

# "Do you see what I see?"

*An Advent devotional book  
– using ALL of your senses –  
for kids and the grownups who love them*

*RestoKids 2024 // Restoration Anglican Church // Arlington, Virginia*



# Psalm 34:1-8

<sup>1</sup> I will thank the Lord at all times.

My lips will always praise him.

<sup>2</sup> I will find my glory in knowing the Lord.

Let those who are hurting **hear** me and be joyful.

<sup>3</sup> Join me in giving glory to the Lord.

Let us honor him together.

<sup>4</sup> I looked to the Lord, and he answered me.

He saved me from everything I was afraid of.

<sup>5</sup> Those who look to him have joyful faces.

They are never covered with shame.

<sup>6</sup> This poor man called out, and the Lord heard him.

He saved him out of all his troubles.

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord stands guard

around those who have respect for him.

And he saves them.

<sup>8</sup> **Taste** and **see** that the Lord is good.

Blessed is the person who goes to him for safety.

# What is Advent?

Advent is a word that means “coming” or “arrival.” It is a season of remembrance and hope. It’s a time to look both backward at what God has done and forward at what He has promised He will do.

During Advent, we make space to remember and to retell God’s story of His love for His people. We remember how the prophets anticipated the coming of the Messiah. And we retell the story of how God’s people waited for Jesus’ birth.

We also make space to wait and to watch. We wait in hope for our broken world to be healed and restored. We watch with joy for Jesus to come again and make all things new.

As we retell the story, we remember that Jesus first came to us as a baby, born to Mary. As we wait and watch for Jesus to come again, we prepare our hearts for all that Jesus will bring in the future.

The season of Advent is marked by the color purple.

# Entering into the story.

We, as God's people, are part of God's story. His story of love and rescue. His story of coming again and making all things new. This is His story of what was, what is, and what will be. We get to be part of that story now.

But what was it like to be part of His story long ago as the Great Rescuer – God with us – came to earth? What was it like to see, to hear, to taste, to smell, and to touch – to really experience all that happened at His glorious coming?

This Advent, we'll practice ways of reading and living into the story, opening our imaginations, and allowing us to remember and retell the story as we see and hear things anew.

# Getting ready.

As a family, use the prayers and readings, along with the accompanying tools in your bag, to help ready your whole self for this season of waiting, celebrating, and rejoicing at the arrival of the promised Messiah.

Prepare a special place – a sacred space – where you go to rest and remember, listen and wait. A place where you read God’s Word and talk to Him each day. Lay out your special white cloth, your purple ribbon, and candle to mark that space.

Use a nativity set you have at home or be creative and make your own.

Use the wooden peg dolls and make each one look like a member of your family. Then add those peg dolls to the nativity set, making you part of the story.

You may want to have some art supplies handy to create your own art as you respond to all that God is saying to you.

O come, let us adore Him!

# the liturgy for each day

## still

Take a few moments to quiet your heart. In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you notice all that He has to say to you.

## invite

Lay out your cloth, ribbon, and candle.

As you light your candle, say:

LEADER: *The people walking in darkness . . .*

**ALL: . . . have seen a great light**

## remember

*Was there a time today that you knew God was really near to you? Can you tell me that story? Or, I wonder if you can tell me about something beautiful you saw today? Can you tell me what it was like?*

# **tell the story**

Find the Scripture readings on the pages that follow. We are using the NIV translation.

Each day, engage with the story differently. You'll see some suggestions about how you might tell and retell the story.

# **wonder**

At the end of each reading or retelling, wonder and share with others what you notice in the story. Wondering questions have no clear answer and invite you to dwell in the mystery – simply marveling in the marvelousness of God as you discover together the meaning of the biblical text.

# **listen**

Sit in silence. Listen for what the Holy Spirit is saying to you maybe through pictures or words in your mind, a gentle whisper, or a way-down-deep-in-your-belly peaceful knowing and understanding.



# pray

Tell God what you love about Him. Give thanks. Ask for help.

Try praying with just one word or a simple sentence.

Or pray saying *The Lord's Prayer* or singing *The Doxology*.

# bless

**ALL: Visit this place, O LORD, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.**

LEADER: Our king and Savior now draws near.

**ALL: O come, let us adore him!**



# THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

- DAY 1**      **READ THE STORY || Luke 1:26-55**  
Listen carefully from beginning to end.  
*What is something new you hear in the story?*
- DAY 2**      **SEE THE STORY**  
Look at art (using the QR code in the back of this book) or create your own art.
- DAY 3**      **TELL THE STORY**  
Gather objects from around your house that help you retell the story. *What important things do you want to include as you retell the story?*
- DAY 4**      **READ THE STORY || Luke 1:28**  
Read the story by focusing on part of it. *How does hearing just these words help you know the story?*
- DAY 5**      **HEAR THE STORY**  
Listen to music (using the QR code in the back of this book) or make up your own music or lyrics to sing the story.
- DAY 6**      **BE THE STORY**  
Dress up as a character from the story and put on a play to retell the story. *What's it like to be the story?*
- DAY 7**      **READ THE STORY || Luke 1:26-55**  
Listen carefully from beginning to end.  
*What is something you understand differently?*

# THE STORY FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

## **A reading from Luke 1:26-55.**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee.

<sup>27</sup> He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup> The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. <sup>31</sup> You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. <sup>33</sup> The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> “How can this happen?” Mary asked the angel. “I am a virgin.”

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. <sup>37</sup> That’s because what God says will always come true.”

<sup>38</sup> “I serve the Lord,” Mary answered. “May it happen to me just as you said it would.” Then the angel left her.

<sup>39</sup> At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in Judea’s hill country. <sup>40</sup> There she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby inside her jumped. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she called out, “God has blessed you more than other women. And blessed is the child you will have! <sup>43</sup> But why is God so kind to me? Why has the mother of my Lord come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as I heard the sound of your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy. <sup>45</sup> You are a woman God has blessed. You have believed that the Lord would keep his promises to you!”

46 Mary said,  
"My soul gives glory to the Lord.  
47 My spirit delights in God my Savior.  
48 He has taken note of me  
    even though I am not considered important.  
From now on all people will call me blessed.  
49 The Mighty One has done great things for me.  
    His name is holy.  
50 He shows his mercy to those who have respect for him,  
    from parent to child down through the years.  
51 He has done mighty things with his powerful arm.  
    He has scattered those who are proud in their deepest  
thoughts.  
52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones.  
    But he has lifted up people who are not considered  
important.  
53 He has filled with good things those who are hungry.  
    But he has sent away empty those who are rich.  
54 He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him.  
    He has always remembered to be kind  
55 to Abraham and his children down through the years.  
    He has done it just as he promised to our people of  
long ago."

**The Word of the Lord.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

# NOTICINGS AND WONDERINGS





# THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

- DAY 1**      **READ THE STORY || Matthew 1:18-24**  
Listen carefully from beginning to end.  
*What is something new you hear in the story?*
- DAY 2**      **SEE THE STORY**  
Look at art (using the QR code in the back of this book) or create your own art.
- DAY 3**      **TELL THE STORY**  
Gather objects from around your house that help you retell the story. *What important things do you want to include as you retell the story?*
- DAY 4**      **READ THE STORY || Matthew 1:21-23**  
Read the story by focusing on part of it. *How does hearing just these words help you know the story?*
- DAY 5**      **HEAR THE STORY**  
Listen to music (using the QR code in the back of this book) or make up your own music or lyrics to sing the story.
- DAY 6**      **BE THE STORY**  
Dress up as a character from the story and put on a play to retell the story. *What's it like to be the story?*
- DAY 7**      **READ THE STORY || Matthew 1:18-24**  
Listen carefully from beginning to end.  
*What is something you understand differently?*

# THE STORY FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

## **A reading from Matthew 1:18-24.**

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph was faithful to the law. But he did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup> She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet,  
<sup>23</sup> "The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) The name Immanuel means "God with us."

<sup>24</sup> Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**



# NOTICINGS AND WONDERINGS



# THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

- DAY 1**      **READ THE STORY || Luke 2:1-7**  
Listen carefully from beginning to end.  
*What is something new you hear in the story?*
- DAY 2**      **SEE THE STORY**  
Look at art (using the QR code in the back of this book) or create your own art.
- DAY 3**      **TELL THE STORY**  
Gather objects from around your house that help you retell the story. *What important things do you want to include as you retell the story?*
- DAY 4**      **READ THE STORY || Luke 2:6-7**  
Read the story by focusing on part of it. *How does hearing just these words help you know the story?*
- DAY 5**      **HEAR THE STORY**  
Listen to music (using the QR code in the back of this book) or make up your own music or lyrics to sing the story.
- DAY 6**      **BE THE STORY**  
Dress up as a character from the story and put on a play to retell the story. *What's it like to be the story?*
- DAY 7**      **READ THE STORY || Luke 2:1-7**  
Listen carefully from beginning to end.  
*What is something you understand differently?*

# THE STORY FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

## **A reading from Luke 2:1-7.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world.

<sup>2</sup> It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

<sup>3</sup> Everyone went to their own town to be listed.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby.

<sup>6</sup> While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**



# NOTICINGS AND WONDERINGS



# THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

- DAY 1**      **READ THE STORY || Luke 2:8-20**  
Listen carefully from beginning to end.  
*What is something new you hear in the story?*
- DAY 2**      **SEE THE STORY**  
Look at art (using the QR code in the back of this book) or create your own art.
- DAY 3**      **TELL THE STORY**  
Gather objects from around your house that help you retell the story. *What important things do you want to include as you retell the story?*
- DAY 4**      **READ THE STORY || Luke 2:10-12**  
Read the story by focusing on part of it. *How does hearing just these words help you know the story?*
- DAY 5**      **HEAR THE STORY**  
Listen to music (using the QR code in the back of this book) or make up your own music or lyrics to sing the story.
- DAY 6**      **BE THE STORY**  
Dress up as a character from the story and put on a play to retell the story. *What's it like to be the story?*
- DAY 7**      **READ THE STORY || Luke 2:8-20**  
Listen carefully from beginning to end.  
*What is something you understand differently?*

# THE STORY FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

## **A reading from Luke 2:8-20.**

<sup>8</sup> There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said,

<sup>14</sup> "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!  
And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

<sup>15</sup> The angels left and went into heaven.

Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger.

<sup>17</sup> After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child.

<sup>18</sup> All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

<sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**



# NOTICINGS AND WONDERINGS

# see the story

**Scan the QR code to look at art and help you to to imagine more of the story.**

*What captures your attention as you look at each piece of artwork? What words of the story come to mind as you look? What makes you curious? What part of the story do you think the artist is trying to tell?*



*restorationarlington.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/  
artwork\_slideshow.pdf*



# hear the story

**Scan the QR code to listen to songs that tell the story.**

*What captures your attention as you listen to the words?  
The instruments? The rhythm of the notes? How the  
music's volume moves between loudness and softness?*



***RestoKids: Advent Awe and Wonder*** on Spotify

# taste the story

**Use this recipe to make cookies!**

*How does tasting help you know the sweetness of God?*

**EASY SUGAR COOKIES** from [twopeasandtheirpod.com](http://twopeasandtheirpod.com)

## **ingredients**

- 2 3/4 cups of all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup unsalted butter, at cool room temperature
- 1 3/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1 large egg plus 1 large egg yolk
- 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract

## **instructions**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, salt, and baking powder. Set aside.
3. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat butter on medium speed for 1 minute. Add the 1 3/4 cups granulated sugar and beat until light and fluffy, about 2-3 minutes. (Stop once and scrape sides.)
4. Add the egg, egg yolk, and vanilla extract, and mix until well combined. Add the dry ingredients, and mix until just combined.
5. Roll out dough on a lightly floured surface. Use cookie cutters.
6. Bake for 10-14 minutes or until light golden brown on the bottom. Decorate when cool, or enjoy them plain.

# smell the story

**Use this recipe to fill your home with the scent of something beautiful.**

*How does smelling the different spices help to remind you of different places or times you've smelled these smells before? How do you think smelling them as you listen or tell the story of Christ's coming will help you remember the story?*

## **ADVENT SIMMERING SPICES**

### ***ingredients***

5 cups water  
cinnamon sticks  
whole cloves  
whole allspice  
1 orange, cut into slices  
1 apple, sliced in half

### ***instructions***

Combine all ingredients together in a saucepan and heat over low heat until simmering. Add more water when needed.



**God knows you.  
He is crazy about you.  
He goes with you everywhere.**