

# Advent Gathering

*Light of the World*



Network of Evangelical  
Women in Ministry

## The Gift of Advent

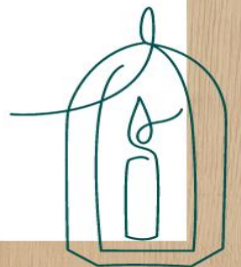
Advent is a time of preparation – joyful and purposeful. When calendars are already full, or resources are stretched to capacity, Christmas feels stressful, not joyful. For many women, Christmas preparations simply mean an even longer list of things to do. But Advent reminds us that we are invited into a life that is more than what we do. It reminds us of whose we are.

The truth of Jesus' birth and his gift of salvation is the basis for abiding joy. It is knowing that **Jesus is Over You (J.O.Y.)** with an absolute assurance of his love for you, regardless of your circumstances. Advent is a time to prepare room in your heart to experience the full joy celebrating Christ's birth offers, while longing for His second coming.

Advent is the Lord's invitation to be alone with Him, to quiet your spirit, and experience His arrival. Yes, it is counterintuitive to the hustle and bustle, but that is precisely the preparations we personally need to prepare Him room.

The greatest gift you can give to the Lord is a pure heart ready to receive and give love fully. Use the Scripture, quotes, and questions in this booklet to guide your thoughts deeper into God's heart by examining your own.

May God fill you with inexpressible joy as you meet with Him, now and always.



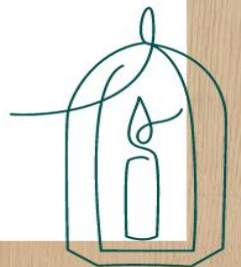
## Light of the World

*"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'"* John 8:12.

The Light of the world appeared in a dark, dark world, where the Word of God was being ignored. The pervasive darkness threatened to consume all hope, even for those straining to see truth. Yet, the Light of the world dawned like the start of a new day.

Jesus' birth pierced the darkness, bridging the divide between spiritual and physical, supernatural and natural, holy and unholy. A light in the sky turned on.

The star over Bethlehem at His birth disrupts the cover of night, beckoning truth seekers to locate the source.



## Our Need for Jesus

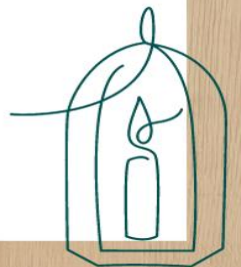
**Advent shines a light into the darkness of our world,  
magnifying our need to follow the Light closely.**

What are you bringing into this season of Advent (grief, anxiety, distraction, peace, joy...)?

During a dark and rebellious season in the nation of Israel, the prophet Isaiah offered a promise of the coming Messiah.

### **Isaiah 9:6-7**

*For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.*



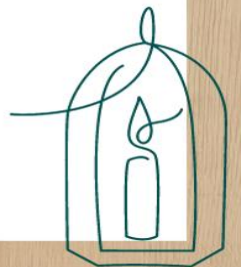
What is God stirring in you through this passage? What resistance are you experiencing?  
What longings are you experiencing?

What does the fulfillment of a promise say about God?

Which attribute of the Son do you need most right now?

**Additional Scripture to ponder:**

- Psalm 77:1-15
- Psalm 146:1-9
- Matthew 3:1-3
- Matthew 11:28-30



## Our Praise of Jesus

Advent celebrates the joy; the Light of the world has come.  
Scripture prepares the eyes of the heart to perceive his Light.

What are you praising God for in this season?

The angel Gabriel announced to a young woman that it was time for the promises of the Old Testament to be fulfilled.

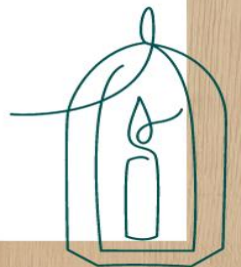
*“In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, ‘Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.’*

*Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.’*

*‘How will this be,’ Mary asked the angel, ‘since I am a virgin?’*

*The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.’*

*‘I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered. ‘May your word to me be fulfilled.’ Then the angel left her” (Luke 1:26-38).*



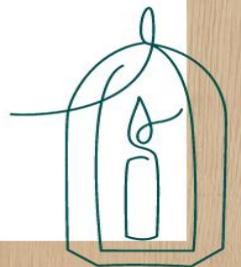
What is God stirring in you through this passage? What resistance are you experiencing?  
What longings are you experiencing?

What is the significance of the announcement?

What is significant about Mary's response?

**Additional Scripture to ponder:**

- Psalm 96:1-3
- Matthew 2:1-2
- Luke 1:39-45
- Luke 1:46-55
- Philippians 4:4-7



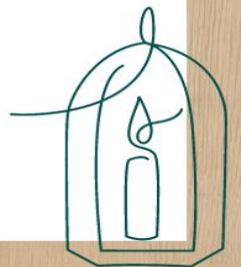
## Our Hope in Jesus

Advent reminds us that we are still watching and waiting for the Light of the world to enter our messes, govern our world (as well as our hearts), and bring us peace.

Where do you need hope this season?

Jesus came first as a babe in a manger, but when He comes again it will be as a Conqueror.

*“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good” (Titus 2:11-14).*





What is God stirring in you through this passage? What resistance are you experiencing? What longings are you experiencing?

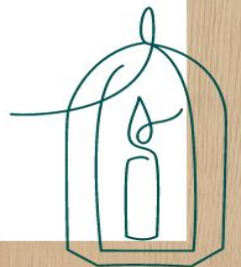
Where do you need to see the grace of salvation in your life and the life of others?

What temptation needs to be yielded to the Holy Spirit?

How does hope rise from Jesus Christ's gift of redemption?

**Additional Scripture to ponder:**

- Acts 1:1-11
- Matthew 24:44
- Matthew 25:32-34
- 1 Corinthians 4:4-5
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
- Revelation 1:7-8
- Revelation 22:12-13



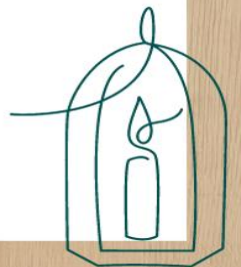
## Our Response to Jesus

Advent employs hospitality by preparing room in our hearts for the  
Light of the world to occupy.

What is the Lord asking you to do during this season?

Jesus gave the disciples this command.

*“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16).*



What is God stirring in you through this passage? What resistance are you experiencing?  
What longings are you experiencing?

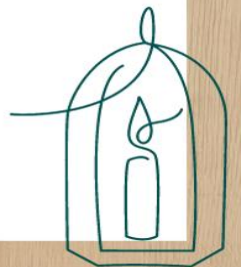
How is the Lord calling you to respond as His light bearer?

What are ways you can shine His light to those around you?

How is God glorified through the work you do?

**Additional Scripture to ponder:**

- Psalm 96:1-4
- Psalm 145:1-21
- Matthew 6:33
- Matthew 28:16-20
- John 15:1-8
- John 15:9-17
- 1 John 2:28



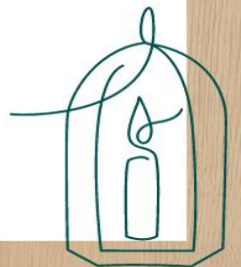
## Worship Songs to Sing, Ponder, and Pray Through

### O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful 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!

God of God, Light of Light  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb  
Very God  
Begotten, not created  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
All 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!



**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

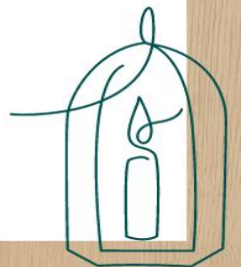
O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud, and majesty and awe

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of hell Thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave



## Here I Am to Worship

Light of the world  
You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes, let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You

Here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God

You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days  
Oh, so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came to the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor

Here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God

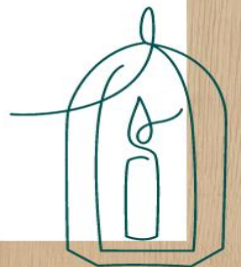
You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

Well, I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross

Well, I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross

Well, I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross

Well, I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross



**Write an Advent Prayer to Jesus**

