



TRANSFORMATION
CHURCH

GREATNESS

LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING



2023 ADVENT GUIDE



INTRODUCTION:

If you've never followed a liturgical calendar, you might be wondering what Advent is. The word advent is defined as: "the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event." In Christian theology it's "the coming or second coming of Christ."

The Advent season is special. It's filled with hope and expectation. In this season we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ as we remember His birth. At the same time, we look ahead to His second coming.

The season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. This year, it begins on Sunday, December 3. In this guide, we encourage you to come together with family or friends each Sunday, or throughout the week, to remember what this season is all about.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

Gather: We encourage you to gather as a family each Sunday evening (or whenever is convenient for you) during this Advent season. Make the time special and make it a priority.

Sing: At the top of each week is a QR code you can scan. This will take you to a song from our very own TC Music Team. Feel free to sing along or just listen.

Read: Read through the Scriptures and devotional provided for that week. Allow each family member to share their thoughts or ask questions.

Pray: End your time together with a prayer. You can read the one provided or make up your own.

Take Action: Each week also has an action step. You can plan when and how you all will participate in these action steps.

Overall, remember that there are no strict rules when it comes to this Advent Guide. This is a resource to help you gather as a family so you can remember what this season is all about and look ahead with hopeful expectation of what's to come.

ROLL OUT HOPE

During the holiday season, we get to provide hope and affirm God-given dignity to families through Roll Out Hope. This year, we are equipping parents and guardians with everything they need for their own Christmas experience including gifts, clothing, and food for their families. What's special about Roll Out Hope is that each gift is individualized for every child, so they feel valued and loved. We also distribute the gifts directly to the parents and guardians so that they get the opportunity to wrap and prepare the gifts themselves and experience the joy of giving to their families. Each family receives everything they need to wrap their gifts and prepare a Christmas meal. This way each family can create their own Christmas celebration. You can participate in Roll Out Hope by giving financially until December 17.

For more information, head to
<https://transformationchurch.tc/rollouthope>

WEEK 1:

The King of Restoration



Song: Endless Praise

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Colossians 1:15-16 CSB

DEVOTIONAL:

If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. In this Scripture reading we see that Jesus is the image, the perfect replica, of God. That's because He is God! When the Bible says that Jesus is "firstborn over all creation," this has nothing to do with timing and everything to do with rank, a special status held by Jesus alone. By Jesus's divine connection to God the Father, Jesus inherits creation and the right to rule over it. Jesus is the King of creation. When we recall Genesis 1:1 it says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." And when we read John 1:1-3 it says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created." Jesus is the Word and He has always existed, He is eternal. Jesus is the uncreated Creator of all things. This is one way that we know that Jesus is God, the second Person in the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, God and Holy Spirit.

Not only was Jesus, God the Son, the agent of creation, He is also the agent of restoration. We live in a fallen world that is crying out to be restored to its original intent. When Jesus came to this earth, He showed us how to live, how to love, how to forgive; most of all He showed us how He sacrificed to restore broken and lost people to God the Father so that we could be united to God and united to one another.

Now as we go through our days, we look to Jesus so that we can see God, ourselves, and others more clearly (Upward, Inward, Outward). Looking to Jesus means seeing and embracing the truth that He is the King of Creation and the King of Restoration.

PRAYER:

Father, thank You for sending Your Son to unite us to Yourself and to Your multiethnic & multigenerational family. Jesus, help us to keep our eyes on You so that we can be reminded of who God is and who we are. Holy Spirit, guide us and form us as we learn to set our eyes on Jesus. Jesus, You are the King of Creation and the King of Restoration. We thank You and we praise You. In Jesus' name, amen.

ACTION STEP:

Create a Christmas card and give it to someone who needs encouragement.

NOTES:

A series of horizontal lines for writing notes, arranged in a column on the page. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the page width. There are 20 lines in total.

WEEK 2:

The Sovereign King



Song: Forever YHWH

He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:17 CSB

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He purposed in Christ as a plan for the right time—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in Him.

Ephesians 1:9-10 CSB

DEVOTIONAL:

In the Old Testament, we read that God's people wanted a king to rule over them. There was a prophet named Samuel, however, who warned God's people that having a king would not turn out as expected. While these kings would rule over specific domains having specific responsibilities, they ultimately fell short. These kings proved to be imperfect, showing the flawed nature of humanity. While we are imperfect as humans, King Jesus is perfect, knowing just how to hold all things together and how to rule over creation without fault. When we say yes to Jesus, we accept Him as our Savior and as our Sovereign King so that He may rule over our lives.

Jesus being sovereign means that He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and always present. What does this mean for us as Christ-followers? It means that because God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, we can rest knowing that God has a plan to hold everything together, including us. There is no situation God does not know about. There is no place we can go that He is not already there. God is a good Father who is in control of it all. While trusting that God is in control can be hard, we are reminded of this through Scripture; that He is working all things together for the good of those who love Him according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

When the unexpected happens in our lives, we can hold on to the promise that God knows and sees all. We can trust that He will take all the broken pieces of our lives and put them back together. King Jesus was before all things and by Him all things hold together. It is because of this promise that we have hope and a purpose.

PRAYER:

God, thank You that You know and see all things. Nothing that happens to us in this life is unknown or a surprise to You. Thank You that You had a plan all along to reconcile us back to You. Remind our hearts, through the Spirit's power, that You are in control over everything and that You hold not only the world together through Christ, but You hold us too. In Jesus' name, amen.

ACTION STEP:

Using the list of attributes of God on the next page, consider how you have seen God at work in your life through each of these attributes then follow the instructions below them.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD:

Faithful
All-Powerful
Infinite
All-Knowing
Wise
Good

Just
Merciful
Gracious
Loving
Holy
Glorious

On the final page of this guide, you will find a crown like the one below. Color and write down the list of God's attributes on the crown. Display it in your house to remind yourself of who God is in your life.



WEEK 3:

The King of Kings



Song: How Great Thou Art

He is also the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything.

Colossians 1:18 CSB

DEVOTIONAL:

What comes to mind when you hear the word “church”? Maybe a beautiful building, worship songs, or a preacher. The truth is that the church is not a building or one person: it’s us! All who follow Jesus are a part of His church—and we are the church everywhere we go.

In Colossians 1:18, it says that Jesus is the head of the church. This doesn’t mean that He’s just the pastor. This means that Jesus was the beginning of a new group of people that had never existed before. This group is made up of all different kinds of people: women, men, and people of different ethnicities, ages, and backgrounds all together for one purpose—the glory of God. As the church, we get to join Jesus in His mission of bringing heaven to earth.

This Christmas, as we celebrate Jesus coming to earth for us, let’s also celebrate that He is the King of Kings who not only makes a way for us to be with Him but also gives us a purpose and a mission here and now. As the church we get to tell the world about a good King who rules with love, grace, mercy, and kindness. He truly is the King of kings.

PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You for inviting us into Your family, the church. Help us to remember that You are the King of kings who is worthy of our praise and trust. Help us to live out your mission of being the church in all that we do. In Jesus' name, amen.

ACTION STEP:

Participate in communion as a family. Gather some crackers or bread and some juice. Communion (also known as the Lord's Supper) is a practice Christ-followers participate in all over the world. When we have communion, we remember the sacrifice Jesus made and we remember that we are the church, united in Christ. The bread represents the body of Jesus, which was broken for us. The juice represents the blood of Jesus, which He poured out for us.

First, hold up the cracker or bread and read these words: On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

Then, hold up the cup of juice and read these words: 25 In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:25)

WEEK 4:

The King of Reconciliation



Song: O Come to the Alter

For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile everything to Himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:19-20

DEVOTIONAL:

For our last week of Advent, we are reflecting on Jesus as the King of Reconciliation. Before we dive in, let's talk about what reconciliation means. According to Dr. Bob Utley, the word reconciliation in Colossians 1:20 means, "'to change from hostility to peace' especially between persons." Take a moment to think about that.

Reconciliation isn't only bringing two people together; it's taking a group of people who were once enemies and bringing them together as friends. We were once enemies of God, but because Jesus came to earth and willingly gave His life for us, we can now be His friends. What great news! We are friends with God, the Creator of the universe! He is the best friend we could ever have because He will always love us and be there for us. He will never let us down.

But the good news doesn't end there. Because Jesus has reconciled us to Himself, we can be reconcilers too. We get to grab Jesus' hand and say, "I want to join you in helping more people become friends of God." This also leads to reconciliation between us all. The vertical peace we experience between us and God leads to horizontal peace between us and other people. This is why people who are so different from one another can have unity, because in Christ we experience true peace.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, take time to thank Jesus for reconciling us to Himself and ask Him to show you how you can join Him in being a reconciler too.

PRAYER:

Jesus, You are the greatest King of all. Thank you for humbling Yourself by becoming a human and making a way for us to be reconciled to God. Help us to be people who receive Your love so that we can love You completely, ourselves correctly, and our neighbors compassionately today and every day. Holy Spirit, guide us as we seek to be reconcilers in our world. In Jesus' name, amen.

ACTION STEP:

Remember that Christmas is not only about you and Jesus. God calls us to be on mission to be reconcilers in our spheres of influence—whether that's at work, at school, or in our neighborhoods. Reflect on what it means to be multiethnic, multigenerational, and mission-shaped; and invite someone to our New Year's Eve service at TC.

ABOUT TRANSFORMATION CHURCH:

Transformation Church is a multiethnic, multigenerational, mission-shaped community that loves God completely (Upward), ourselves correctly (Inward), and our neighbors compassionately (Outward).

For more resources, service times, and location check out our website: transformationchurch.tc

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