

Advent Reading Guide: 25 Days to Christmas

Welcome to a gentle journey through the story of hope, promise and the birth of Jesus. Set aside a few quiet moments each day to read the passage, consider its theme and respond to the reflection. Christian traditions observe Advent in different ways and this plan can be started on any date.

A note on the Scripture: the verse summaries in this guide are plain-English paraphrases, not quotations from a particular Bible translation. Read each passage in your preferred Bible for its full wording and context.

Day 01 | 1 December

PROMISE | Isaiah 9:6-7

Isaiah looks ahead to a promised ruler whose just and lasting reign brings hope to the people.

Reflect: What kind of hope do you need today?

Day 02 | 2 December

HOPE | Isaiah 11:1-5

A new shoot from Jesse's family line pictures a leader guided by God's Spirit, wisdom and righteousness.

Reflect: Where would you welcome wise and fair leadership?

Day 03 | 3 December

BETHLEHEM | Micah 5:2

Micah names Bethlehem as the small place from which a shepherd-like ruler will come for God's people.

Reflect: What small or ordinary place has shaped your life?

Day 04 | 4 December

ANNOUNCEMENT | Luke 1:26-38

Mary receives the unexpected news that she will bear Jesus and answers with trust in God's purpose.

Reflect: What might trusting God look like in an uncertain moment?

Day 05 | 5 December

ENCOURAGEMENT | Luke 1:39-45

Elizabeth welcomes Mary with joy and recognises that God's promise is unfolding among them.

Reflect: Who could use a word of encouragement from you?

Day 06 | 6 December

PRAISE | Luke 1:46-55

Mary praises God for seeing the lowly and for keeping faith with the promises made to generations.

Reflect: What do you want to thank God for today?

The promise draws near

As the story moves from promise to preparation, notice how faithfulness takes shape in ordinary lives.

Day 07 | 7 December

STEADFASTNESS | Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph chooses to remain with Mary after a dream assures him that the child has a place in God's saving work.

Reflect: When has compassion changed how you responded?

Day 08 | 8 December

JOY | Luke 1:57-66

The birth and naming of John bring joy to his family and wonder to the neighbours who see God's kindness.

Reflect: What good news has brought joy to your community?

Day 09 | 9 December

REDEMPTION | Luke 1:67-80

Zechariah celebrates God's mercy and sees John's calling as preparing a way toward forgiveness and peace.

Reflect: What helps you make room for peace?

Day 10 | 10 December

COMFORT | Isaiah 40:1-5

Isaiah's message offers comfort and imagines a road made ready for God's presence among the people.

Reflect: What could you clear away to make space for hope?

Day 11 | 11 December

PREPARATION | Malachi 3:1-4

Malachi pictures a messenger preparing the way and invites the people to consider what renewal requires.

Reflect: What small practice might renew your attention?

Day 12 | 12 December

A WAY MADE READY | Luke 3:2-6

John calls people to turn toward God as the promised way of salvation is opened to all.

Reflect: What change could help you live with greater care?

Day 13 | 13 December

WITNESS | John 1:6-9

John is described as a witness who points beyond himself to the true light coming into the world.

Reflect: Whose example points you toward what is good?

The child is born

The promised story becomes a human story of travel, birth, wonder and welcome.

Day 14 | 14 December

JOURNEY | Luke 2:1-5

Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem in the midst of an imperial registration.

Reflect: What journey are you making through a season of change?

Day 15 | 15 December

HUMILITY | Luke 2:6-7

Jesus is born and laid in a manger, entering the world without royal comfort or display.

Reflect: Where have you found meaning in a simple place?

Day 16 | 16 December

GOOD NEWS | Luke 2:8-12

A messenger brings the shepherds news of a Saviour, marked by the surprising sign of a newborn in a manger.

Reflect: How does it feel to be included in good news?

Day 17 | 17 December

GLORY AND PEACE | Luke 2:13-14

A heavenly multitude praises God and announces peace as part of the birth of Jesus.

Reflect: What would peace look like in one relationship today?

Day 18 | 18 December

WONDER | Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds hurry to see the child, share what they have heard and return praising God.

Reflect: What good thing would you like to share with someone?

Day 19 | 19 December

RECOGNITION | Luke 2:25-35

Simeon recognises God's promised salvation in the infant Jesus and speaks of hope reaching beyond Israel.

Reflect: What helps you recognise hope when it arrives quietly?

Light for every people

The final readings widen the story, from faithful witnesses to seekers from far away, and then to the meaning of Christ's coming.

Day 20 | 20 December

FAITHFULNESS | Luke 2:36-38

Anna's long devotion leads her to recognise Jesus and speak about him to those awaiting God's redemption.

Reflect: What has patient faith taught you over time?

Day 21 | 21 December

SEEKING | Matthew 2:1-2

Visitors from the east follow a sign in the sky as they seek the one born king of the Jews.

Reflect: What question is guiding your search for meaning?

Day 22 | 22 December

DISTURBANCE | Matthew 2:3-8

The visitors' question unsettles Herod and Jerusalem, revealing how differently people respond to the news of Jesus.

Reflect: What helps you respond to difficult news with honesty?

Day 23 | 23 December

WORSHIP | Matthew 2:9-12

The star leads the visitors to Jesus, where they respond with joy, reverence and gifts.

Reflect: What gift of attention or kindness can you offer?

Day 24 | 24 December

LOVE MADE KNOWN | 1 John 4:9-14

The letter presents God's love as made visible through the sending of the Son, so that we may live through him.

Reflect: How might you make love visible to someone tonight?

Day 25 | 25 December

THE WORD MADE FLESH | John 1:1-14

John describes the eternal Word becoming human and living among us, full of grace and truth.

Reflect: What does it mean to welcome Christ's light today?

May these readings help you welcome the hope, peace and presence of Christ.

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