



Advent provides the opportunity to to wait, to watch, and to prepare together as a community. During the Advent season, our Sunday morning worship will continue to focus on *The Sermon on the Mount: Hopeful Living in the Kingdom of God*. It is good and right to learn more about how to live in the Kingdom of God as we anticipate the one who came to establish that kingdom. Although we have provided supplemental material here, we encourage you to continue to read Gospel of Matthew 5-7 along with us each week.

The liturgies provided are the prayers and scriptures we will use during our worship services for the lighting of the Advent Wreath. We have also included opportunities for you to reflect, practice, engage, listen, and pause each week. On each Friday during Advent, an audio version of a guided prayer for Advent from the book *Pause: a year of guided prayer and reflection* written by one of our elders, Holly Norton, will be available. A QR code to these prayers is included, and you can find more information at [thepilgrimcollective.com](http://thepilgrimcollective.com).

Each of these tools are a means to help you move with intention through this season—not to provide another task to check off your list. We invite you to use these prayers, scriptures, practices, and times of reflection throughout your week—perhaps that will be around your dinner table, by the quiet of the Christmas tree lights, or in a brief pause midday. Return to the questions, scriptures, practices, or prayers that capture your attention. Sign up at the QR code above to receive text messages with reminders through the season.

## What is Advent?

The Advent season is made up of the four Sundays leading up to Jesus' arrival on Christmas Day. Advent begins the calendar year for the church—the church calendar begins in the darkness and the longing of a world waiting for life to be birthed. This time of waiting represents the years of yearning for a Messiah before Jesus' birth and allows space for the longing for all things to be made new when Jesus returns.

The word advent simply means to come. And with the season of Advent comes our own invitation to simply come—to enter into this season of waiting fully present to the one who was and is and is to come. Let us name our longings as we wait in hopeful anticipation. Let us wonder again at how Jesus shows up in ordinary and extraordinary ways. Let us prepare Him room together.

“May our waiting be filled with a hope that is both honest and defiant,  
a hope that holds space for all that is still broken  
while believing in a love that will one day make everything right.”

Kate Bowler

**Warehouse 242's Advent Liturgy Week 1: Hope // the week of 12.1.24**

At last, our Savior's near  
**Let all who hear make way  
And may these hearts  
Prepare a place**

Lord, help us to prepare our hearts for Christmas.  
**Our hope is in Jesus.**

Jesus we long for you to shine  
**In our world and in our lives.**

We are your people seeking the light.  
**To you we say "Come Lord Jesus"**

Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;  
Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,  
Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,  
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord  
more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the morning.  
Psalm 130

**May Jesus our King bring hope  
into the darkness of our world,  
and to us, as we wait for his coming.  
Amen**

(These liturgies may be read as a call and response prayer)

## WEEK 1: WAITING WITH HOPE

### REFLECT

Kate Bowler offers this prayer: “May our waiting be filled with a hope that is both honest and defiant, a hope that holds space for all that is still broken while believing in a love that will one day make everything right.”

Spend a few minutes in silence. How are you feeling as this season begins? What are the broken things you are holding space for? What are you waiting for the Lord to do in your life or in the world? The Psalmist reminds us that we can cry out to God out of the depths.

### PRACTICE

Have a conversation with God about the things you have reflected on, perhaps naming your hope for how you want to experience God this season.

Is there someone in your life in need of hope? Imagine holding that person before the Lord and praying for hope. Consider reaching out to that person or writing him or her a card or text.

### ENGAGE

Consider volunteering at Roof Above to offer hope and holiday cheer to our neighbors this holiday season. Group volunteer opportunities include:

- Providing and serving holiday cookies
- Providing and serving coffee or hot cocoa (Email Mercedes Ogilvie at [mogilvie@roofabove.org](mailto:mogilvie@roofabove.org) to sign up for Holiday Cookies or for Serving Coffee or Hot Cocoa).
- Serve a holiday meal on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Email Debbie Davis at [ddavis@roofabove.org](mailto:ddavis@roofabove.org) to sign up.

### LISTEN

Register to attend [Warehouse 242's Listening Series: Deeping Connections: Understanding How Culture Influences our Interactions and Shapes our Engagement](#) with Lica Garnett on Sunday, December 8th. [www.warehouse242.org/events](http://www.warehouse242.org/events)





**Warehouse 242 Advent Liturgy Week 2: Peace // the week of 12.8.24**

At last, our Savior's near  
**Let all who hear make way**  
**And may these hearts**  
**Prepare a place**

Lord, help to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

**Our hope is in Jesus.**

Jesus we long for you to shine

**In our world and in our lives.**

We are your people seeking the light.

**To you we say "Come Lord Jesus"**

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

Zechariah's Song from Luke chapter 1.

**May Jesus our King bring peace**  
**into the darkness of our world,**  
**and to us, as we wait for his coming. Amen**

## WEEK 2: UNEXPECTED PEACE

### REFLECT

What emotions or thoughts are surfacing in you as you navigate this season?

Can you name a time when you experienced peace? Where are you longing for peace in your life and in our world?

### PRACTICE

Jesus taught that love and prayer for our enemies is the path to peace. Spend time walking a portion of your neighborhood or city praying for peace and that your feet would be guided into a path of peace.

### ENGAGE

Our God is a God who moves toward people. How can I move toward people in unexpected ways this week?

### LISTEN

Consider attending [the Brown Faces, White Spaces Charlotte Book Tour](#) celebrating Latasha Morrison's important work.



**Warehouse 242 Advent Liturgy Week 3: Joy // week of 12.15.24**

At last, our Savior's near  
**Let all who hear make way  
And may these hearts  
Prepare a place**

Lord, help us to prepare our hearts for Christmas.  
**Our hope is in Jesus.**

Jesus we long for you to shine  
**In our world and in our lives.**

We are your people seeking the light.  
**To you we say "Come Lord Jesus"**

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew chapter 1.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

**May Jesus our King bring joy  
into the darkness of our world,  
and to us, as we wait for his coming.  
Amen**

## WEEK 3: JOY + LIGHT

### REFLECT

What is stirring within you as you move through this season?

The words to the song *Joy to the World* state:

Joy to the world the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her king  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing

Are there ways that you can prepare Him room in your life? In your home? In your neighborhood? In our city?

### PRACTICE

Take a walk or drive to look at the Christmas lights. Notice how the darkness does not overcome the light. How can we spread light and joy in the world?

### ENGAGE

As you bake or cook this week, consider learning more about another culture's Christmas food traditions and trying a new recipe. Perhaps your cooking can become an act of prayer or a way to share food with others.

### LISTEN

International Migrant Day, December 18th, provides a chance to reflect on and celebrate the contributions of millions of migrants worldwide. Listen and learn more about our partner Abara's work to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters from all over the world who's migrant path has brought them to our border. Consider signing up to receive stories from our neighbors at the border at <https://www.abara.org/>

You can also read about local ways to support newly arrived refugees and immigrant families through Our Bridge for Kids (<https://joinourbridge.org/>) and Project 658 (<https://project658.com/>)



**Warehouse 242 Advent Liturgy Week 4: Love // week of 12.22.24**

At last, our Savior's near  
**Let all who hear make way**  
**And may these hearts**  
**Prepare a place**

Lord, help us to prepare our hearts for Christmas.  
**Our hope is in Jesus.**

Jesus we long for you to shine  
**In our world and in our lives.**

We are your people seeking the light.  
**To you we say "Come Lord Jesus"**

This is Mary's Song from Luke chapter 1.

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

**May Jesus our King bring love**  
**into the darkness of our world,**  
**and to us, as we wait for his coming.**  
**Amen**



## MAKING ROOM FOR LOVE

### REFLECT

What am I noticing about myself as Christmas draws closer?

Mary's song in Luke 1 names the ways she has experienced God's promises. Reflect on the ways you have experienced God's faithfulness and love.

### PRACTICE

Write your own song of praise using the following prompts:

How does your heart or soul feel about the Lord?

In light of the Lord's great love for you, what names might you be called?

What do you know to be true about God's character?

Name some ways you have experienced God?

### ENGAGE

Pray for our Missional Partners and their work to bring God's Kingdom in the world. You can learn more about each of them here:

<https://warehouse242.org/ways-to-connect/our-missional-partners/>

### LISTEN

This medley by The Hound + The Fox | [What Child Is This / Child of the Poor](#) is a powerful reminder that Jesus came as a child of the poor to give us abundant life.



WHAT CHILD IS THIS / CHILD OF THE POOR |  
THE HOUND + THE FOX

