



# ADVENT

**ADVENT: Lord | Sunday, December 21, 2025**

*(5-10 min) Optional Ice Breaker: What's been your favorite part of this Advent and Christmas season so far?*

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**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**.

Want to help with our Preschool ministry, Welcome Team and Parking Teams on Christmas Eve? We could use it! Contact Lindsey Christian ([Lindsey@citizenschurch.com](mailto:Lindsey@citizenschurch.com)) to volunteer!

### **HOME GROUPS MULTIPLICATION OPPORTUNITIES:**

Citizens Home Groups are designed to *build Community, pursue Sanctification, and live on Mission* together.

Feeling called to learn more about HG Leadership or Co-leadership? Visit our next HG Leader Interest Meeting (Sunday, Jan 25 | 11am-12:15pm) to learn more.

**(Leaders Only)** Is your group *OPEN* and ready to welcome others? If so, consider joining us for our next Group Connect (Sunday, Jan 25 / 1pm-3pm). It's a great way to meet and invite others in your area to join your group!



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*If interested...*

- Email us at [groups@citizenschurch.com](mailto:groups@citizenschurch.com) to tell us your group is OPEN. We'll respond with next steps!
- Update the HG [Placement sheet](#) with your current group status (columns H-J)
- Update your group Roster in the [church database](#).

**STEPS:**

Take your relationship with the Lord further in 2026! Register today for our Spring STEPS Orientation on Sunday, January 4. STEPS is a semester-long intensive discipleship class that helps you uncover and overcome anything that stands between you and a closer walk with God. Through biblical teaching and guidance, STEPS helps identify unhealthy patterns and equips you with tools for lasting transformation. Visit <https://citizenschurch.com/Event/582> to register now!

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*Advent Reading*

**PEACE**  
The Bethlehem 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 fourth candle, which represents **PEACE**. The angels proclaim “Peace on earth” to the shepherds in Luke 2:14. This peace does not depend on



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circumstances - it flows from the presence and promise of God (Proverbs 3:5), guarding our hearts in Christ Jesus.

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*Read God's Word Aloud*

**LUKE 2:10-11**

**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.

**Philippians 2:3-8**

**5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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*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 your experience, are humility and service ever associated with authority and



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lordship?

- What was unexpected about the way Jesus came to us? What is unexpected about the way Jesus the Lord serves us?
- Given that Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity and has all “authority on heaven and on earth” (Matt. 28:18), what does it reveal about him that he “emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant” (Phil. 2:7)?
- Who do you know that regularly exemplifies Jesus’ form of self-sacrifice and modesty? Share a story that illustrates their humility.
- For you, what is most difficult – and most beautiful – about living like Jesus, in humility, service, and lowliness?
- In what area of life is it difficult to allow Jesus to be Lord? Share why.
- Of the four titles for Jesus that we’ve explored together (Savior, Immanuel, Christ, or Lord), which has been the most important for you this Advent?

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#### *Sanctificational Prayer Guidance*

Worship God for his condescension to us: the one true Lord of Life who became a vulnerable baby at Christmas and our perfect substitute on Good Friday. Praise him for not clinging to his divinity, but emptying himself to join us in our humanity.

*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - help us to wash one another’s feet, the way you wash ours. Help us to leave behind our rights, privilege, and position the way you left behind yours. Help us to think of ourselves less. You are the Lord, and we want to surrender everything to you the way you surrendered everything for us. Help us, Lord Jesus.*

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you one area in which the humility and lordship of Jesus is not reigning in your life. Ask him to gently lead you in Christ the Lord’s humble, selfless way.



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*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)