

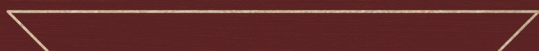
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Buck Run Advent Devotions

Advent



Christ Has Come



CHRIST HAS COME

A Buck Run Advent Devotional

Advent is a time for our church to look back at the coming of Jesus and to remember the significance of His incarnation. This year we want to spend some time as a church highlighting the effects of Christ's coming and looking forward to the day when He comes again. This resource contains three devotions for each week leading up to Christmas, each focusing on a different aspect of what Christ's coming accomplished. We encourage you and your family to read these reflections together and to consider the significance of Christ's coming by talking through the Family Reflection Questions provided. After discussing, listen to and sing the devotional song as an act of worship. The advent playlist can be found at buckrun.org/advent.

WEEK 1

Christ has come to bring Salvation | **Melanie Brewer**

Christ has come to bring God's Presence | **Marcia Arrastia**

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WEEK 2

Christ has come to bring the Kingdom of God | **Jeannece Luhrs**

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Advent

Week 1

←—————→
Christ Has Come

Christ has come to bring Salvation

Melanie Brewer

READ: *Luke 2:8-20*

As we look forward to Christmas, consider God's great mercy in providing a way of salvation. God the Father knew that those He made in his image had turned away and that our sin had separated us from him. Because of his great love for us he gave his Son so that we, through faith and trusting in him alone, could have the gift of eternal life.

In God's perfect timing and in his perfect plan, the hope of the world, the promised Messiah, Immanuel, came into the world. The angels rejoiced and declared that a Savior was born in the city of David. The shepherds followed the star to see the baby, glorifying and praising God. God's great plan of redemption unfolded that first Christmas night. Salvation had come.

"The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10) As we consider this good news, let us pursue the mission of sharing the Gospel and bringing glory to his great name. This Christmas season let us worship the Lord and rejoice for the gift of salvation that we have through Jesus Christ.

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- As a family, who will you be praying for to receive this gift of salvation?
- How can you use this Christmas season to reach out to the one you are praying for?
- Together as a family, explore and discuss what the Bible teaches us about the meaning of these familiar Christmas words: Messiah, Immanuel, Savior and Redemption.

SONG

["Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"](#)

Christ has come to bring God's Presence

Marcia Arrastia

READ: *Matthew 1:18-25*

God created mankind to have a personal relationship with Him. In the Garden of Eden God walked and talked with the man and woman He had created. He was present with them. Sin tarnished that relationship. Sinful man and woman could no longer live in the presence of a Holy God.

However, sin did not destroy God's desire to be present with His beloved creation. Even before the first star was put in place, God had a plan of redemption to restore our fellowship so we could live eternally in His presence.

With the birth of Jesus Christ, God Himself dwelt with men and women once again. His name as foretold by an angel was to be "Immanuel" – God with us! The Son of the Most High – here among us.

God's presence among us didn't end with Jesus' ascension to Heaven. As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit is the gift of God's presence to His people until we enter into Heaven. His presence provides peace, joy, wisdom, guidance, conviction, gifts, fruit, contentment, rest and restoration.

The birth of Jesus – "Immanuel" – is the redemptive path to be with God again: to have Him present in our lives here on earth, and to glorify Him forever and ever. Amen.

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How can you seek the Lord's presence in your daily lives?
- What does it mean to enjoy the presence of God both now and forever? What difference does that make in our lives?
- How can you explain the presence of God through the indwelling Holy Spirit to an unbeliever?
- How should the knowledge of the presence of God in your life change the way you will celebrate Him this Christmas?

SONG

["O Come, O Come Emmanuel"](#)

Christ has come to bring the Fulfillment of the Old Testament

Chris Parrish

READ: *Matthew 5:17-20*

Jesus came, not to abolish the law and the prophets, but to fulfill them. For centuries, the people of God had been longing for a redeemer. Since God's promise in garden, Israel had been looking for the seed of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent. Generation after generation passed with no redeemer. Abraham was faithful, yet he died. Moses led the people out of slavery, yet he died. David was a king after God's own heart, yet he died. Every hopeful redeemer in the Old Testament turns up dead and buried. And yet, God had not forgotten his people.

Jesus came to fulfill the longing of the people of God for a redeemer. He is faithful where Israel failed. He leads his people out of the bondage and sin and death and into the promise land. He is the diving King, bringing the kingdom of God. All the promises of God find their "Yes" in Christ (1 Cor. 1:20). He has redeemed us by his broken body and shed blood and now reigns at the right hand of God the Father (Heb. 10:12-14). Our hope is secure in Christ.

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How are Jesus and Old Testament heroes alike? How are they different?
- How do we see Jesus fulfill the Old Testament in his life?
- What is one way you can use this season to tell others about the hope we have in Christ?

SONG

["There Blooms a Rose in Bethlehem"](#)

Advent

Week 2

←—————→
Christ Has Come

Christ has come to bring the Kingdom of God

Jeannece Luhrs

READ: *Luke 1:26-33*

“Joy to the world; the Lord has come. Let earth receive her King!”

Isaac Watts

During the Advent season, we celebrate the birth of Jesus: the King who came to earth to establish God’s kingdom. The kingdom of God is the never-ending rule and reign of Jesus Christ. (Luke 1:33). In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus contrasts the his kingdom with the kingdom of the world (Matthew 5-7). He spoke of the kingdom when He urged, “Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17). His propitiation for our sins through his death, burial, and resurrection provides entrance into the kingdom for anyone who repents of sin and believes the gospel.

It has been said that Christians live in the already and the not yet of this kingdom. We live in community with other believers for the purpose of glorifying God; however, the kingdom is not complete until Jesus returns as a conquering king to reign and to judge the world (Matthew 25:31 – 46). During our earthly pilgrimage, we devote our lives to advancing His kingdom on earth through our love and obedience to Christ.

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- The kingdom of God is unlike the kingdom of this world. In what specific ways is your life different than that of the world?
- Believers are a part of God’s kingdom on earth. In what ways does your life point others to the kingdom of God?
- Who is one person with whom you can share the gospel message during this Advent season?

SONG

[“What Child Is This”](#)

Christ has come to bring Life & Healing

JP McCammon

READ: *John 10:7-10*

Over the past two years, our world has been shaken by death. Many have witnessed first-hand the effects of loss, loneliness, and sickness in ways that we would have never thought possible. We've become intimately acquainted with the truth that life is precious and fragile. The sheer number of those who desperately need physical healing has overwhelmed us and shown us our mortality and vulnerability.

The coming of Jesus is a soothing balm for this weary and anxious world. Everywhere Jesus goes, death is reversed into life. In Luke 5 a man with a death sentence of sickness falls on his face before Jesus in desperation. When Jesus reaches out and touches this man he is instantly healed. Even the deadliest of diseases bows to King Jesus.

However, Jesus is not primarily concerned with physical healing. Even Lazarus, who was raised from the dead, was eventually put back into a tomb. No, Jesus came so that we could have something even greater. He came to save sinners and to give them life, abundant and eternal (John 10:10). Jesus' coming means that we can look at the brokenness around us and yet have hope! Advent should remind us that this Jesus, born in Bethlehem, is going to come again, and when he does, sickness and death will be no more.

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How does Jesus' power over death give us hope in life?
- Read and reflect on Luke 5:12-14. What details stand out to you about Jesus' interaction with this sick man? What do they reveal about Jesus' heart?
- Jesus cares for the bodies and souls of his followers. Who is someone that you could minister to physically and spiritually during this Christmas season?

SONG

["King of Kings"](#)

Christ has come to bring the Truth of God

Bruce Scott

READ: *John 1:14-18*

In the world that we live in, the question, “What is truth?” is a common refrain. We may be tempted to think this is a new revelation, but truth has been debated since the beginning. Look no further than when Satan tempted Eve in the Garden saying, “Did God actually say ...?” (Gen. 3:1), or in Judges 21:25 where we read, “In those days ... everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Sound familiar?

While the debate over the truth is not new, every person must answer in their heart and mind, “Is there a God, and who is this Jesus?” As J.I. Packer writes, knowing God is more than knowing about Him, we must have an intimate relationship with Him.

The wonderful news during this Advent season is that the Word became flesh in Christ, full of grace and truth, to make the Father known to us. And, this word does not change. The word is the truth (John 17:17), from everlasting to everlasting. This we can trust, put all our hope in, and know, as the truth.

We don't have to debate “what is truth” about God. We have the answer to that question. We simply must believe, know, and trust in Christ.

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What do you know to be true about God?
- How have these truths & knowledge about God affected how you live each day?
- In what ways can I better utilize these truths for my good and for God's glory?

SONG

[“O Great God”](#)

Advent

Week 3

←—————→
Christ Has Come

Christ has come to bring Glory on Earth

Nancy Farley

READ: *Luke 1:46-55*

God created Earth for His glory, and Jesus' coming brought a plan to redeem mankind. In Luke 1:46 Mary glorifies God for the coming of Jesus saying, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." She knew that through her own body the honor, splendor and bliss of Heaven would be born and dwell among men.

Angels declared the glory of God as they announced his coming to the shepherds saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" The shepherds, in turn, told the news of His coming after seeing the Savior. They "returned glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them" (Luke 2:20) Magi from the east recognized the glory and humbled themselves before Him, presenting their best gifts (Matthew 2:11).

John tells us, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." That Christmas night, heaven came down to man so that we could behold the glory of God in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- If God created the Earth for His glory, what is our purpose?
- What do all of these Christmas story characters have in common when they respond to the coming of Jesus?
- Since God revealed Himself to us and dwelt among us, how are we to reveal Him to others?

SONG

["O Holy Night"](#)

Christ has come to Serve

Will Morris

READ: *Matthew 20:25-28*

Jesus came to bring a Kingdom and to make the glory of God known on earth. But Matthew 20 shows us the unexpected way that He would accomplish that glorious purpose. Jesus came to serve and to give His life away. Advent should remind Christians that the way of our Savior is the way of the Servant.

Philippians 2 describes Jesus saying, “Though He was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.” This is the King who is laid in a manger. This is the Son of God who was raised by a carpenter. This is the great Teacher who washes the feet of faithless disciples. This is the sinless Savior who gives His life as a ransom for sinners.

Jesus calls those who follow Him to follow His example in humble service. If our Savior humbled Himself to serve, we ought to give our own lives for the sake of others. When the people of God learn to serve like their Savior, the glory of God will be proclaimed over all the earth.

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How does Jesus’ birth reflect His heart to come as a humble servant?
- How does the servant heart of Jesus challenge us as Christians to live our lives?
- What is one way you can give of yourself to serve others this Christmas season?

SONG

[“Come Adore the Humble King”](#)

Christ has come to bring Grace

Savannah Good

READ: *John 1:14-18*

When Jesus came to Earth, He was born into a world full of sin and brokenness. Everyone was buried beneath a debt that they had no hope of repaying. But Jesus lived a sinless life, and was crucified by the very same people He came to save. They cried out to Him, saying, “If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross” (Matthew 27:40b). Being the Son of God, Jesus could have saved Himself.

But if Jesus had come down from the cross, we would have had to take His place. Jesus came to bring grace. He knew He was our only hope of salvation and gave Himself up in His fullness to fill in the cracks of our brokenness. He rose again and etched out a pathway for us to enter into the gates of heaven with Him.

Jesus calls us to rest in the assurance that He is more than enough to satisfy us, that He has given us everything we need and more, and not because of anything we did. He took care of it all. On that night when Jesus was born, the aching world held its breath, waiting for the day that Jesus would cover it with grace upon grace.

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How does Jesus’ sinlessness further impact the magnitude of His grace for us?
- How does Jesus’ example affect how we react to and interact with others?
- What are some ways that you can show gratitude for his grace?

SONG

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Christ Has Come!

Thank you for making this devotional part of your family worship this Christmas season. We hope these weekly meditations have helped you and your family remember the incarnation of Jesus - that Christ has come - and look forward to the time when he is coming again!

Buck Run Baptist Church will be sharing a special in-person Christmas Eve service at 5pm on December 24. We would love for you to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.



For more information about Buck Run Baptist Church, visit www.buckrun.org

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