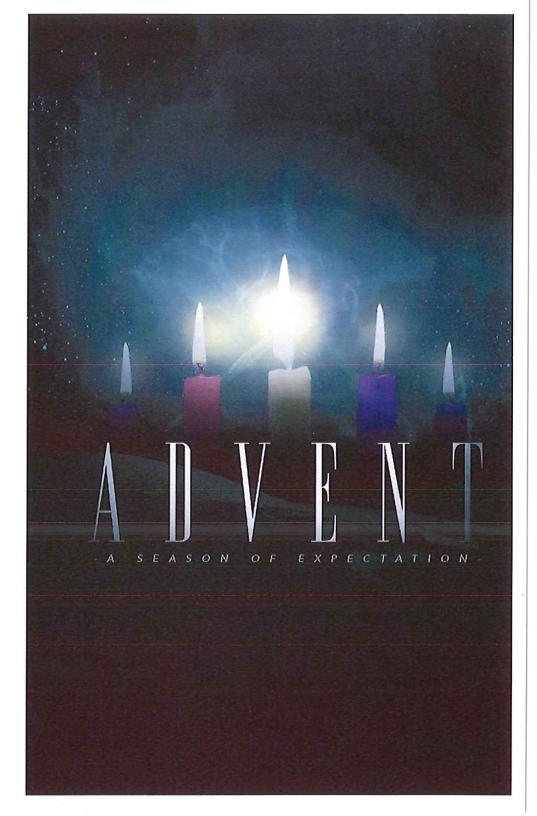
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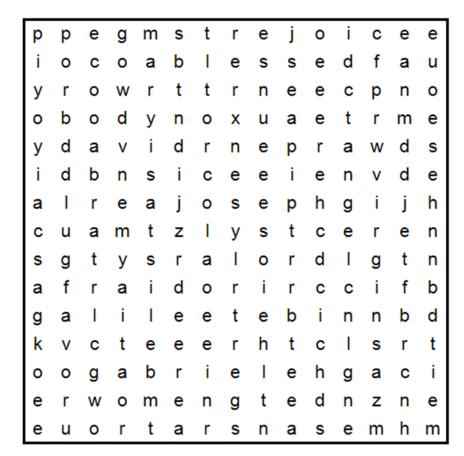
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The Second Sunday of Advent The Candle of Faith



Luke 1:26-38: ²⁶ Now in the sixth month the <u>angel Gabriel</u> was sent by God to a city of <u>Galilee</u> named <u>Nazareth</u>, ²⁷ to a <u>virgin betrothed</u> to a man whose name was <u>Joseph</u>, of the house of <u>David</u>. The virgin's name was <u>Mary</u>. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "<u>Rejoice</u>, highly favored one, the <u>Lord</u> is with you; <u>blessed</u> are you among <u>women</u>!" ²⁹ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be <u>afraid</u>, Mary, for you have found <u>favor</u>



with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. (NKJV)

Christmas Offering

Verse 1

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star While angels sang to lowly shepherds Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar Hoping to find the child from Heaven Falling on their knees They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

Chorus 1

I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You

Verse 2

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne
Before the Holy One of Heaven
It's only by Your blood it's only through Your mercy
Lord I come

Chorus 2

I bring an offering of worship to my King No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due Oh Lord I bring an offering to You (Oh Lord I bring and offering to You)

Emmanuel

Verse

Emmanuel Emmanuel
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us revealed in us
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O Come O Come Emmanuel

Verse 1

O come O come Emmanuel And ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear

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O come Desire of nations bind All peoples in one heart and mind Bid envy strife and quarrels cease Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

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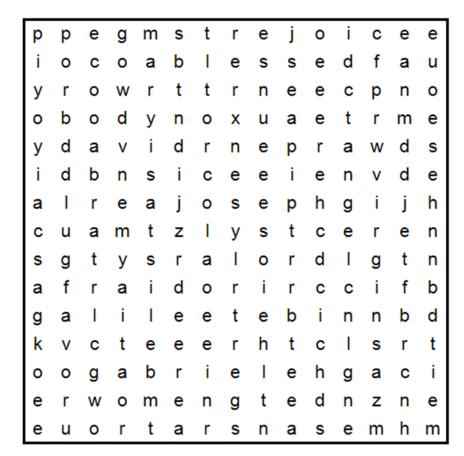
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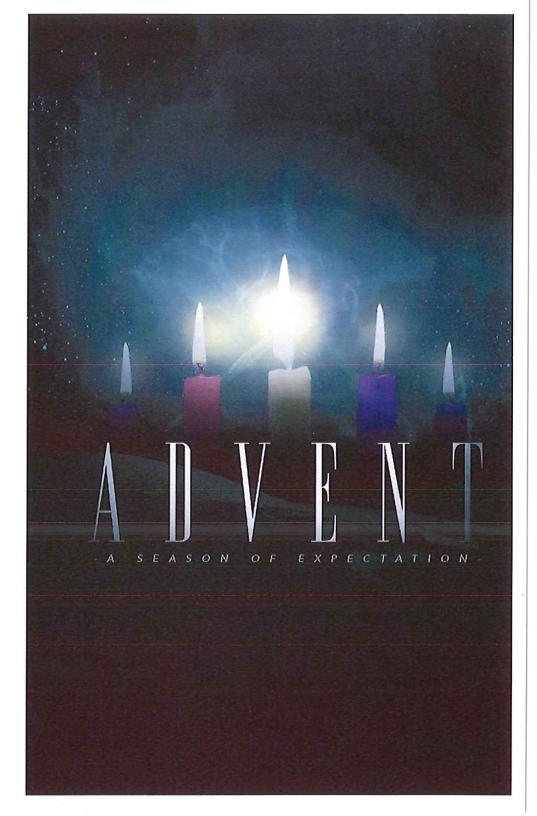
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Lord I come

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It's a beautiful chance to reflect on the ways prophecy has been fulfilled and to ponder what the future (promised to us through prophecies) will bring.

Psalm 46:10-11 says:

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This week, we pause to remember who God is and what He has done for us. When our lives are hurried, we only have the chance to focus on our to-do lists. Making space in our schedules for prayer and meditation helps us to better see God at work in our lives and in our world.

As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity, let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation; preparing our hearts, as we faithfully await the chance to celebrate the arrival of our king.

The tradition for the second Sunday of Advent includes lighting the second purple candle that is a symbol of faith.

This second Sunday of Advent we read, pray, and reflect on the hope God's plan gives us (foretold by the prophets and fulfilled by the life and death of Christ), and we meditate on the promise of Christ's coming glory-filled return.

A Prayer for Faith on the Second Sunday of Advent:

Father, prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth joyfully! We thank you for faithfully doing what you promised long ago when you sent your Son to earth so that we might have the chance to become part of your family. Let the promise of your second coming inspire us to live with hope and purpose.

As we wait for your plan to unfold, give us the patience we need. Remind us of the peace we can access when we take time to still ourselves before you and remember that you are God. We thank you that you are both sovereign and gracious.

Help us to find rest in the midst of what feels like chaos in our world. Amen.

(From Crosswalk.com)

Luke 1:46-55

"The Songs of Christmas: Mary's Song"

I. Mary magnifies God for honoring her. (vv. 46-48)

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

- Luke 1:46-48 ESV

11 And the angel of the LORD said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has listened to your affliction. ... 13 So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." - Genesis 16:11, 13 ESV

II. Mary proclaims the greatness of God. (vv. 49-50)

49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

- Luke 1:49-50 ESV

1 Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? - Isaiah 66:1 ESV

14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? - Genesis 18:14 ESV

17 'Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. - Jeremiah 32:17 ESV

6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, - Exodus 34:6 ESV

III. Mary recognizes that God is above human wisdom, power, and plans. (vv. 51-53)

51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. - Luke 1:51-53 ESV

37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble. **- Daniel 4:37 ESV**

11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." - Luke 14:11 ESV

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. - 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 ESV

IV. Mary reminds us that God faithful and merciful. (vv. 54-55)

54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

- Luke 1:54-55 ESV

1 O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

- Isaiah 25:1 ESV

Truths to Take with Us

- You are known by God.
- God is beyond your comprehension, but not your reach.
- God is not limited by the powers of this world.
- God is faithful and merciful.

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"...Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

This week, we pause to remember who God is and what He has done for us. When our lives are hurried, we only have the chance to focus on our to-do lists. Making space in our schedules for prayer and meditation helps us to better see God at work in our lives and in our world.

As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity, let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation; preparing our hearts, as we faithfully await the chance to celebrate the arrival of our king.

The tradition for the second Sunday of Advent includes lighting the second purple candle that is a symbol of faith.

This second Sunday of Advent we read, pray, and reflect on the hope God's plan gives us (foretold by the prophets and fulfilled by the life and death of Christ), and we meditate on the promise of Christ's coming glory-filled return.

A Prayer for Faith on the Second Sunday of Advent:

Father, prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth joyfully! We thank you for faithfully doing what you promised long ago when you sent your Son to earth so that we might have the chance to become part of your family. Let the promise of your second coming inspire us to live with hope and purpose.

As we wait for your plan to unfold, give us the patience we need. Remind us of the peace we can access when we take time to still ourselves before you and remember that you are God. We thank you that you are both sovereign and gracious.

Help us to find rest in the midst of what feels like chaos in our world. Amen.

(From Crosswalk.com)

Luke 1:46-55

"The Songs of Christmas: Mary's Song"

I. Mary magnifies God for honoring her. (vv. 46-48)

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

- Luke 1:46-48 ESV

11 And the angel of the LORD said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has listened to your affliction. ... 13 So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." - Genesis 16:11, 13 ESV

II. Mary proclaims the greatness of God. (vv. 49-50)

49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

- Luke 1:49-50 ESV

1 Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? - Isaiah 66:1 ESV

14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? - Genesis 18:14 ESV

17 'Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. - Jeremiah 32:17 ESV

6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, - Exodus 34:6 ESV

III. Mary recognizes that God is above human wisdom, power, and plans. (vv. 51-53)

51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. - Luke 1:51-53 ESV

37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble. **- Daniel 4:37 ESV**

11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." - Luke 14:11 ESV

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. - 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 ESV

IV. Mary reminds us that God faithful and merciful. (vv. 54-55)

54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

- Luke 1:54-55 ESV

1 O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

- Isaiah 25:1 ESV

Truths to Take with Us

- You are known by God.
- God is beyond your comprehension, but not your reach.
- God is not limited by the powers of this world.
- God is faithful and merciful.