



ADVENT: Christ | Sunday, December 14, 2025

(5-10 min) Optional Ice Breaker: Who do you know that gives the best gifts?

LEADERS: Please share these announcements at the start of group time.
Ask a group member to read the brief Advent Reading below.

Announcements

CHRISTMAS EVE @ Citizens:

Citizens Christmas Eve services provide a great opportunity to invite our friends and family to participate in a special candlelight gathering and hear the good news of Christ's birth.

Services are at 2 pm, 3:30 pm, and 5 pm on Wednesday, December 24. LittleCity ministry is available for children from birth through 3 years old at **ALL 3 SERVICES**.

We also need lots of help with our Preschool ministry, Welcome Team and Parking Teams on Christmas Eve. Please contact Lindsey Christian (lindsey@citizenschurch.com) to volunteer!

HOME GROUPS MULTIPLICATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Our home group is designed to *build Community, pursue Sanctification, and live on Mission* together. And planting and multiplying new groups is one way Citizens' home groups lean into God's call to reach and disciple others.

Interested to learn more about HG Leadership or Co-leadership? Please join us for our next HG Leader Interest Meeting (Sunday, Jan 25 | 11am-12:15pm). It's a great way to learn more and discern God's call for you (without committing yet!).

HG WINTER SOCIAL:



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(Leaders: *This event announcement is not on the main website, so please share the registration link with your group members!)*

Save the date for our Home Groups Winter Social! - Sunday, January 25 | 6-7:30pm | Citizens Foyer

HG Socials are festive events designed to help us connect with Citizens folks, outside of our home group, who share interests or geographical location. Sign up to bring your favorite dessert, and Citizens will provide hot chocolate and cider! Register now:

<https://citizenschurch.com/Registration/hg-winter-social-2026>

Advent Reading

LOVE
The Angel Candle

Advent is a season of patient waiting and hopeful expectation in preparation for Christmas Day that has been practiced in the church for centuries. The incarnation of the Son of God is just too big a thing to appreciate in just one day, so Advent is a way of lengthening the joy of the coming of our eternal God, something we will celebrate for all eternity. Lighting the candles shows the contrast between dark and the increasing light that bursts forth at Christmas.

In the Sunday gathering, we lit the third candle, which represents **LOVE**. Love is the essence of God's character and the defining quality of his selfless and sacrificial relationship with humanity. The incarnation is the supreme demonstration of that love and the perfect model for God's call for us to love one another as He has loved us.

Read God's Word Aloud



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Luke 2:8-11

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10** And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Discuss God's Word and God's World

Important: *The goal is never to “get through” every question like a checklist. It’s ok to linger on a few questions if they spark sanctifying discussion or opportunities for intercessory prayer.*

In this week’s Scripture passage, the angel declares, “Unto you is born this day in the city of David a *Savior*, who is **Christ** the Lord” (Luke 2:11, emphasis added).

Jesus’ title, “Savior”, tells us what he does: Jesus’ title, “Christ”, tells us who he *is*.

- Why is the distinction – Jesus’ work as Savior and Jesus’ identity as the Christ – important?
- Could Jesus save us if he was not the Christ, the chosen and promised Messiah? Why or why not?
- What does it mean for us that God kept his promise to send us Christ? What other promises has God kept?
- How does it make you feel that the Chosen One of God, *chose* you?

So far in this series, we’ve explored three titles for Jesus: Savior, Immanuel, and Christ (who is the ultimate Prophet, Priest, and King).

- How does the meaning of these titles invite us to surrender to Jesus as Lord (the title we’ll explore in week 4 of Advent)?
- Jesus chose you, is with you, and saves you. Which of these do you most need to



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remember and respond to this Christmas?

Sanctificational Prayer Guidance

Thank God together for keeping his promise to send us Jesus. Thank him for choosing us, in Christ, to be his.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – we worship you for being a covenant-making, promise-keeping God. We celebrate the coming of your Chosen One, our Prophet, Priest, and King, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. We look forward to the future fulfilment of all your other promises, including Jesus' return. You are a good, good God.

Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you each day this week of who God is and all he's done for us.

Family Memory Verse of the Month for December

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21 (ESV)