

Advent Liturgy: The Road to Bethlehem

Advent is a special time of year when we celebrate God coming to live among us. Each Sunday as we light a candle, we will focus on one aspect of how God revealed this mystery to us.

As you read the liturgy with your family, picture yourself in the story. Consider how it might feel to share a part in the drama as it unfolds. Ponder your family's faith journey, and find delight in the fellow travelers that God has given each of you along the way.

You may use your family's peg dolls and have each family member place themselves somewhere on the Advent wreath along with the candles as part of each week's story.

Sunday, November 30, 2025: The Prophets Speak of Hope

Read Isaiah 9:2, Micah 5:2, John 1:5

Who will show us the way to Bethlehem? The prophets will show us the way.

Isaiah and Micah were prophets in the Old Testament. They listened to God to show his people the right way to walk.

They didn't always live in easy times, and often, the people would not listen to them. Yet, they pointed the way to Jesus.

Light one purple candle to remember the prophets.

Read these wondering statements out loud and wonder together.

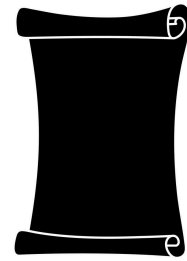
- I wonder in what ways the prophets listened to God.
- I wonder how the prophets continued to hope when those around them wouldn't listen.
- I wonder how I can hope in Jesus when life doesn't go my way.

(Continue to wonder about this story throughout the week)

Consider who the prophets are today who listen to God and help show your family the right way to go. You may want to draw your answers to these questions on paper and discuss them together.

****Pause as one family member leads in prayer, thanking God for his guidance through his word and through others, then extinguish your candle.***

We've just begun our journey to Bethlehem.



Sunday, December 7, 2025: Mary and Joseph Carry Peace

Read Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-23

Light one purple candle and remember the prophets who have journeyed with you on the road to Bethlehem.

Now who will show us the way to Bethlehem? Mary and Joseph will show us the way.

They are going to Bethlehem, where Jesus will be born.

Mary and Joseph remind us not to be afraid, and to experience God's peace on the way to Bethlehem.



Light a second purple candle to remember Mary and Joseph.

Read these wondering statements out loud and wonder together.

- I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt when the angel spoke to each of them.
- I wonder how they could feel peace even though they didn't know how it would all turn out.
- I wonder how it felt to obey God while on a long and hard trip to Bethlehem. Did they understand they were part of God's special plan?
- I wonder if you would be willing to go.
- I wonder what will bring peace to our own family this Advent season.
- (continue to wonder throughout the week)

Consider how your family felt when God told you to travel to Wilmore, KY.

- Did you speak of hope like the prophets?
- Did you carry peace like Mary and Joseph?
- In what ways did you bring Jesus along the road with you?

You may want to draw your answers to these questions on paper and discuss them together.

****Pause as one family member leads in prayer, then extinguish your candles.***

One week of waiting is over, and we are continuing our journey to Bethlehem.

Sunday, December 14, 2025: The Shepherds Felt Great Joy

Read Luke 2:8-12

Light two purple candles and remember the prophets and Mary and Joseph who have journeyed with you on the road to Bethlehem.

Now who will show us the way to Bethlehem? The shepherds will show us the way..

The shepherds are told to go to Bethlehem to see the special child who was born. They remind us of the good news that brings great joy: a Savior, the special Son of God, is born.



Light the pink candle to remember the shepherds.

Read these wondering statements out loud and wonder together.

- I wonder how the shepherds felt when the angel spoke to them.
- I wonder if the sheep followed the shepherds to Bethlehem.
- I wonder how you would feel if God sent an angel to speak to you.
- I wonder how the shepherds showed their joy as they hurried to Bethlehem.
- I wonder if they will find the Savior, God's special child named Jesus.

(continue to wonder throughout the week)

****Pause as one family member leads in prayer, thanking God for the gift of joy along the way, then extinguish your candles.***

Can you create a video of what it would be like if your family were the shepherds in the field? How would each person react, and what would they say to the Angel who gave them good news?

Send us your video, and the GF team will bring you pizza for dinner one night this week!

Just for fun, watch the children of Southland Church tell the Christmas Story.

[Christmas According to Kids - Southland Christian Church](#)

Two weeks of waiting are over and we are even further along on our journey to Bethlehem.

Sunday, December 21, 2025: The Angel Army Points to Love

Read Luke 2:13-15

Light three candles (two purple and one pink) and remember the prophets, Mary and Jesus, and the shepherds who have journeyed with you on the road to Bethlehem.

Now who will show us the way to Bethlehem?
An army of angels will show us the way.

The first angel had barely told the good news when the armies of heaven suddenly joined them shouting praises to God! They all worshiped God together.

Light the last purple candle to remember the army of angels.



When we worship God, we show how much we love him and he shows us he loves us too. The first angel told the shepherds how to find the baby. The army of angels showed them how to travel. Is it possible that the shepherds traveled to Bethlehem worshipping God all the way to meet his son?

Read these wondering statements out loud and wonder together.

- I wonder what it was like to see the armies of God.
- I wonder how loud the angel voices were.
- I wonder how the shepherds felt with all those angels around them.
- I wonder what the shepherds were saying as they traveled to Bethlehem filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.

(continue to wonder throughout the week)

You may want to draw a picture of the heavenly army appearing to the shepherds and then share your picture with everyone.

How has your family experienced hope, peace, joy, and love as you wait for Christmas Day?

****Pause as one family member leads in prayer after each family member shares one way they have noticed God's love recently, then extinguish your candles.***

Three weeks of waiting are over, and we are almost to our destination.

Thursday, December 25, 2025: The Christ

Read Luke 2:1-7

Light all four candles (three purple and one pink) and remember the prophets, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the angels who have journeyed with you on the road to Bethlehem.

Now who will show us the way to Bethlehem? The Christ Child will show us the way. He not only knows the way, **he is the Way!**

Today we celebrate Christmas Day. We remember the mystery of God becoming a person. Today, we come to Bethlehem to meet the special Son of God. Here is the newborn baby Jesus lying in a manger.



Light the tall white Christ candle and remember the baby Jesus.

Christ is the Light of the World. This Christ candle reminds us that the light of Christ shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. Spend some time wondering about the mystery of God's deep love for us.

Read these wondering statements out loud and wonder together.

- I wonder how it feels to be in Bethlehem.
- I wonder how many people went to Bethlehem and if they saw the Christ Child.
- I wonder how God feels as people gather around the world to celebrate his son's birth today.

(continue to wonder throughout the week)

How will your family celebrate him today? Do you sing Happy Birthday to Jesus on Christmas Day?

****Pause as one family member leads in prayer, thanking God for the gift of his son Jesus, then extinguish your candles.***

Could you draw a picture of your family worshiping Jesus today? Or take a picture to remember how you celebrated December 25, 2025.

The waiting and the journey are over. We have reached Bethlehem and found God's son. Today we celebrate his birth.

What happens next?

Tuesday, January 6, 2025: The Wise Men - Epiphany

Read Matthew 2:1-12

***Light all four candles (three purple and one pink) and the Christ Candle.
Remember the prophets, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the angels who
have journeyed with you on the road to Bethlehem.***

Now that we have arrived, will God bring others? Who else might be on this journey to discover the Christ Child? The Wise Men are on this journey.

The Wise Men saw a special star in the sky for a king. They followed the star to Bethlehem, bringing gifts for the newborn king—gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Wisemen and their camels came to Bethlehem to see the newborn king. They found the way just as we did... Who else might find the king? How will they find him? We could show them the way.



Read these wondering statements out loud and wonder together.

- I wonder how the Wise Men felt when they saw a special star for a king.
- I wonder why they brought gifts.
- I wonder what gift you would have brought to the baby Jesus.
- I wonder if God revealed anything to you during your journey to Bethlehem.
- I wonder what happens next?

(continue to wonder throughout the season of Epiphany)

****Pause as one family member leads in prayer, thanking God for what he has revealed to your family on the road to Bethlehem, then extinguish your candles.***

Draw a gift you would bring to King Jesus today.

Epiphany Day is 12 days after Christmas, and many Christians celebrate God's revealing himself through Jesus. The season of Epiphany stretches for 6 weeks this year and ends one day before another very special day. I wonder what that day is. Does anyone in your family know the answer?

I wonder what happens next in God's Story.