

Recommended Advent Devotional:

- Come Let Us Adore Him by Paul David Tripp – Order [online at Christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com) (\$6.99 on sale!) or on Amazon.

Other (free) Advent Devotionals/Scripture Reading:

- She Reads Truth, rich daily scripture readings, short devotional, beautiful artwork (read online or subscribe for free daily email): <http://shereadstruth.com>
- John Piper – free PDFs: [Good News of Great Joy](#) or [The Dawning of Indestructible Joy](#)
- Daily scripture readings (Revised Common Lectionary): <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=B&season=Advent>
- Advent Devotional Guide by Mark D. Roberts: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/series/advent-devotional-guide-preparing-for-the-coming-of-christ/>

Listen to Advent Music:

Plenty of overlap with "Christmas" music, but think about it a little differently – focus on the songs that relate most to Advent themes, like longing, waiting, expectation, coming of Christ; or try listening to instrumental versions of Christmas music for a while. A few links for ideas:

- Advent Songs by Sojourn Music: <https://sojournmusic.bandcamp.com/album/advent-songs>
- Sacred Ordinary Days Spotify playlist: <https://open.spotify.com/user/sacredordinarydays/playlist/6eySVfzgF7Tjb2d0ugXFBf>
- Silent Night by Red Mountain Music: <https://redmountainmusic.bandcamp.com/album/silent-night>
- The Light Came Down by Josh Garrels: <https://joshgarrels.bandcamp.com/album/the-light-came-down>
- Songs for the Incarnation: <https://cardiphonia.bandcamp.com/album/songs-for-the-incarnation>
- Nativity by Luke Brawner <https://lukebrawner.bandcamp.com/album/nativity>
- FOR KIDS: Waiting Songs by Rain for Roots: <https://rainforroots.bandcamp.com/album/waiting-songs>

Celebrating at Home/Family Advent Devotionals:

Keep it fun and simple!

- One of the easiest ways to add advent to your home is any kind of **advent calendar** to build anticipation through the month. Buy one, make a simple one like [these](#) or [these](#) (lots of DIY ideas online), use it however you wish! See Jesus Storybook advent calendar attachment/link below. An easy/fun visual (especially for kids who can't read numbers yet) is to make a paper chain and take one off every day to countdown to Christmas, like [this](#).
- Great option especially for young kids: **Jesus Storybook Bible Advent Guide** – reading plan + free Advent calendar printable, PDF attached or download here <http://www.faithgateway.com/jesus-storybook-bible-advent-calendar-printable>
- **LifeWay Kids Family Advent Guide**: looks great for families! Short devotions/questions, activities, and short daily scripture. Use on its own or with advent wreath: See attached pdf, or download here <http://www.lifeway.com/kidsministry/2017/11/15/family-advent-guide/>
- **Jesse Tree** – lots of books / calendars, online or purchased, including [Unwrapping the Greatest Gift: A Family Celebration of Christmas](#) by Anne Voskamp
- Do **act(s) of service and giving** with your community group and/or on your own – an important part of this season to keep kids from getting sucked into "all about presents" and shift focus onto loving others as Christ does.

- Ways to engage *young* children during advent:
<https://www.risenmotherhood.com/blog/2017/4/4/five-ways-to-engage-your-young-children-in-advent>
- “Children have great expectations and hopes during Advent – usually associated with Christmas presents, Santa Claus, holiday celebrations, and so forth. Rather than discouraging these hopes (which is a “hopeless” task!), I would urge parents to help their children get the “feel” of Advent by relating their hopes to biblical Advent themes.”
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/series/advent-devotional-guide-preparing-for-the-coming-of-christ/>

Advent Wreath at Home:

We will be lighting an advent wreath each Sunday at church. It can be meaningful (and fun) to do an advent wreath at home as well.

- Make or [buy](#) simple advent wreath. Enjoy lighting each Sunday or everyday, accompanied by as much or little scripture/discussion/prayer/songs as you wish. There are a variety of meanings/symbolism for each candle, as a google search will quickly show you. Here are a couple resources:
- LifeWay Kids Family Advent Guide: See attached pdf, or download here
<http://www.lifeway.com/kidsministry/2017/11/15/family-advent-guide/>
- Longer readings, shorten as needed for kids' ages: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/series/advent-devotional-guide-preparing-for-the-coming-of-christ/>
- Short/simple, good for kids, with discussion questions:
<http://childrensministry.com/articles/advent-wreath-christmas-weekly-mailings/>

Service Opportunities:

- Caroling at Skyline
- Angel trees
- Plenty Farm: food bank, Christmas tree delivery
- Food Lion boxes

Further Reading:

- Listen: The Liturgy of Waiting <https://renovare.org/podcast/episode-107-richella-parham-waiting>
- Listen: Advent & Crafting Traditions
<https://sacredordinarydays.com/blogs/news/s1-e2-advent-crafting-traditions>
- Introduction to Advent:
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/series/introduction-to-advent/>
- Why Advent Matters: <http://www.incourage.me/2015/11/advent-matters.html>
- "6 Ways to Keep Advent Simple" + additional resources: <http://theartofsimple.net/advent/>
- LOTS of great resources/links and podcast:
<https://www.risenmotherhood.com/show-archive/ep-81-celebrating-advent-with-little-ones> and
<https://www.risenmotherhood.com/advent>
- The Gospel Coalition, Why Advent Matters – on waiting:
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-celebrate-advent/>
- Resources: <https://sacredordinarydays.com/pages/advent>