

Prepare Him Room

2024 FAMILY ADVENT GUIDE

Lakeside Baptist Church

Written and compiled by Carey and Dena Dyer



This year at Lakeside, we are excited to set aside time in our December worship services to recognize the season of Advent. You may or may not have celebrated Advent in the past, and this guide will provide info and resources so your family can observe it together with us. The themes in these 5 brief sections will coincide with the songs and messages in our Sunday services. We hope this devotional guide will help you focus and deepen your worship of the Savior this Christmas.

*Love,
The Staff at Lakeside*

WHAT IS ADVENT?

The word advent means “arrival.” The season of Advent is observed by most Christian denominations leading up to Christmas as a time of expectancy and celebration of the arrival of Jesus Christ, our Savior born in Bethlehem so many years ago.

As Christians, we know the arrival of Christ can refer not only to his coming to earth as a baby, but also to his arrival in the hearts of believers and his triumphant return at the second coming. So all three of these themes are implied and recognized in our Advent celebration.

One of the common practices associated with this season is the lighting of colored candles that each represent a different theme within Advent. While different churches observe these themes in varied order, Lakeside’s schedule this year is as follows:

<i>Sunday, December 1st</i>	<i>Joy</i>	<i>Purple candle</i>
<i>Sunday, December 8th</i>	<i>Peace</i>	<i>Purple candle</i>
<i>Sunday, December 15th</i>	<i>Hope</i>	<i>Purple candle</i>
<i>Sunday, December 22nd</i>	<i>Love</i>	<i>Pink candle</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 24th</i>	<i>Christ</i>	<i>White candle</i>

HOW DO I USE THIS BOOKLET?

This guide contains 5 family devotionals, which include descriptions of each Sunday of Advent, scripture readings, as well as special age-appropriate service ideas and activities – so that it can be customized for your family. The material is written with all ages of family members in mind and needs no preparation beforehand to lead.

WHEN DO I START?

For 2024 the first Sunday of Advent is December 1st. So ideally, you’d begin sometime in the week leading up to 12/1. Whether it’s in the afternoon, after supper, or just before bedtime – whenever is best for your family’s schedule is fine. Just make sure that you do these devotions in order and during the week to which each one refers.

As we enter the Advent season this year, we observe a sacred tradition that generations of Christians have been practicing for literally thousands of years. We hope this can become a special tradition and a meaningful time of worship for your family.

JOY

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. . .”

Did you know there are over 200 verses in the Bible containing the word “rejoice”? Some urge us to rejoice over God’s good gifts; others command us to rejoice always, even in hard times. Rejoicing draws us closer to God and keeps us in tune with His purposes. We can even have joy during suffering when we trust in God’s promises and His character.

One way to develop a “joy-full” life is to remember that regardless of what we do or don’t do, our Heavenly Father delights in us and will never leave us. He sent Jesus to give us hope, forgiveness, and eternal life. With His love, He calms our fears. And with the perfect light of Jesus, He makes our imperfect lives shine so others are drawn to Him. Now that’s worth rejoicing about!

SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 9:2-3

SING TOGETHER:

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

*Joy to the world the savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy*

PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for the joy you give us through Jesus Christ. As a family, we celebrate this season and give thanks for your many blessings. In the midst of all the activities in this coming month, help us slow down and remember you, the true star and hero of Christmas. Amen.

Prayer that small children can repeat after mom, dad, or an older sibling: Dear God, thank you for Jesus and joy. Amen.

FAMILY SERVICE IDEAS FOR THIS WEEK:

- * Make and hand out thank you cards for hardworking people who are often overlooked: custodians at your school and church, delivery drivers, and store cashiers.
- * Plan and host a neighborhood carol sing-along and Christmas cookie exchange.
- * Go grocery shopping for an elderly neighbor or someone who's homebound.

JOY PLAYLIST

- * "Joy to the World (Joyful, Joyful) – Phil Wickham
- * "Christmas Day" – Chris Tomlin / We the Kingdom
- * "Wonderful" – CAIN
- * "Sing We the Song of Emmanuel" – Matt Boswell / Matt Papa
- * "Born is the King (It's Christmas)" – Hillsong Worship



LAKESIDE ADVENT PLAYLIST



PRINTABLE COLORING SHEETS



PEACE

“For unto us a child is born. . .the Prince of Peace.”

Where do you turn when you feel guilty, scared, or overwhelmed? Because Jesus is the Prince of Peace, we can open His word and find comfort. Something supernatural happens when we read the Bible and become still in His presence: God resets our minds as the Holy Spirit quiets our souls.

Time with God helps us realize that the gift our Father gave us in Jesus is the gift that keeps giving! Because of Him, each of us can live with boldness. His Word calms us and gives us courage, and His forgiveness covers our sins. No matter what happens, God’s strength, presence, and peace will be enough for us.

SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 9:6, ROMANS 5:1

SING TOGETHER:

*Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!*

PRAYER

Dear God, please grant us your peace this holiday season. We know we can have peace in our lives because of what Jesus has done for us. Thank you for true and lasting peace through Christ. Amen.

Prayer that small children can repeat after mom, dad, or an older sibling: Thank you God for peace. Amen.

FAMILY SERVICE IDEAS FOR THIS WEEK:

- * Make a meal for someone who's been sick or in the hospital.
- * Collect pajamas for a local women's shelter.
- * Clean someone's house as your Christmas gift to them.

PEACE PLAYLIST

- * "Peace Has Come" – Hillsong Worship
- * "Shepherd Boy" – Phil Wickham
- * "O Holy Night" – Hillsong Worship
- * "Light of the World" – Lauren Daigle
- * "Glory (Let There Be Peace)" – Matt Maher



LAKESIDE ADVENT PLAYLIST



PRINTABLE COLORING SHEETS



HOPE

“ . . .one will come from you to be ruler over Israel for me. His origin is from antiquity, from ancient times.”

Ours is a fast-food culture, so we often want immediate solutions to difficult situations. We might even expect God to fix our problems quickly instead of making us wait. If He takes His time to answer our prayers, we can grow discouraged and lose hope.

Do you ever wonder why He works this way? God longs for us to trust Him fully, knowing His plans are best for us. He wants us to realize Jesus is the true answer—the miracle—we need. That first Christmas, God sent His Son to be born, die, and rise again so that we could have a relationship with Him. As the One who knows us best yet loves us most, He is our living hope.

SCRIPTURE: MICAH 5:2-4, MATTHEW 1:18-23

SING TOGETHER:

*O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!*

PRAYER

Lord, we know that our hope is not in the things of this world. Our hope is in our returning King -- just as people in ancient times hoped for a Savior. In good times and bad, our hope is in you, Lord.

Prayer that small children can repeat after mom, dad, or an older sibling: Jesus, you are my hope. Amen.

FAMILY SERVICE IDEAS FOR THIS WEEK:

- * Serve a meal at a homeless shelter during the holidays.
- * Pay for a restaurant meal for a firefighter, paramedic, police officer, or member of the military.
- * Gather toys for children in need and donate them to a local toy drive.

HOPE PLAYLIST

- * “He Shall Reign Forevermore” – Chris Tomlin
- * “Noel (He Is Born)” – Tommee Profitt / Stanaj
- * “King of Kings / Angels We Have Heard on High” – Maverick City Music
- * “I’ve Heard About You” – Crowder



LAKESIDE ADVENT PLAYLIST



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LOVE

“God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world. . .”

Our human hearts often move between generosity and greed. We can be giving and loving one moment but as selfish as a toddler with a new toy the next. Often, the busyness and stress of the holidays make us less likely to notice the needs of those in our path.

This season, let’s ask God to make us more aware of others and more willing to love and serve the people around us. God has given us eternal treasures in His Son, and when we share with others, we model His abundant love. In doing so, we draw people closer to the Light that overcame—and is still overcoming—the world’s darkness.

**SCRIPTURE READING: 1 JOHN 4:7-11,
LAMENTATIONS 3:22-24, JOHN 3:16-17**

SING TOGETHER:

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the skies looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we know what love is because of you. Help us to love others just as you've loved us by sending your Son. And thank you, Jesus, for showing your love by dying on the cross for our sins and giving us new life. In your name we pray, amen.

Prayer that small children can repeat after mom, dad, or an older sibling: Jesus, I love you. Amen.

FAMILY SERVICE IDEAS FOR THIS WEEK:

- * Invite neighbors to our church's Christmas Eve candlelight service and offer to give them a ride.
- * Call a local non-profit (pregnancy resource center, job training program, senior center) and ask them what they could use more of this season. Then get together with friends and do what you can to meet the organization's needs.
- * Take a friend who's been ill on a drive to look at Christmas lights.

LOVE PLAYLIST

- * "O Come All You Unfaithful" – Sovereign Grace
- * "What a Glorious Night" – Sidewalk Prophets
- * "Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)" – We the Kingdom
- * "Here I Am to Worship" – Shane & Shane
- * "All Is Well" – Michael W. Smith / Carrie Underwood



LAKESIDE ADVENT PLAYLIST



PRINTABLE COLORING SHEETS



CHRIST IS BORN

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

I wonder if the angels in Heaven threw a party when Jesus was born. Did they celebrate when the shepherds went to see the Christ child and worshipped? Did they rejoice when the wise men gave gifts to their Savior?

The symbols of Christmas point to a future party we'll be guests of, all because Jesus clothed Himself with human flesh. The tree with its shining ornaments represents eternal life; presents symbolize spiritual gifts of peace, joy, and love; and the meal we share on Christmas Day is a picture of a feast believers will enjoy in Heaven.

What began in Bethlehem will end with us celebrating in person with Jesus, and it will be far beyond our wildest hopes and dreams.

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:8-20, JOHN 20:30-31

SING TOGETHER:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,*

*born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”*

PRAYER

God, thank you for your many blessings this Christmas season. In this coming new year, help us focus on the gift of your Son, Jesus. May we love, obey, and keep in step with your Spirit. As a family, we surrender ourselves to You and Your good and perfect will. Amen.

Prayer that small children can repeat after mom, dad, or an older sibling: God, thank you for Jesus and Christmas. Amen.

FAMILY SERVICE IDEAS FOR THIS WEEK:

- * Hold a birthday party for Jesus (complete with cake, balloons, and favors) for children in your neighborhood.
- * Have flowers delivered to someone who has shown you kindness and who might get overlooked during the holidays.
- * Raise money with a holiday bake sale and give the proceeds to Samaritan’s Purse, Compassion International, World Relief, or Texas Baptists.

CHRIST IS BORN PLAYLIST

- * “Away in a Manger / Worthy Is Your Name” – Maverick City Music
- * “Something About That Name” – Christ for the Nations
- * “Living Hope” – Bethel Music
- * “Behold the Lamb of God” – Andrew Petersen



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PRINTABLE COLORING SHEETS



LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
INVITES YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
TO JOIN US FOR THESE OTHER
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Sunday morning worship times are 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00.

“That’s My King!” – a Christmas musical celebration on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 6:00 PM in our main sanctuary -- will be presented by our adult and kids worship choirs, band, and orchestra.

Our candlelight Christmas Eve services take place on 12/24 at 3:00 and 5:00 PM.

