so much that He
gave us His Son.

FAITH

Whoever would draw near to God must
believe that He exists.

PEACE

The gift of peace is found in Jesus alone.



WEEK ONE

HOPE

READING PLAN

Day 1 · Genesis 1:26-31

Day 2 · Genesis 3:1-24

Day 3 · Genesis 3:15

Day 4 · Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Day 5 · Isaiah 2:2-5

Day 6 · Isaiah 9:2-7

Day 7 · Isaiah 7:10-14



HOPE

The first week of Advent we celebrate that our hope is in Jesus and the promise of His second coming. Hope is an expectation of what is sure or certain. Our hope is fixed on Jesus, our sure and certain Savior.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”
1 Peter 1:3

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” Titus 2:11-14



O Holy Night

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior'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, O hear the angel
voices O night divine, O night, O
night divine

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, O praise His
Name forever His power and glory
evermore proclaim His power and
glory evermore proclaim



HOPE

Our hope is fulfilled in Jesus.





WEEK TWO

LOVE



READING PLAN

Day 8 · Isaiah 11:1-5

Day 9 · Isaiah 19:19-25

Day 10 · Isaiah 40:9-11

Day 11 · Isaiah 42:1-4

Day 12 · Isaiah 49:1-7

Day 13 · Isaiah 53:1-12

Day 14 · Isaiah 61:1-3

LOVE

The second week of Advent, we celebrate the love of God that was shown to us through the birth of Jesus. We are recipients of God's unending and sacrificial love. He chose to love us and save us by sending Jesus to be our Savior. We also celebrate the love that God has given us by loving others.

"...If we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit... So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." 1 John 4:12b-16

"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." Colossians 3:14

Come and Stand Amazed

Come and stand amazed, you people
See how God is reconciled
See His plans of love accomplished
See His gift, this newborn child
See the Mighty, weak and tender
See the Word who now is mute
See the Sovereign without splendor
See the Fullness destitute

See how humankind received Him
See Him wrapped in swaddling bands
Who as Lord of all creation
Rules the wind by His commands
See Him lying in a manger
Without sign of reasoning
Word of God to flesh surrendered
He is wisdom's crown, our King

O Lord Jesus, God incarnate
Who assumed this humble form
Counsel me and let my wishes
To Your perfect will conform
Light of life, dispel my darkness
Let Your frailty strengthen me
Let Your meekness give me boldness
Let Your burden set me free

O Emmanuel, my Savior
Let Your death be life for me



LOVE

God loves the world so much that
He gave us His Son.





WEEK THREE

Faith

READING PLAN

Day 15 · Jeremiah 23:5-6

Day 16 · Jeremiah 33:14-16

Day 17 · Micah 5:2

Day 18 · Zephaniah 3:14-17

Day 19 · Zechariah 9:9-10

Day 20 · Malachi 3

Day 21 · Psalm 146



FAITH

During the third week of Advent, we celebrate the faith we have in Jesus. Faith is a gift from God. We rely on faith to move our heart and mind from doubt to belief. God gives faith generously to all who ask.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek Him.”
Hebrews 11:1, 6

“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” 1 John 5:4-5



Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins, release
us Let us find our rest in Thee

Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the Earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring

By Thine own eternal spirit
Ruling all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

Come Thou long expected Jesus



FAITH

Whoever would draw near to God
must believe that He exists.



WEEK FOUR

PEACE



READING PLAN

Day 22 · Luke 1:1-25

Day 23 · Luke 1:26-38

Day 24 · Luke 1:39-56

Day 25 · Luke 1:57-80

Day 26 · Luke 2:1-20

Day 27 · Luke 2:21-38

PEACE

This fourth Advent we celebrate the peace that is found in Jesus. The Hebrew word 'shalom' is translated as peace. Peace is God's gift of wholeness to his people. Jesus came to bring wholeness to a world that is broken. Jesus restores peace between man and God. Our brokenness is made whole in the birth, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'" John 20:21

"For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross." Colossians 1:19-20

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

The First Noel

The first noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay In fields where
they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so
deep

Noel, noel, noel, noel
Born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far
And to the Earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and
night

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and Earth
of nought And with his blood
mankind hath bought



O Come O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and
cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to
flight
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with Heaven's
peace
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel



PEACE

The gift of peace is found in Jesus

CHRISTMAS

EVE

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).” Matthew 1:21-23

“I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.” Philemon 1:4-7



Silent Night

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from Heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord has come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love



O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and
triumphant

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him

Born the King of angels

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in
exultation

Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above

Glory to God, glory in the highest

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this
happy morning

Jesus, to Thee be glory given

Word of the Father, now in flesh
appearing

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord





Go Tell It On the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their
watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

The shepherds feared and
trembled
When lo! Above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn





Away in a Manger

Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky,
looked down where
He lay The little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing,
the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus,
no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus,
look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle
till morning is nigh'

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me for ever
and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children
in Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven
to live with Thee there

We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts, we traverse far
Field and fountain Moor and mountain
Following yonder star

[Chorus]

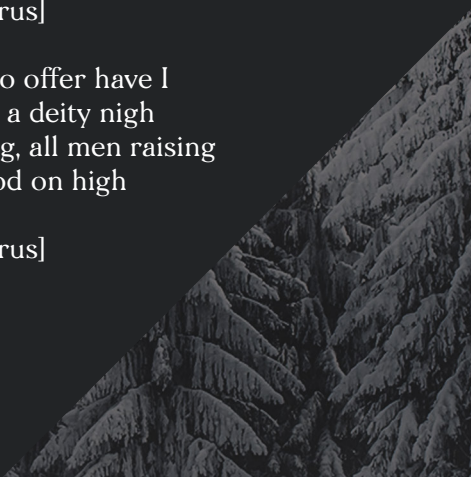
Oh, star of wonder, star of might
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading
Still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain
Gold we bring to crown him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign

[Chorus]

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship God on high

[Chorus]



O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Christmas Memory Page

Who are you celebrating Advent with this year?

What Christmas traditions did you celebrate this year? What traditions were new?

What is your favorite Christmas song?

Merry Christmas, CROSS & CROWN!

From our family to yours.

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ADVENT

