



HOPE
of CHRISTMAS
PAST, PRESENT
& YET to
COME

Daily
Prayers *for*
Advent

STEPHENIE HOVLAND

Creative Communications
Sample Pages

INTRODUCTION

*The true light, which gives
light to everyone, was coming
into the world.*

JOHN 1:9

Our Advent prayers are focused on preparing our hearts for the coming of the Savior. We look forward to the Messiah, the light of the world. As God the Father has given us the perfect gift of Jesus Christ at Christmas, we also receive gifts of forgiveness, love, and eternal life. Let us pray in hope for our future.



The **FIRST SUNDAY**
of **ADVENT**



*But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah ... from you shall
come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.*

MICAH 5:2

Lord, we know what it's like to wait. We squirm uncomfortably with impatience and anticipation. Christmas is coming! Some relish the opportunities to celebrate and spend time with friends and family. Others may dread the painful memories that accompany the holidays. Whatever our moods from day to day—whatever our perspectives—Lord, remind us what we truly anticipate. We prepare for the coming of the Savior, the ruler of all. Amen.

MONDAY *of the* **FIRST WEEK**
of **ADVENT**



*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—
every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on
him the iniquity of us all.*

ISAIAH 53:6

Good Shepherd, you were sent to take our sins on you. What a gift! As we realize that we have strayed from our Good Shepherd over and over again, with every sinful choice we make, turn us back to the right way. Show us your way, dear Lord. Show us the hope of a future with you as our loving God who mercifully spared us from the eternal consequences of our sinful lives. Thank you for being the gift we need most of all. Amen.

TUESDAY *of the* **FIRST WEEK**
of **ADVENT**



*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever. HEBREWS 13:8*

Dearest Savior, you see how much we have changed over the years. We are not the children we used to be, nor the mature individuals we seek to become. We have changed over the years. When we look back, we see selfish immature decisions. Presently, we pay for some of those inconsiderate plans. We know you have saved us from eternal consequences. We have changed, but mercifully, you have not. From Creation to incarnation to eternity, your faithfulness and love do not forsake us. Alleluia. Amen.

WEDNESDAY of the **FIRST WEEK** of **ADVENT**



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ISAIAH 9:2

Heavenly Father, you look upon those who are sitting in darkness this very day. Some of us are surrounded by shadows of past sins, while others wallow in the inky darkness of a life without you. They don't see the light of your Son, Jesus. Help me to recognize the darkness and shine your light in their lives, that they may know you and recognize the light that shines for them as well. Amen.

THURSDAY *of the* **FIRST WEEK**
of **ADVENT**



He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." JOHN 1:23

Gracious God, as you sent forth John the Baptist to tell the people the long-awaited Messiah had finally come, remind us that he has come for us also. We know that Jesus is our Savior, and yet we still live in the past, in regret, covered in sin. Jesus has come for us! Help us to live in that great good news! Help us to break free from the past, to change this very day. We repent and turn to your path, Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY of the **FIRST WEEK** of **ADVENT**



*Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen,
in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon
him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.*

ISAIAH 42:1

Heavenly Father, we love to see the look of awe and amazement on children's faces at Christmastime. It delights us! As we watch them, we remember the good times of our childhood, when we couldn't wait to open presents, to play, and to enjoy our families. As you sent Jesus, the one in whom your soul delights, we can imagine the anticipation of giving the greatest gift ever. We continue to receive and be in awe of such a precious gift. Thank you, Father! Amen.

Reading or watching *A Christmas Carol* is a tradition for many people. This prayer booklet with daily Scripture verses provides an opportunity to add one more tradition—God’s Word and personal prayer with the Almighty. After reading each passage, use the prayer as a starter for your own daily conversation with God.

Remember that Advent is a time of preparation and transformation. As our hearts prepare, we see the unchangeable God in our past, present, and future.

This book, along with many other Creative Communications for the Parish products, is available on **amazon**kindle and **nook**
by Barnes & Noble

By Stephenie Hovland. Design by Jeff McCall. Cover image: iStock.

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