

Advent Devotions

2017



Reawaken

Repent

Reveal

Rebirth

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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The First Week of Advent: Reawaken

OPENING PRAYER

God, keep us awake like ones who wait for gifts to come on Christmas morning!
Remind us that your presence is the best gift of all.
Thank you for being Emmanuel, God with us.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Light a candle (the first candle on your Advent wreath, if you have one).
If there are more than one in a household, take turns lighting the candle.
While lighting the candle the Candlelighting Song on page 6 may be sung.*

HOLY MEDITATION/CONVERSATION

*Begin by reflecting on the "highs" and "lows" of the day.
If there are more than one in a household, share aloud, and use the following questions on different days:
What do you do upon waking up this morning? What do you think about?
What is something in your life that you would like to "reawaken"?*

WORD FOR THE DAY

Sunday: Isaiah 64:1-9
Monday: Psalm 80:1-7
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Wednesday: Mark 13:24-37
Thursday: Psalm 85:8-13
Friday: Jeremiah 1:4-10
Saturday: Ezekiel 36:24-28

TABLE PRAYER

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.
Keep us ever in your sight; be our joy, our heart's delight. Amen.

BLESSING

*Receive God's blessing by tracing the sign of the cross on your and/or your family's foreheads
and saying:*

May God our Shepherd bless you with hope, joy, and peace! Amen.

The Second Week of Advent: Repent

OPENING PRAYER

God our Shepherd, gather us like sheep in your arms.
Forgive our sins so that we may rejoice in your coming to be with us.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Light two candles (the first and second candles on your Advent wreath, if you have one).
If there are more than one in a household, take turns lighting the candles.
While lighting the candles the Candlelighting Song on page 6 may be sung.*

HOLY MEDITATION/CONVERSATION

*Begin by reflecting on the "highs" and "lows" of the day.
If there are more than one in a household, share aloud, and use the following questions on different days:
What do you think "repent" means? What does it mean to YOU?
What would you like to turn away from? What would you like to turn towards?*

WORD FOR THE DAY

Sunday: Mark 1:1-8
Monday: Isaiah 40:1-11
Tuesday: Psalm 27
Wednesday: Luke 1:5-17
Thursday: Habakkuk 2:1-4
Friday: Philippians 3:12-16
Saturday: John 1:6-8, 19-28

TABLE PRAYER

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.
May there be a goodly share on every table everywhere. Amen.

BLESSING

*Receive God's blessing by tracing the sign of the cross on your and/or your family's foreheads
and saying:*

May God the deliverer be with you, behind you, and before you! Amen.

The Third Week of Advent: **R**eveal

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you continue to do great things for us.
Give us your gift of peace while we await your coming.
In your name we pray. Amen.

*Light three candles (the first, second and third candles on your Advent wreath, if you have one).
If there are more than one in a household, take turns lighting the candles.
While lighting the candles the Candlelighting Song on page 6 may be sung.*

HOLY MEDITATION/CONVERSATION

*Begin by reflecting on the “highs” and “lows” of the day.
If there are more than one in a household, share aloud, and use the following questions on different days:
Have you ever seen the sunrise happen? What was revealed?
What would you like for God to reveal to you while you wait for Christmas? For Jesus to come back?*

WORD FOR THE DAY

Isaiah 61:1-11
Monday: Psalm 126
Tuesday: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Wednesday: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Thursday: Luke 1:26-38
Friday: Luke 1:39-45
Saturday: Luke 1:46-55

TABLE PRAYER

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.
Guide us on the servant’s way; lead us to your dawning day. Amen.

BLESSING

*Receive God’s blessing by tracing the sign of the cross on your and/or your family’s foreheads
and saying:*

May everyone see Jesus revealed in you! Amen.

The Fourth Week of Advent: Rebirth

The Week of Christmas

OPENING PRAYER

God our savior, nothing is impossible for you.
Renew our hearts as we celebrate your birth once again.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Light four candles (the first, second, third and fourth candles on your Advent wreath, if you have one).
While lighting the candles the Candlelighting Song on page 6 may be sung.*

HOLY MEDITATION/CONVERSATION

*Begin by reflecting on the "highs" and "lows" of the day.
If there are more than one in a household, share aloud, and use the following questions on different days:
Have you ever seen the sunrise happen? What was revealed?
What would you like for God to reveal to you while you wait for Christmas? for Jesus to come back?*

WORD FOR THE DAY

Sunday: Luke 2:1-20
Monday: John 1:1-14
Tuesday: Psalm 148
Wednesday: 1 John 1:1-9
Thursday: Jeremiah 31:15-17
Friday: Isaiah 49:5-15
Saturday: Psalm 148

TABLE PRAYER

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.
Deep within us, come to dwell, that we might all your goodness tell. Amen.

BLESSING

*Receive God's blessing by tracing the sign of the cross on your and/or your family's foreheads
and saying:*

May the wonder of the Christ child give YOU new birth! Amen.

Advent Candlelighting Song

Michael Burkhardt, 2017

French Carol, *setting* by Michael Burkhardt



Advent 1: 1.Christ the Lord is com - ing,
 Advent 2: 2.Christ the Lord is com - ing
 Advent 3: 3.Christ the Lord is com - ing,
 Advent 4: 4.Christ the Lord is com - ing!



bring - ing hope and light,
 to this wear - y land!
 sent from God a - bove
 Sing this hap - py morn



RE - A - WAKE - NING hearts now
 Rise, RE - PENT, pro - claim the
 to RE - VEAL God's mer - cy,
 of the Word In - car - nate in



bur - dened by the night.
 King - dom is at hand!
 jus - tice, truth and love.
 whom we are RE - BORN!



"No - el" sing with glad - ness, "No - el" sing with cheer, put a -



way all fear and sad - ness, Christ the Son of God is near!

Advent 2017

Sunday, December 3, 8 and 10 a.m.: Advent 1

O Emmanuel, *reawaken* our hearts to welcome the unexpected and unimaginable.

Sunday, December 10, 8 and 10 a.m.: Advent 2

O Emmanuel, *transform* our hearts and comfort us with your peace.

Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m.: Caroling

All are invited to join with the Chancel Choir in sharing the hope, peace and joy of the season with those who are homebound.

Saturday, December 16, 7:30 p.m., Advent Christmas Concert

All are invited to attend “Tell Out, My Soul” presented by the young people of hearts, hands and voices Worship and Fine Arts Program, Chancel Bells, the Chancel Choir and instrumentalists of Holy Cross and Eastern Michigan University.

Sunday, December 17, 8 and 10 a.m.: Advent 3

O Emmanuel, *reveal* yourself to us.

Sunday, December 17

3 p.m. Facilitated Labyrinth Walk

4 p.m. Blue Christmas Worship

Times of reflection and worship for those who have lost or are estranged from loved ones and those for whom the holidays may not be joyful.

Sunday, December 24, ONE SERVICE at 10 a.m.: Advent 4

O Emmanuel, be *born anew* in our hearts.

Christmas 2017

Sunday, December 24: Nativity of Our Lord

4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship *for families with young children*

7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

10:30 p.m. Music of the Season, *a prelude to 11 p.m. worship*

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Sunday, December 31, ONE SERVICE at 10 a.m.: Lessons and Carols

“Bring a bell” to celebrate the “Word Made Flesh.”

Holy Cross is a Christ-centered community in the Lutheran tradition (ELCA).
We believe *all* people are created in God's image.
We are passionate about the radical hospitality that Jesus showed all people.
We are committed to being a community of that same kind of hospitality.
We welcome *all* people to our life and ministry together...
...in worship, at the font, at the table, in study, serving and fellowship,
regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age
or any other category society uses to distinguish between people.



*There is no longer Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female;
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28*