

Advent Reading, November 26, 2022

Advent is upon us; a built-in season to remember and focus on all aspects of the Advent and Christmas story. The publisher of the book *Christ in Christmas, A Family Advent Celebration*, writes, "Advent refers to the 'coming' or 'arrival' of Jesus Christ..The Advent of the Lord in the flesh at Christmas; His Advent in Word and Spirit; and the final Advent when our Lord will return bodily in glory. Each meaning stirs the joyful anticipation of what God has accomplished, is doing, and will yet bring to completion." Ellen G. White writes the following response to questions about the holiday season, "Let us seek to faithfully represent Christ on the coming festal days by imitating His example as He went about doing good. It is impossible to enjoy the approbation of God while living for self. As Christians who profess a living faith in the near coming of the Son of man, keeping all of God's commandments, let us make earnest efforts to draw near to God through Jesus Christ and make a covenant with Him..Christ came to our world to elevate the minds of men to the divine level, and to bring them into sympathy with the mind of God." The practice of Advent and Advent candles is the perfect way to remind ourselves each week of what God did for us and to put that as the focus of this season.

Advent has been celebrated in faiths around the world since the fourth century, and in our own church archives there are advent readings from 1993.

The candles symbolize Christ's light in the world, both today and when his light first came into the world through the star one night long ago, candles of Hope and Anticipation, Peace, Joy, Love, and the final Christ Candle. The evergreen reminds us that Christ died, but rose, and will never die again.

While we light the candles each Sabbath, we invite you to bring the advent season into your home by reading and focusing on the following texts each day.

This week we celebrate Hope and Anticipation for Peace.

Sunday's Scripture: Genesis 1:26–31

Monday's Scripture: Genesis 3:1–24

Tuesday's Scripture: Genesis 3:15

Wednesday's Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15–19

Thursday's Scripture: Isaiah 7:10–14

Friday's Scripture: Isaiah 11:1–5

"Christmas is not a day or a season, but a condition of heart and mind. If we love our neighbors as ourselves; if in our riches we are poor in spirit and in our poverty we are rich in grace; if our love of others isn't for show, but suffers long and is kind; if when our brother asks for a loaf we give ourselves instead; if each day dawns in opportunity and sets in achievement, however small; then every day is Christ's day and Christmas is always near."

Advent Reading, November 26, 2022

Advent is upon us; a built-in season to remember and focus on all aspects of the Advent and Christmas story. The publisher of the book *Christ in Christmas, A Family Advent Celebration*, writes, "Advent refers to the 'coming' or 'arrival' of Jesus Christ..The Advent of the Lord in the flesh at Christmas; His Advent in Word and Spirit; and the final Advent when our Lord will return bodily in glory. Each meaning stirs the joyful anticipation of what God has accomplished, is doing, and will yet bring to completion." Ellen G. White writes the following response to questions about the holiday season, "Let us seek to faithfully represent Christ on the coming festal days by imitating His example as He went about doing good. It is impossible to enjoy the approbation of God while living for self. As Christians who profess a living faith in the near coming of the Son of man, keeping all of God's commandments, let us make earnest efforts to draw near to God through Jesus Christ and make a covenant with Him..Christ came to our world to elevate the minds of men to the divine level, and to bring them into sympathy with the mind of God." The practice of Advent and Advent candles is the perfect way to remind ourselves each week of what God did for us and to put that as the focus of this season.

Advent has been celebrated in faiths around the world since the fourth century, and in our own church archives there are advent readings from 1993.

The candles symbolize Christ's light in the world, both today and when his light first came into the world through the star one night long ago, candles of Hope and Anticipation, Peace, Joy, Love, and the final Christ Candle. The evergreen reminds us that Christ died, but rose, and will never die again.

While we light the candles each Sabbath, we invite you to bring the advent season into your home by reading and focusing on the following texts each day.

This week we celebrate Hope and Anticipation for Peace.

Sunday's Scripture: Genesis 1:26–31

Monday's Scripture: Genesis 3:1–24

Tuesday's Scripture: Genesis 3:15

Wednesday's Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15–19

Thursday's Scripture: Isaiah 7:10–14

Friday's Scripture: Isaiah 11:1–5

"Christmas is not a day or a season, but a condition of heart and mind. If we love our neighbors as ourselves; if in our riches we are poor in spirit and in our poverty we are rich in grace; if our love of others isn't for show, but suffers long and is kind; if when our brother asks for a loaf we give ourselves instead; if each day dawns in opportunity and sets in achievement, however small; then every day is Christ's day and Christmas is always near."