

Fourth Week of Advent: Journeying in the World

As we come closer to the joy and promise of the Incarnation, we invite you to continue journeying the Way of Love. Consider this week which of the practices captured your imagination this Advent. Which challenged you or brought the most joy? Where did you find blessings or cross boundaries? Where is God calling you to witness to salvation being birthed into the world today?

Sunday WORSHIP

Do. Linger before leaving your worship time today. How is God calling you to hear and sing along with Mary's Song? Read Luke 1:39-55.

Wednesday PRAY —Pray with the Collect for Advent 4

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Do. Pick three or four of your beloveds to focus your prayers on today. Make sure to leave some silent space for God to offer you some wisdom about what they may need right now.

On **Christmas Day** remember to say and pray the Collect especially if you are not able to attend church.

The Nativity of Our Lord

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Source: [Worship \(4th ed.\) #429](#)

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Hello dear friends,

The contents of this Advent and Christmas Prayer leaflet are taken from the Episcopal Church of the United States.

As Advent begins you are invited to orient yourself to the coming of Jesus at Christmas through two of the practices of *Journeying the Way of Love* **Worship and Pray** on Sundays and Wednesdays. There is a purpose for each week.

First Week of Advent: Saying “Yes” to the Journey

Sunday WORSHIP

Read Luke 21: 25-36 The Lesson of the Fig Tree and the Exhortation to Watch

Q. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you to understand the story of Jesus?

Wednesday PRAY

Pray with the Collect for Advent 1

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Do. Set the timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you.

Second Week of Advent: Journeying with Family and Friends

As we continue our Advent walk, we invite you to see the Way of Love as a journey that can expand to include family and friends. Mary said “yes” to the call to birth Jesus, God’s Word, into the world and immediately went in haste to share her good news with her cousin, Elizabeth—a four-day journey into the Judean hills. Isn’t that what happens when we hear good news?

We are driven to go and tell others.

The Way of Love is good news that demands to be shared.

Sunday WORSHIP—Read Luke 3:1-6.

Q. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?

Wednesday PRAY

Pray with the Collect for Advent 2

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Do. As you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass.

Ask God to bless them in their lives and work.

See how this changes the way you go about your week.

Third Week of Advent: Journeying with Community

As we continue our Advent walk, we invite you to see the Way of Love as a journey that includes the community.

The witness of Zechariah and Elizabeth who bring the infant John to the Temple to be circumcised reminds us of the importance of our faith community to sustaining the Way of Love.

Just as the community did for John’s family, communities provide a place for discernment, sometimes challenging us and other times affirming us. Communities celebrate and mark important moments along the journey.

Sunday WORSHIP

Do. Imagine the faces you’d like to see at church — an all-star list of folks you want to worship with. This could be people you know from summer camp when you were a kid, people who might have already died, people you work with — all your favorites. Commit to pray for those folks this week. And make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.

Wednesday PRAY—Pray with the Collect for Advent 3

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Q. How will prayer guide you through the rest of the week? Set aside special time today to focus your intentions on stirring up peace and spreading joy.