

DECEMBER 4, 2016
SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Advent is a season of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Isaiah 40:1-11	A voice crying in the wilderness
Tuesday	John 1:19-28	The testimony of John the Baptist
Wednesday	Romans 15:4-13	Gospel for Jews and Gentiles
Thursday	Isaiah 11:1-10	Peace at last
Friday	Hosea 14:1-9	Repentance brings blessing
Saturday	Psalms 72	A prayer for guidance
Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And the Scriptures were written to teach and encourage us by giving us hope. **Romans 15:4 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to prepare the way for you in our lives and in our world by being people whose hope is in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for all you have prepared for us to share and eat and enjoy. Help us to prepare the way for you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you great joy and peace as you trust in God. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope. (Romans 15:13)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel*



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about something that you hope will happen.
- How does your faith influence what you hope for?
- John the Baptist prepared people to meet Jesus. Who has been a “John the Baptist” figure in your life by helping you to know Jesus?

DEVOTIONS



In the second week of Advent light the first and second Advent candles and say these words.

Say: This is the second week of Advent. We light our second candle to remind us that this is the season of hope. Jesus came to bring us hope, and we live in hope for him to come again. [The candles are lit.]

Read: Romans 15:4-13.

Pray: God, in this season of hope, make us patient and cheerful, and help us to live at peace with one another as we follow Christ. Amen.

SERVICE



Set aside time to prepare Christmas cookies and treats to give away to friends and neighbors. After the gifts of food are packaged, pray for those who will receive them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Gather with others and use the following Christmas Tree Blessing during the Advent season.

Leader: This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of God’s goodness and all that is beautiful. It stands in our home as a tree of light, a sign of Jesus’ presence with us as the light of the World. He was the shoot that grew from the stump of Jesse to become a branch that gives us shelter.

Read: Isaiah 11:1-3a.

All: God of all creation, we thank you for this tree. Bless us as we gather around it. May it light up our hearts with your love, joy, and peace, and may the gifts placed under it remind us of the great gift of your Son Jesus. Amen.

After the blessing, have each person tell about their favorite Christmas tree decoration or Christmas tree story.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org