Living in the Story of God

# BREAD

2024

This journal belongs to:



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# Serving God's purpose to make all things new

by

Recklessly giving ourselves away to God, each other, and the people of King's Cross and beyond

### Introduction

Every day we are surrounded by narratives that compete for our affections, and yet as Christians we believe it's the story of Jesus that leads to true life. Therefore, as we stand at the start of this New Year we want to learn to live in this story of God so our lives might be rooted in the truth of His Kingdom. One of the key ways we do this is through daily immersing ourselves in Scripture, anchoring our lives in the story that sets people free and teaches us how to live the unforced rhythms of grace that humanity was always created for.

So here's the simple invitation, as we start this new year we want to read through the scriptures together. Journeying through the text as family, grappling with the same passages, asking questions and being drawn into a daily encounter with Jesus. Each day, we want to set aside our best time to immerse ourselves in the text so we might live out the story of God in our city. When the alarm clock goes off, before we turn on the phones, get the download of emails, reply to the whatsapps, we want to carve out space to breathe in the truth of what God says over us, letting his voice be the most formative voice in our lives. Rather than eating the bread of anxious toil as the Psalmist says, we want to eat the bread that truly satisfies.

Imagine if we all did this as a church, feasting on the story of Jesus who declared himself 'the bread of life'. Not only would it allow us to operate out of a place of hope and rest each day, but it would also form us into his likeness, enabling us to become agents of kingdom renewal in the places we live, work, and spend our time. We would become, as the Psalmist says, like a tree planted by streams of living water, sustained by the presence of God, providing shade to a weary city, and producing fruit that speaks of a better story.

So let's open up the scriptures together, anchor ourselves in it, devote our day to God and press on, expectant that we'll be changed, challenged and transformed as we live in and live out the story of God.

### **How to Use This Book**

#### Daily Bible Reading Plan

In these pages, you will find a daily Bible reading plan organised thematically around the church calendar — an annual cycle of seasons and days observed by the global, historic church crafted to remember Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This book will help you pray, meditate, and journal through the Scriptures using a rhythm called BREAD, which is a modern take on lectio divina, an ancient and time-tested method of meeting with God in the pages of the Bible. Simply spend time each day allowing the prompts below to guide your time:

**BE STILL:** Find a place where you can encounter God, ask him to fill the space and take a minute in stillness. Fix your eyes on Jesus and invite the Holy Spirit to guide your time.

**READ:** Read through the passages for the day. Look for one verse that stands out or interests you. Write out that verse in the 'read' section.

**ENCOUNTER:** Meditate on what God highlighted to you in the passage by journaling through questions such as: What might God want me to know about himself, myself, or others? Is God revealing a lie or truth he wants me to notice and respond to? What else might God be saying to me?

**APPLY:** Now turn your focus outward. Think about how you might apply this to your day and write down how you're going to try and live this out.

**DEVOTE:** Finally, close by writing a simple prayer of devotion to God. Ask that God would fill you afresh and commit your day to him.

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READ (The sun) ris	ses at one end of the heavens and makes it	ts circuit to the
other, nothing is d	eprived of its warmth.	
ENCOUNTER The	glory of God is revealed in the sun, our sou	rce of light.
But Jesus said, "I a	am the light of the world." In him, the peopl	le walking in
darkness saw a gr	eat light. This is a promise that no-one nee	d be deprived
of his warmth. So	step out of the shadows, into the light, and	d be drenched in
both the warmth a	and colour of his love.	
APPLY What doe	s it look like to step outside of the shadows	s? It means to
	s it look like to step outside of the shadows	
come towards Jes	<u>'</u>	he beauty of
come towards Jes his creation. Walk	us, the light, and enjoy his warmth. Enjoy t	he beauty of use every so
come towards Jes his creation. Walk often to spiritually	ius, the light, and enjoy his warmth. Enjoy t in green spaces. Kick some leaves. And par	he beauty of use every so d for his beauty,
come towards Jes his creation. Walk often to spiritually	ius, the light, and enjoy his warmth. Enjoy t in green spaces. Kick some leaves. And par turn your gaze heavenwards to thank Goo e love that gave birth to such beauty. Allow	he beauty of use every so d for his beauty,
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# One Be Still

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Read

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**Encounter** 

Four

**Apply** 

Five

**Devote** 

## **Daily Bible Reading Plan**

# Epiphany & the Season After

#### God is With Us

W/C 31.12.23

Sun: Psalm 46 Mon: Isaiah 9:1-7 Tues: Ezekiel 34:11-16 Wed: Luke 15:1-7 Thurs: Matthew 28:16-20

Fri: Psalm 139 Sat: Matthew 2:1-12

#### The Coming Christ

W/C 07.01.24

Sun: Isaiah 61 Mon: Luke 2:22-35 Tues: Luke 2:36-40 Wed: Luke 2:41-52 Thurs: Matthew 3:1-12 Fri: Matthew 3:13-17 Sat: Luke 4:14-30

#### Listening & Obeying

W/C 14.01.24

Sun: Psalm 119:97-112 Mon: John 14:15-24 Tues: John 15:1-17 Wed: Romans 6:15-23 Thurs: James 1:19-27 Fri: James 4:1-12 Sat: Philippians 2:12-18

#### All Things New

W/C 21.01.24

Sun: Psalm 126 Mon: John 3:1-21 Tues: Galatians 3:23-4:7 Wed: Ephesians 4:17-32 Thurs: 2 Cor. 5:11-21 Fri: Isaiah 43:1-21 Sat: Revelation 21:1-7

#### What God Has Promised

W/C 28.01.24

Sun: Psalm 119:41-48 Mon: Isaiah 54 Tues: 2 Peter 3:5-13 Wed: 2 Cor. 1:12-22 Thurs: James 1:1-15 Fri: 1 Kings 8v22-30 Sat: Romans 4v16-25

#### Protected by God

W/C 04.02.24

Sun: Psalm 91 Mon: Exodus 14 Tues: Revelation 22:1-5 Wed: Luke 12:22-34 Thurs: John 10:1-10 Fri: Luke 15:11-32 Sat: Psalm 121

# Lent, Easter & Pentecost

#### The Good Shepherd

W/C 11.02.24

Sun: Psalm 23 Mon: Isaiah 40:1-11 Tues: 2 Cor. 4 Wed: Isaiah 58

**Thurs:** Jeremiah 23:1-8 **Fri:** John 10:11-21 **Sat:** Psalm 28

#### Suffering

W/C 18.02.24

Sun: Psalm 102 Mon: Exodus 3:1-17 Tues: Isaiah 53 Wed: Mark 15:1-37 Thurs: Romans 5:1-8 Fri: 1 Peter 5:1-11 Sat: 2 Samuel 22:1-20

#### Loneliness

W/C 25.02.24

Sun: Psalm 88 Mon: 1 Kings 19:1-18 Tues: Joshua 1:1-9 Wed: Mark 14:32-50 Thurs: John 14:1-21 Fri: Romans 8:31-39 Sat: Psalm 27

#### Sin & Brokenness

W/C 03.03.24

Sun: Psalm 51 Mon: Genesis 3 Tues: Luke 4:1-15 Wed: Romans 3:9-26 Thurs: Romans 3:9-26

Fri: 1 John 1 Sat: Psalm 1

#### Times of Difficulty

W/C 10.03.24

Sun: Psalm 37 Mon: 1 Peter 1:13-25 Tues: Daniel 1 Wed: Daniel 3 Thurs: Mark 13:1-13 Fri: Isaiah 40:21-31 Sat: Psalm 18

#### Perseverance

W/C 17.03.24

Sun: Psalm 143

Mon: Hebrews 10:19-39 Tues: Hebrews 11:1-12:3 Wed: Philippians 3:1-14 Thurs: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

**Fri:** Acts 5:12-42 **Sat:** Proverbs 4:20-27

#### Journey to the Cross

W/C 24.03.24

Sun: Matthew 21:1-11 Mon: Matthew 21:12-17 Tues: John 13:21-32 Wed: Mark 14:32-42 Thurs: John 13:1-20 Fri: Matthew 27:27-56 Sat: Luke 23:50-56

#### Resurrected Life

W/C 31.03.24

Sun: John 20:1-29 Mon: Psalm 148 Tues: 1 Cor. 15:1-11 Wed: 1 Cor. 15:12-19 Thurs: 1 Cor. 15:20-34 Fri: 1 Cor. 15:35-49 Sat: 1 Cor. 15:50-58

#### A Resurrection People

W/C 07.04.24

Sun: Psalm 34 Mon: Romans 6:1-11 Tues: Acts 17:16-34 Wed: John 11:1-16 Thurs: John 11:17-27 Fri: John 11:28-37 Sat: John 11:38-44

#### Power of the Gospel

W/C 14.04.24

**Sun:** Psalm 25 **Mon:** 1 Cor. 1:18-31 **Tues:** 2 Cor. 12:1-10 **Wed:** Colossians 1:15-23 **Thurs:** Ephesians 1:1-14 **Fri:** 1 Peter 1:1-9 **Sat:** Romans 1:1-17

#### Jesus Is the Way

W/C 21.04.24

Sun: Psalm 8
Mon: Matthew 11:1-15
Tues: John 12:20-36
Wed: John 12:37-50
Thurs: Luke 5:27-39
Fri: John 14:1-14
Sat: Hebrews 4:14-16

#### The Now & Not Yet

W/C 28.04.24

Sun: Psalm 96 Mon: John 15:1-17 Tues: John 15:18-27 Wed: Acts 11:19-30 Thurs: 2 Cor. 4:1-6 Fri: 2 Cor. 4:7-18 Sat: 2 Cor. 5:1-10

#### From Death to Life

W/C 05.05.24

**Sun:** Psalm 116 **Mon:** Isaiah 25:1-9 **Tues:** John 5:16-30 **Wed:** Mark 5:21-43 **Thurs:** Colossians 2 **Fri:** Colossians 3:1-17 **Sat:** 1 John 3:11-24

#### **God Transforms Us**

W/C 12.05.24

**Sun:** Psalm 92 **Mon:** Ezekiel 36:22-32

Tues: 2 Cor. 3 Wed: Luke 8:26-39 Thurs: Luke 19:1-10 Fri: Acts 26:1-29 Sat: Psalm 65

#### **Ordinary Time**

#### Filled with the Spirit

W/C 19.05.24

Sun: Acts 2:1-21 Mon: John 14:25-31 Tues: Luke 10:1-24 Wed: Acts 3 Thurs: Acts 4:1-22 Fri: Acts 4:23-31 Sat: Isaiah 44:1-5

#### Ministry of Jesus

W/C 26.05.24

Sun: Psalm 146 Mon: Mark 2 Tues: Mark 3:1-12 Wed: Mark 4:1-34 Thurs: Mark 6:35-56 Fri: Mark 7:24-37 Sat: Mark 8:22-38

#### Hearing the Call

W/C 02.06.24

**Sun:** Psalm 16 **Mon:** 1 Samuel 3:1-21 **Tues:** Matthew 9:9-13 **Wed:** Mark 3:13-35 **Thurs:** Galatians 1:11-24

Fri: Galatians 2 Sat: Psalm 89

#### Come & Rest

W/C 09.06.24

Sun: Psalm 71

Mon: Matthew 11:25-30 Tues: Isaiah 40:21-31 Wed: Mark 4:35-41 Thurs: Mark 6:30-34 Fri: Hebrews 4:1-13 Sat: Psalm 62

#### People of the Presence

W/C 16.06.24

Sun: Psalm 19 Mon: Exodus 33:7-23 Tues: Ezekiel 47:1-12 Wed: John 7:25-43 Thurs: Luke 24:13-52

Fri: Acts 10

Sat: Revelation 21:1-7

#### Life Together

Wed: 1 Cor. 6

W/C 23.06.24

Sun: Psalm 133 Mon: Acts 4:32-37 Tues: Ephesians 4:1-16

Thurs: 1 Cor. 12 Fri: Romans 12:1-8 Sat: Romans 12:9-21

#### Life in Christ

W/C 30.06.24

Sun: Psalm 130 Mon: John 17:1-12 Tues: John 17:13-26 Wed: Romans 6:1-11 Thurs: Romans 6:12-23 Fri: Romans 8:1-17 Sat: Romans 8:18-30

#### Questions of Jesus

W/C 07.07.24

Sun: Psalm 22 Mon: Matthew 16:13-20 Tues: Mark 10:46-52 Wed: Luke 9:18-27 Thurs: Luke 11:1-13 Fri: Mark 9:14-29 Sat: John 21

#### The Sermon on the Mount

W/C 14.07.24

Sun: Psalm 119:1-16 Mon: Matthew 5:1-26 Tues: Matthew 5:27-48 Wed: Matthew 6:1-18 Thurs: Matthew 6:19-34 Fri: Matthew 7:1-14 Sat: Matthew 7:15-29

#### Freedom in Christ

W/C 21.07.24

Sun: Psalm 66 Mon: Isaiah 61 Tues: John 10:1-18 Wed: John 8:31-38 Thurs: Galatians 5:1-15 Fri: Psalm 32 Sat: Ephesians 2:1-10

#### **True Humility**

W/C 28.07.24

Sun: Psalm 131 Mon: Isaiah 57:14-21 Tues: Philippians 2:1-18 Wed: 1 Peter 3:8-22 Thurs: 2 Chronicles 7:11-22

Fri: Luke 18:9-14 Sat: 1 Peter 5:1-11

#### Forgiveness

W/C 04.08.24

Sun: Psalm 86
Mon: Luke 6:27-36
Tues: Matthew 6:9-15
Wed: Matthew 18:21-35
Thurs: Luke 23:26-43
Fri: 1 John 2:1-17
Sat: Ephesians 4:17-32

#### Reconciliation

W/C 11.08.24

Sun: Psalm 41

Mon: John 18:25-27; 21:15-19 Tues: Jeremiah 31:31-34 Wed: Romans 5:1-11 Thurs: Ephesians 2:11-22 Fri: 2 Cor. 5:11-21 Sat: Colossians 1:15-23

#### The Cost of Servanthood

W/C 18.08.24

Sun: Psalm 31 Mon: Isaiah 53

**Tues:** Acts 6:8-15: 7:54-60

Wed: Acts 8:1-8

Thurs: Matthew 19:16-29

**Fri:** Luke 9:1-9 **Sat:** Luke 9:21-27

#### Prayer

W/C 25.08.24

Sun: Psalm 40 Mon: Colossians 1:3-14 Tues: Nehemiah 1:1-11 Wed: Mark 11:12-26 Thurs: Acts 12 Fri: James 5

Sat: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

#### Fear Not

W/C 01.09.24

Sun: Psalm 3

**Mon:** Matthew 14:22-36 **Tues:** 2 Kings 6:8-23 **Wed:** 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

Thurs: Psalm 56 Fri: 1 John 4 Sat: Psalm 27

#### Philippians

W/C 08.09.24

Sun: Psalm 30 Mon: Philippians 1:1-11 Tues: Philippians 1:12-30 Wed: Philippians 2:1-11 Thurs: Philippians 2:12-30

**Fri:** Philippians 3 **Sat:** Philippians 4

#### Choosing Life

W/C 15.09.24

Sun: Psalm 36 Mon: Romans 6:8-14 Tues: Proverbs 8:32-36 Wed: Deut. 30:11-20 Thurs: John 6:25-51 Fri: Matthew 16:21-28 Sat: Galatians 5:13-26

#### Justice

W/C 22.09.24

**Sun:** Psalm 72 **Mon:** Ezekiel 34:1-16 **Tues:** Exodus 6:1-13 **Wed:** Isaiah 58 **Thurs:** Luke 11:37-54 **Fri:** James 3:13-18 **Sat:** Psalm 89:1-14

#### Compassion

W/C 29.09.24

Sun: Psalm 103 Mon: Matthew 9:35-38 Tues: Mark 8:1-13

Wed: Lamentations 3:19-36 Thurs: 2 Cor. 1:1-11 Fri: Ephesians 4:25-5:2 Sat: Psalm 119:73-80

#### Set Apart by God

W/C 06.10.24

Sun: Psalm 92
Mon: Genesis 2
Tues: Isaiah 45:1-8
Wed: Luke 10:1-24
Thurs: 1 Peter 1:13-25
Fri: 1 Peter 2:1-10
Sat: Joel 2:18-27

#### Wisdom

W/C 13.10.24

Sun: Psalm 127 Mon: Proverbs 2 Tues: 2 Chronicles 1:1-13 Wed: Job 28:12-28 Thurs: Mark 6:1-6 Fri: 1 Cor. 2:6-16 Sat: James 1:19-27

#### Gentleness

W/C 20.10.24

Sun: Psalm 119:17-24
Mon: Isaiah 11:1-9
Tues: Deut. 32:1-14
Wed: Matthew 11:25-30
Thurs: Matthew 12:1-21
Fri: 1 Timothy 6:11-21
Sat: Revelation 5

#### Worship

W/C 27.10.24

Sun: Psalm 9
Mon: Romans 12:1-2
Tues: Exodus 20:1-21
Wed: Mark 12:41-44
Thurs: Luke 7:36-50
Fri: Acts 16:16-40
Sat: Revelation 4

#### From Darkness to Light

W/C 03.11.24

Sun: Psalm 56 Mon: John 1:1-18 Tues: John 8:12-20 Wed: Matthew 10:26-33 Thurs: Ephesians 5:1-20 Fri: Matthew 4:12-17 Sat: John 3:16-21

#### **Eating with Jesus**

W/C 10.11.24

Sun: Psalm 23 Mon: Luke 15:15-24 Tues: Luke 22:1-23 Wed: Matthew 11:1-19 Thurs: John 21 Fri: Luke 24:13-35 Sat: Revelation 19:6-10

#### Living Water

W/C 17.11.24

**Sun:** Psalm 63 **Mon:** Exodus 17:1-7 **Tues:** Isaiah 55 **Wed:** John 4:1-13 **Thurs:** John 4:14-26

Fri: Isaiah 12

Sat: Revelation 7:9-17

#### A New Beginning

W/C 24.11.24

Sun: Psalm 61 Mon: Isaiah 65:17-25 Tues: Luke 1:67-80 Wed: John 13:31-38 Thurs: John 20 Fri: 2 Cor. 5:1-10 Sat: Isaiah 43:1-21

# Advent & Christmas

#### Hope

W/C 01.12.24

Sun: Psalm 33
Mon: Luke 2:22-40
Tues: Romans 5:1-11
Wed: Hebrews 6:13-20
Thurs: 2 Cor. 1:1-11
Fri: 1 Timothy 4
Sat: Romans 15:1-13

#### Peace

W/C 08.12.24

Sun: Psalm 4 Mon: Isaiah 26:1-12 Tues: Isaiah 9:1-7 Wed: John 14:23-31 Thurs: Colossians 3:1-17 Fri: Philippians 4:4-20

Sat: Psalm 29

#### Joy

W/C 15.12.24

Sun: Psalm 97
Mon: Luke 1:39-56
Tues: Luke 2:1-20
Wed: John 16:16-33
Thurs: Hebrews 12:1-13
Fri: Romans 12:9-21
Sat: Psalm 16

#### Love

W/C 22.12.24

Sun: Psalm 138 Mon: Jeremiah 31:1-14 Tues: Matthew 1:18-25 Wed: John 3:16-21 Thurs: John 15:9-17 Fri: John 13:31-35 Sat: 1 Cor. 13

#### The Kingdom of God Is

**Among Us** W/C 29.12.24

Sun: Psalm 24 Mon: Mark 1:1-8 Tues: Mark 1:9-15 Wed: Luke 4:14-30 Thurs: Colossians 1:1-14 Fri: Hebrews 12:18-29 Sat: Psalm 145

# Journal

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# **Epiphany & The Season After**

06.01.24-13.02.24

Every year on 6th of January, the Church observes Epiphany, a day set aside to celebrate God's arrival among humanity. Epiphany derives from a Greek word that refers to the coming of the dawn or the appearance of a deity. In the West, this day historically centres around the long-awaited arrival of God in human flesh, Jesus, and the visit paid to him by the Magi—wealthy pilgrims from foreign lands—who brought gifts to honour the newly born Messiah. In the East, this day historically centres around the first Trinitarian story in the gospels: the baptism of Jesus, when the Father opens the heavens to reveal the Son's true identity, and the Spirit descends on him in the form of a dove.

As we enter the season after Epiphany, we are invited to reflect on the presence and promise of God to us through the person of Jesus. From topics like obedience to the hope of all things being made new, throughout this season you will encounter and explore themes relating to the ongoing ministry of Jesus in and through us, his Church.

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## Lent

14.02.24 - 30.03.24

Lent begins 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays) on what some traditions call Ash Wednesday. The 40 days of Lent correspond to the 40 days that Jesus fasted in the wilderness (see Matthew 4v1-11), often observed by one's own 40-day practice of fasting or abstinence—typically from particular foods, entertainment, or comforts. The six Sundays of Lent, however, are feast days—days in which one's fast is replaced with feasts, small moments of anticipation for the coming resurrection.

As we remember Jesus' journey to the cross, Lent is a time to remember our own humanity, both in our physical bodies and in the brokenness of our flesh. It is a time to reflect on the suffering and pain of our world, to lean into the groaning of all creation, learning to find Jesus in the wilderness moments of our lives and recognising again our need for His grace.

Throughout this season, you will encounter and explore themes of the result of living in a fallen world, and walk with Jesus in his journey to the cross in Holy Week where we see the depths of God's love for us displayed on the cross.

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## **Easter**

31.03.24 - 18.05.24

Having just walked through Holy Week we've witnessed Jesus' journey to the cross, the rejection he faced and the suffering he endured. However, the story doesn't end in the silence of Holy Saturday. On Easter Sunday we revel in Jesus' triumphant defeat of death itself, making way for our resurrection through his own. The empty grave points to what has been made possible through Jesus, that death has been swallowed up in victory (1 Cor. 15:54).

Over the next few weeks we'll reflect upon the Good News of Easter and all that Jesus has made possible. We'll explore what it means to live as resurrection people who have been brought out of darkness and into light. As we reflect upon these themes, our hope is that we would stand in awe again at the beauty of the gospel story and learn what it means to be people who live in light of his victory over the grave.

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## **Pentecost**

## 19.05.24

50 days after Easter we reach another celebration in the church calendar: Pentecost. Pentecost Sunday is a key moment in the church when we remember those first disciples in Acts 2, who gathered together in Jerusalem shortly after Jesus' ascension into heaven. As these followers waited together in an upper room, they were filled with the Spirit of God and went out into the streets proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. That first outpouring of the Spirit saw 3000 people come to faith and the church was born.

As we reflect on that day we remember that the same Holy Spirit who fell on those first disciples is the same Holy Spirit who fills us now. The events of Pentecost mean that as we navigate our way through the highs and lows of life we are not alone, as the Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 8:11, the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us. On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate this incredible truth and remind ourselves of the church's call to be people who carry the presence of God to the world around us.

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## **Ordinary Time**

## 20.05.24-30.11.24

The longest season in the church calendar, Ordinary Time makes up the days between Pentecost and the beginning of Advent. "Ordinary," here, refers to "ordinal" numbers, the way by which these weeks are traditionally counted (i.e. First Week of Ordinary Time, Second Week of Ordinary Time, etc.).

While the season of Easter & Pentecost invited us to reflect on the resurrection and ascension of Jesus along with the descent and gift of the Holy Spirit, Ordinary Time is an extended period to reflect on our own ongoing conversion—our journey to be with Jesus, to become like Jesus, and to do what Jesus did.

Since Ordinary Time has historically been an opportunity to reflect on the humanity of Jesus, many of the themes you will encounter and explore in the coming months will focus on his life, ministry, teachings, and the various ways in which we, the church, are invited to carry on his ministry on earth.

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## **Advent & Christmas**

## 30.11.24-06.01.25

Advent begins in darkness; it starts with an aching anticipation with all of creation for the coming dawn. Derived from a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival," Advent is the season in which we await the arrival of God in Jesus. There is a wonder and mystery that underlies this season in which hope is grown, and yet in Advent we emulate the ancients' ache for the arrival of God in human form as we wait for God to return.

Our waiting in Advent ultimately gives way to humanity's hope fulfilled, the celebration of Emmanuel - God with Us. Christmas is the beautiful celebration that our God broke into human history, becoming himself a fragile refugee infant, in order to save us and redeem creation.

The readings for the first four weeks will explore the classic themes of the four Sundays of Advent: hope, peace, joy, and love. And the readings of Christmas will explore the reality of God coming near with his good and beautiful Kingdom.

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