

Advent Service Kit

Four Sundays of waiting — candle-lighting sentences, calls to worship from Isaiah, a prophecy responsive reading, and Advent bulletin inserts.

When to use it: The four Sundays before Christmas, beginning the Sunday nearest 30 November.

Order of service

1. Prelude / gathering music
2. Call to worship (Scripture below)
3. Opening hymn
4. Invocation
5. Prayer of confession and assurance of pardon
6. Responsive reading
7. Scripture reading
8. Sermon
9. Response — communion, offering, or prayer
10. Closing hymn
11. Benediction

Hymn suggestions (public domain)

- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
- Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
- Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

Suggested preaching text

Isaiah 9:1-7, Isaiah 40:1-11, Luke 1:26-38, Luke 1:67-79.

Calls to worship

Read one aloud to open the service. Short is better than long — the point is to turn the room toward God before anything else is said.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3 (KJV)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Psalms 24:7 (KJV)

Invocation

God of the promise, thy people waited centuries for the light that we now take for granted. Slow us down this Advent. Teach us to watch, to long, and to prepare a way in our own hearts for the King who came, and who is coming again. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Lord Jesus, we confess that we prepare our houses more carefully than our hearts. We are busy in a season meant for watching. Forgive our hurry, our spending, our distraction, and make us ready for thee. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

Responsive reading

The Promise and the Coming

Leader reads the plain lines; the congregation reads the lines in bold. Print this page in the bulletin exactly as it appears here.

Leader: The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD.
Isaiah 40:3 (KJV)

People: **The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.**
Isaiah 9:2 (KJV)

Leader: But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel.
Micah 5:2 (KJV)

People: **Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**
Isaiah 7:14 (KJV)

All: **For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**
Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

Offering sentence

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.
Proverbs 3:9 (KJV)

Benediction

Speak the blessing over the congregation rather than praying it — the biblical pattern is a word given to the people, not a request made on their behalf.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.
Romans 15:13 (KJV)

Bulletin inserts — cut along the dashed lines

Photocopy this page, cut on the dashed borders, and slip one into every bulletin or visitor pack. Free to reproduce for church use.

BULLETIN INSERT 1 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

Advent week by week

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3 (KJV)

Hope, peace, joy, love — one candle a week, one promise a week. Read Isaiah 40 on the first Sunday, Isaiah 9 on the second, Luke 1 on the third, and Luke 2 on the fourth, and the whole family arrives at Christmas morning ready.

BULLETIN INSERT 2 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

A verse for the week

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

Every title in this verse is a claim: Wonderful when life is plain, Counsellor when you have no idea what to do, the mighty God when you are weak, the everlasting Father when you feel fatherless, the Prince of Peace when the house is loud.

Service planning notes

Fill this in on the Thursday before and hand a copy to the musicians, the reader, and the sound desk.

Preacher

Sermon title and text

Reader / liturgist

Hymns

Communion / ordinance

Announcements

Notes

More free KJV resources for Sunday at biblesundays.com/sunday — sermon series plans, printables, hymn texts, and free Bible widgets for your church website.