Advent

A WEARY WORLD REJOICES
glory to God in the highest
WHAT IS ADVENT?

“For, first, the birth of Christ was the incarnation of God: it was God taking upon himself human—a mystery, a wondrous mystery, to be believed in rather than to be defined.”

Charles Spurgeon

Advent— A time of expectant waiting. The word advent means coming or arriving. The coming of Christ into the world. Advent is a special time to savor and spend intentional time focusing our hearts on Jesus. It is a time to quiet ourselves and rest in the beautiful and as Spurgeon says, "wondrous mystery", the birth of our Lord. Emmanuel, God with us.

Jesus, the Son of God. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:3) God in human flesh.

God’s prophecies that we read in the Old Testament prepared the way for His promises. Advent is a way for us to celebrate His greatest promise to us, our Savior, Jesus Christ. As Psalm 89:1-4 says, let our posture this advent season rejoice in this, “I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.” You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.”’ Selah

The evergreen wreath symbolizes the everlasting love from our Father and eternal life that Jesus brings. The candles represent the four weeks leading up to Christmas. It always begins four Sundays before Christmas and through Christmas Eve. It is a time to celebrate and remember the birth of Christ. My hope each advent season [and all year long] is that our hearts and minds are fixed on Him, rejoicing in His first coming and longing for and anticipating His return.

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken (Psalm 62:1–2)
songs to sing

1. O Holy Night
2. O Come All Ye Faithful
3. O Come O Come Emmanuel
4. Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
5. Hark the Harold Angels Sing
6. Joy to the World
7. Silent Night
8. Away in a Manger
9. What Child is This
10. Sing We the Song of Emmanuel
11. He who is Mighty
12. God Made Low

books to read

1. The Gift of the Magi
2. Song of the Stars
3. The Advent Storybook
4. The Donkey Who Carried a King
5. From Eden to Bethlehem
week one
O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

O come, Thou, Dayspring from on high
And cause Thy light on us to rise
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death’s dark shadow put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come, true prophet of the Lord
And turn the key to heaven’s door
Be Thou our comforter and guide
And lead us to the Father’s side
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall by His word our darkness dispel

O come, our great High Priest, and intercede
Thy sacrifice, our only plea
The judgment we no longer fear
Thy precious blood has brought us near
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Has banished every fear of hell

O Come, Thou King of nations bring
An end to all our suffering
Bid every pain and sorrow cease
And reign now as our Prince of Peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again with us to dwell

- Soverign Grace Music
The Lord is our righteousness

The Righteous Reign of the Branch

1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

Isaiah 11:1-5

The Lord's Eternal Covenant with David

14 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

Jeremiah 33:14-16
In Him was life

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:1-5

In the beginning God — one of the most powerful verses in scripture Genesis 1:1. I find this passage to be so incredibly powerful because what it is telling us is that God has always been. He has never ceased to be or ceased to be in control. In the beginning He was. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. He has always been. John 1:1 begins in a similar way. In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God and the Word was God. The Greek word for “word” is logos and in John 1 it is referring to Jesus. This passage is stating Christ’s deity. He is eternal. He has always been. Not only did He bring God’s Word He is the Word. In the beginning was Jesus, Jesus was with God and Jesus is God. Upon further study we know that the Greek word Logos in a philosophical sense means “complete message.” John, by using this word to describe Jesus is saying Jesus is the complete Message—Jesus is everything that God wants to communicate to us. It goes on to say that all things were made through Him.

This tells us that Jesus was involved in the creation of all things. In Him was life. Not only are all things made through Him, eternal life is found in Christ alone. Jesus is the full expression and embodiment of God and also fully man. The Word took on flesh to reveal God to man. The light shines in the darkness and exposes our sinfulness and illuminates the way to salvation. Glory to the Light of the World, Emmanuel, God with us.

Jesus is life. As creator, he gave physical life to our bodies. As eternal God, he is the source of the life of everything that lives. But there is more. As Savior, he is the One who alone gives spiritual life to our dead hearts.

-- Paul David Tripp
**WEEK NO. 1**

**FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**

**In the beginning God**

Day 1
Read Genesis 1 and John 1:1-5

Reflection Questions:
Who created the world and everything in it?
Who do you think the Word is?
What does it mean that the Word became flesh?

**The Lord is our righteousness**

Day 4
Read Jeremiah 33:14-16

Reflection Questions:
What are some of the promises of God we read in these verses?
What has God made clear?

**The people who walk in darkness will see a great light**

Day 2
Read Isaiah 9:2-7

Reflection Questions:
Who is the great light?
What are the names Isaiah said Jesus would be called?

**The Word of God stands forever**

Day 5
Read Luke 1:5-10 and Isaiah 40:1-11

Reflection Questions:
What does righteous mean?
Do you remember another couple in the Old Testament that were old in years and without children?
What does this tell us of God's Word?
Who would eventually prepare the way for Messiah?

**The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him**

Day 3
Read Isaiah 11:1-10 and Jeremiah 23:5-6

Reflection Questions:
Who is the stump?
Who is the Branch that bears fruit?
He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth

Day 6
Read: Luke 1:11-17

Reflection Questions:
Why do you think Zechariah was afraid?
Do you know who this child would grow up to be?

The Lord has done this for me

Day 7
Read Luke 1:18-25

Reflection Questions:
Why was Zechariah unable to speak?
Why did God send Gabriel?

Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

11 And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense.
12 Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him.
13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John.
14 You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.
15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb.
16 And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.
17 It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”
My dear friends, we live to-day upon the verge of that bright spot. The world has been passing through these clouds of darkness, and the light is gleaming on us now, like the glintings of the first rays of morning. We are coming to a brighter day, and “at evening time it shall be light.” The clouds and darkness shall be rolled up as a mantle that God needs no longer, and he shall appear in his glory, and his people shall rejoice with him. But you must mark, that all the brightness was the result of this child born, this son given, whose name is called Wonderful; and if we can discern any brightness in our own hearts, or in the world’s history, it can come from nowhere else, than from the one who is called “Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God.”

Spurgeon, C. H. “His Name—Wonderful!”
craft project - advent wreath

supplies:

1. Candle Holder
I have a wooden one and also a small metal one both work great. You can get creative as you'd like.

2. Wreath form to create your own wreath using fresh clippings. You can choose to do faux as well.

3. Candles, we love rolling our own from beeswax sheets, but any candles will work. Some people use the traditional pink and purple candles. I prefer the simplicity of the pure beeswax.

Once you have all of your supplies assemble your wreath together with your family and light the first candle.
week two
songs of praise

Oh 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.

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!
therefore the child to be born will be called holy - the Son of God.

Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” 35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.
The Good Shepherd

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

John 10:11-18

He is the good shepherd. There is no room to mistake who He says He is here-- He tells us exactly who He is and what He does for us. Jesus is stating His deity, I AM. He is God incarnate and He has come to save and be the Good Shepherd. He is the fulfilled promise of the Old Testament. No wolf approaching would cause Him to waver in His position, He is unlike any shepherd. Our Good Shepherd does not abandon us, He us our refuge. He cares for His sheep with abounding love. He does what is needed to protect them. It was not common for a shepherd to lay down his life for his sheep, but He is unlike any shepherd. He lays down His life for His sheep, He gives His life for the sheep. This is active and it was not by accident. This was predetermined. He died on behalf of the sheep. His blood poured out, not spilled. We are alive in Christ, because He gave His life, so that we could have eternal life with Him. Even more, He knows His sheep, and He is known by His sheep.

In the ways of the Good Shepherd, the work that He does for His sheep, we see from that the relationship between Jesus and His Father. Hebrews 2:9, tells us this, “But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.” You see, our Good Shepherd died, and rose from the grave, so that we would all have eternal life. The Father has an intense love for His son, He knew the sacrifice that was made with His son. It was only He who laid down His life, and then had the power to raise up from the dead. Many can lay their lives down for the Father, but only Jesus has the power to take up His life. He rose victoriously from the grave for us-- His self sacrifice, which was asked by His Father, was the ultimate sacrifice so that we would be free in Christ alone.
Day 8
Read Luke 1:26-38

Reflection Questions:
Who was Jesus' mother?
Was she obedient and willing to do what God said?
When Will Jesus' kingdom end?

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus

Day 9
Read Matthew 1:18-21

Reflection Questions:
Who was Mary pledged to be married to?
What did the angel tell Joseph Jesus would do?

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

Day 10
Read Matthew 1:22-26

Reflection Questions:
What does Immanuel mean?
What was Joseph commanded to do by the angel of God?

For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

Day 11
Read Luke 1:39-45

Reflection Questions:
What happened when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary?
Who believed every word spoken from God?
His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

Day 12
Read Luke 1:46-56

Reflection Questions:
Who is holy?
What was Mary’s reaction when the angel told her about Jesus?
What does it mean to magnify something or someone?

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Day 14
John 10:11-18

Reflection Questions:
Who is our Good Shepherd and why do we need a shepherd?
How has God spoken to us?

and he shall reign as king

In the threefold office of Christ, we are granted our freedom from sin

-Ligonier

love God with your everything

Day 13
Read Luke 2:1-5, Matthew 2:6

Reflection Questions:
What did the decree say?
Who was David?
From whom will come a ruler?
“Give yourself time and quietness in this Advent season and seek this experience. Pray for yourself the prayer of Paul in Ephesians 3:14–19—“that you may be filled with all the fullness of God”—that you may have power “to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.”

John Piper
craft project - ornaments and dried orange slices

APPLESAUCE & CINNAMON ORNAMENTS

supplies:
1/2 cup applesauce + 3/4 cup cinnamon
2 TBSP of white glue

instructions:
Mix together and knead several times. Roll out dough to about 1/4 inch thickness. If your dough is sticky sprinkle cinnamon on your rolling surface. Cut out star shapes with a cookie cutter and punch a hole using a straw. Lay stars on a lined cookie sheets and allow to dry for 24-48 hours. String with twine.

SALT DOUGH ORNAMENTS

supplies:
1/2 regular table salt + 1 cup flour + 1/2 cup luke warm water

instructions:

DRIED ORANGE SLICES

Slice oranges about 1/8"-1/4" thick. Pat dry with a paper towel to remove excess moisture. Place on an oven rack over a cookie sheet. Bake on your lowest setting about 175 degrees for about 4 hours. Flip every hour.
week three
songs of praise

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.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high appear Come thou promised Rod of Jesse Of thy birth we long to hear!

O'er the hills the angels singing news Glad tidings of a birth Go to Him your praises bringing Christ the Lord has come to earth

Come to earth to taste our sadness He who glories knew no end By His life He brings us gladness Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend

Leaving riches without number Born within a cattle stall This the everlasting wonder Christ was born the Lord of all

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.
Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering

1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.
4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.
6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth

Isaiah 53:1-7
But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4-5

Redemption means: the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil. The action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt. Christ, our blessed redeemer. Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer! For our sins he suffered and bled and died; He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation, Hail him! hail him! Jesus the Crucified. (Praise Him! Praise Him!)

By the work of Christ we are set free from the captivity of sin. He has paid and cleared our debt for us. Once slaves to sin, we have been purchased with a price and set free. Paul says, “You who were once far off have been brought near.” Once slaves we are now called sons. In our flesh and fallen nature we are separated from a holy God, but through the death and resurrection of Christ we are delivered from that separation and are brought near.

Romans 3:23-25 says, All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. Jesus, on the cross says “It is finished” On the cross our sin was laid upon Him, and there it was condemned.

When we place our trust in Christ and His finished work on the cross, His perfect righteousness is imputed to us, meaning we are justified through faith in Christ’s atoning sacrifice. Now when we stand before God, He will declare us not guilty. By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23) Ephesians 1:7 says In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

“As soon as we place our trust solely in Christ. His atonement is applied to our guilt and His perfect obedience is applied to our standing before God.”

- R.C Sproul
When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son

Day 16
Read Galatians 4:4-5

Reflection Questions:
What do you think "when the fullness of time came" means?
Who sent Jesus into the world?
What does it mean to be redeemed?

He was despised and rejected by mankind

Day 17
Read Isaiah 53:1-5

Reflection Questions
What does it mean that He was pierced for our transgressions?
What is transgression?

He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor

Day 18
Read Luke 4:18-19

Reflection Questions
What is a captive?
How does Jesus set the captive free?
What do you think it means to be poor in this context?

The Lord has punished Him for the iniquity of us all

Day 19
Read Isaiah 53:6

Reflection Questions
What does it mean to go astray?
How have we gone astray?
What does iniquity mean?
Day 20
Luke 2:6-7

Reflection Questions:
What is a manger?
Why do you think God let Jesus be born in such a lowly place among animals in a stable?

She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger

He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature

God's Final Word in His Son

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

Day 21
Read Romans 15:4-13 and Hebrews 1:1-3

Reflection Questions:
Who do we place our hope and trust in?
How can we glorify God?
Where is Christ seated?

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing
What we celebrate at Christmas is not so much the birth of a baby, as important as that is, but what’s so significant about the birth of that particular baby is that in this birth we have the incarnation of God Himself.

R.C. Sproul
week four
songs of praise

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful
Joystful 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

O sing, choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O 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

Lord now we greet thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus forevermore
Be thy name adored

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

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

-- Red Rocks Worship
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

The Shepherds and the Angels

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. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Luke 2:8-20

13 And 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!” 15 When 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.” 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.
Immanuel

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” God with us.
Matthew 1:23

Immanuel, means God with us. Through His son Jesus, God is with us. His name not only tells us that He is God, but it also explains how close to man He really is. The birth of our Savior Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of prophecy. Matthew understood that the conception of Jesus was supernatural, only God had the power to do this. We read in Isaiah 7:14, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Through the birth of His son Jesus, we see the abounding love that God has for His children, for us. He became flesh among us, and yet still remained God, and in this we see the miraculous power of our Father. Jesus sent by the Father, came to live a perfect life and die for us. He became our substitute. He died the death we deserve and paid the price for our sin. Through Jesus, we also get a closer look at how He created His children to bear His image. God is with us, and this is an eternal gift that we get to live in on earth as it is in Heaven. We can go to Him anytime, and we can have full awareness that He is always with us. Spurgeon said this, and this is so important for us to hold fast to -- “Then, if Jesus Christ be ‘God with us,’ let us come to God without any question or hesitancy. Whoever you may be you need no priest or intercessor to introduce you to God, for God has introduced himself to you.” We have full access to Him, o come o come, Immanuel, let us rejoice, our Savior is born.”

“The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity—hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory—because at the Father’s will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that thirty years later He might hang on a cross. It is the most wonderful message the world has ever heard. or will hear” -- J.I. Packer
Day 22
Read Luke 2:8-12

Reflection Questions:
What were the shepherds doing?
What was the good news the angel told them about?
Why do you think they were afraid?

Day 23

Reflection Questions:
How does the message of Christ bring peace?
What does God give each of us?
How can we praise God?

Day 24
Read Luke 2:15-20

Reflection Questions:
Where did the angels go?
What did the Lord make known?
What did Mary do?
What did the shepherds praise God for?

Day 25
Read Matthew 1:23, 28:18 and Colossians 3:16

Reflection Questions:
Who has all authority?
What does it mean to have all authority?
How does the truth of Christmas Day change the way we live everyday?
and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness (prophet),
the firstborn of the dead (priest), and the ruler of
kings on earth (king). To him who loves us and has
freed us from our sins by his blood
Revelation 1:5

The catechism for boys and girls asks this, “What does Christ do for His people?” He does the
work of a prophet, a priest, and a king. We see this most clearly in the Gospel message. The
work of a prophet was to proclaim messages from God. Prophets in the Old Testament
would deliver messages from God to the people. A prophet spoke and proclaimed the
people’s need to repent and turn to God. As prophet Jesus not only proclaimed the Word of
God, He is the Word and He has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is
ture. (1 John 5:20)

1 John 5:20 says And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding,
so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ.
He is the true God and eternal life.

The work of a priest was to be a mediator between God and sinful people. In the Old
Testament the High Priest would enter the Holy Place and offer a sacrifice to God on behalf
of the people. This would be done on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:34) As Priest Jesus is our
mediator and the sacrifice for our sins. He died for our sins and prays to God for us. He is
our advocate. (1 John 2:1) For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and
men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony
given at the proper time. (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

As king Jesus has all authority. He rules over us and all things with perfect justice. He also
defends us. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He has fought our battles and He has
conquered death. He reigns both now and forever and through Him we are no longer slaves
to sin. Galatians 4:7 says, “So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir
through God.”Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are
your ways, O King of the nations! Revelation 15:3

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to
me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded
you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20
“That there were shepherds, means that no one is to hear the Gospel for himself alone, but everyone is to tell it to others who are not acquainted with it. For he who believes for himself has enough and should endeavor to bring others to such faith and knowledge, so that one may be a shepherd of the other, to wait upon and lead him into the pasture of the Gospel in this world, during the nighttime of this earthly life.”

Martin Luther
Advent Ornaments

options for printing:

I would suggest using a heavier card stock to print.

Then cut around the wreath and the top part of the ornament.

You could laminate if you wanted added durability.

Use a hole punch to create your hole. Secure with ribbon or string.

Each day/night after completing your advent study have child hang ornaments on a tree or string together as a countdown garland.