

Advent

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming” or “visit.” In the season with this name, we keep in mind the various “advents” of Christ:

- in Bethlehem;
- as he enters the door of our hearts;
- in final judgment and glory.

Advent

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year and lasts four weeks. Today is the first day in Advent. The season of Christmas begins on Christmas Eve and lasts for 12 days (through January 6).

12/2: Prayers

12/9: Presence

12/16: Possessions

12/23: Service

- PRAYERS -

What Can I Bring?

The gift of prayer I bring to Christ for the coming year:

- I will pray at least three times a day
- Each week I am present in worship I will take a prayer request card from the communion rail and pray for the names on the card throughout the next week.
- I will commit to join a weekly prayer group
- I will form and lead a weekly prayer group
- OTHER: _____

Place top half in gift box near sanctuary entrance.
Keep lower half to remember your Christmas gift to Christ.

MY COMMITMENT TO PRAYER FOR THE COMING YEAR:

ADVENT

is a Season of
Expectations...
that sometimes
fall short





















THOOOM











²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

1. Jesus is presented to the Lord to be named and circumcised;
2. Redemption of the Firstborn as God's servant.
3. Mary waits through the days of purification

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

Simeon is among the “quiet in the land.” Luke describes a Christ who loves the humble and pure in heart, the widows, the children, the oppressed, the marginalized. Simeon had left all other ambitions for the one ambition that matter above all others – to know Christ.

²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹*“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”*

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but ***worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.*** ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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