

2024 Weekly Advent Prayers

Week One

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Lord, as we begin our Advent preparations, we ask for the gift of hope.

This season draws to mind that sacred moment when Your coming was made known by the message of an angel to Mary. That Annunciation brought hope, not only to the heart of Mary, but to all of humanity. Renew our hope as we enter into this sacred season.

May we also remember all those who feel hopeless in this current season -

Those experiencing poverty, homelessness, sickness, or despair of any form. Help us to live lives that announce Your presence in the world and bring hope to those in need.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Week Two

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Lord, as we continue our Advent preparations, we ask for Your gift of peace.

This week we reflect on the words of John the Baptist crying out in the desert: "The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth." Fill us with Your peace as You straighten and smooth the paths of our lives, Lord, as we more closely follow Your way.

Help us to be peacemakers in the places of our world that are still rough and winding, in our schools, families, and communities.

May we continue our preparations for Your coming not from a place of busyness and chaos, but from Your peace and Your peace alone.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

2024 Weekly Advent Prayers

Week Three

J
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Y

Lord, in this third week of Advent, we ask You to grant us the joy of life with You.

You were born in a noisy manger filled with animals and into a world filled with social tensions. Yet, even in the midst of this chaos, Your life, Your birth, brought much joy to the world. Angels proclaimed, shepherds gathered, and magi brought gifts.

May we strive to find joy and bring joy in the midst of the weariness of our world. Encourage our hearts when joy feels far off. And help us take time to turn to You in gratitude when our lives are filled with rejoicing.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Week Four

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Lord, as this Advent season draws to a close, we ask for an increased awareness of Your love.

This week we reflect on Luke's account of the Visitation between Mary and Elizabeth. This moment of encounter is filled with love - between Mary and Elizabeth, yes, but also between You, Lord, and Your cousin, John the Baptist, who leapt in the womb in the presence of Your love.

Even when You were in Mary's womb, Lord, Your love for us couldn't help but pour out. Help us to be vessels of Your love in this final week of Advent and in the Christmas season ahead.

May we recognize Your presence in each person we encounter, in our families, in our friends, and even in strangers, and follow Your call to love others as You have loved us.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.