



GOD COMES TO YOUR

*Neighborhood*  
ADVENT 2020



**THE INCARNATION OF JESUS (FULLY GOD AND FULLY HUMAN) IS NOT ONLY HISTORY, BUT OUR STORY.**

Advent is a time of expectation. We rehearse together the hope that the people of God had for their messiah, and the joy of his coming to them. We also share the expectation for the coming King of the Kingdom, as he brings to all creation the fullness of his redemption and renewal.

As are reading in Peter's letter, he assures us, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope..."

But that is only part of the story.

Our calling as the church is one of movement; from our own sense of anticipation and hope in Christ, and into the lives of our neighbors. In this way Christ might come and be incarnated for them through our lives, right where they are, no matter where they are.

In a time of fear and uncertainty, Jesus comes to bring hope, peace, joy, and love!



THIS IS AN INTENTIONAL JOURNEY IN THREE PARTS. KEEP THIS BOOKLET IN A PLACE WHERE YOU WILL BE REMINDED TO USE IT DAILY FOR READING, PRAYING, AND REFLECTING..

1 We will fill our minds with God's word so that he might be born in us.

2 We will pray for the people around us, expecting God to give us opportunities to share Jesus in word and deed.

3 We will step into creative opportunities to bless those for whom we are praying.



*Read*

Seek to meditate on these texts each day this week, letting their truths sink into your soul, nourishing and inspiring you toward expectant prayer and service. Feel free to highlight, underline, and/or make notes!

## WEEK 1: NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 5

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness... a light has dawned... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

**- Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

**- 1 Peter 4:7-11**



## WEEK 2: DECEMBER 6 - DECEMBER 12

Bethlehem, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times...

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace...

**- Micah 5:1-5**

...you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world...

**- 1 Peter 2:9-12**

*Read* Seek to meditate on these texts each day this week, letting their truths sink into your soul, nourishing and inspiring you toward expectant prayer and service. Feel free to highlight, underline, and/or make notes!

### WEEK 3: DECEMBER 13 - DECEMBER 19

“A voice of one calling: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’”

- Isaiah 40:3-5

...all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing... in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

- 1 Peter 3:8-9, 15





## WEEK 4: DECEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 26

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance?

You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

**- Micah 7:18-19**

You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God... So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

**- 1 Peter 1:22-23, 2:1-3**



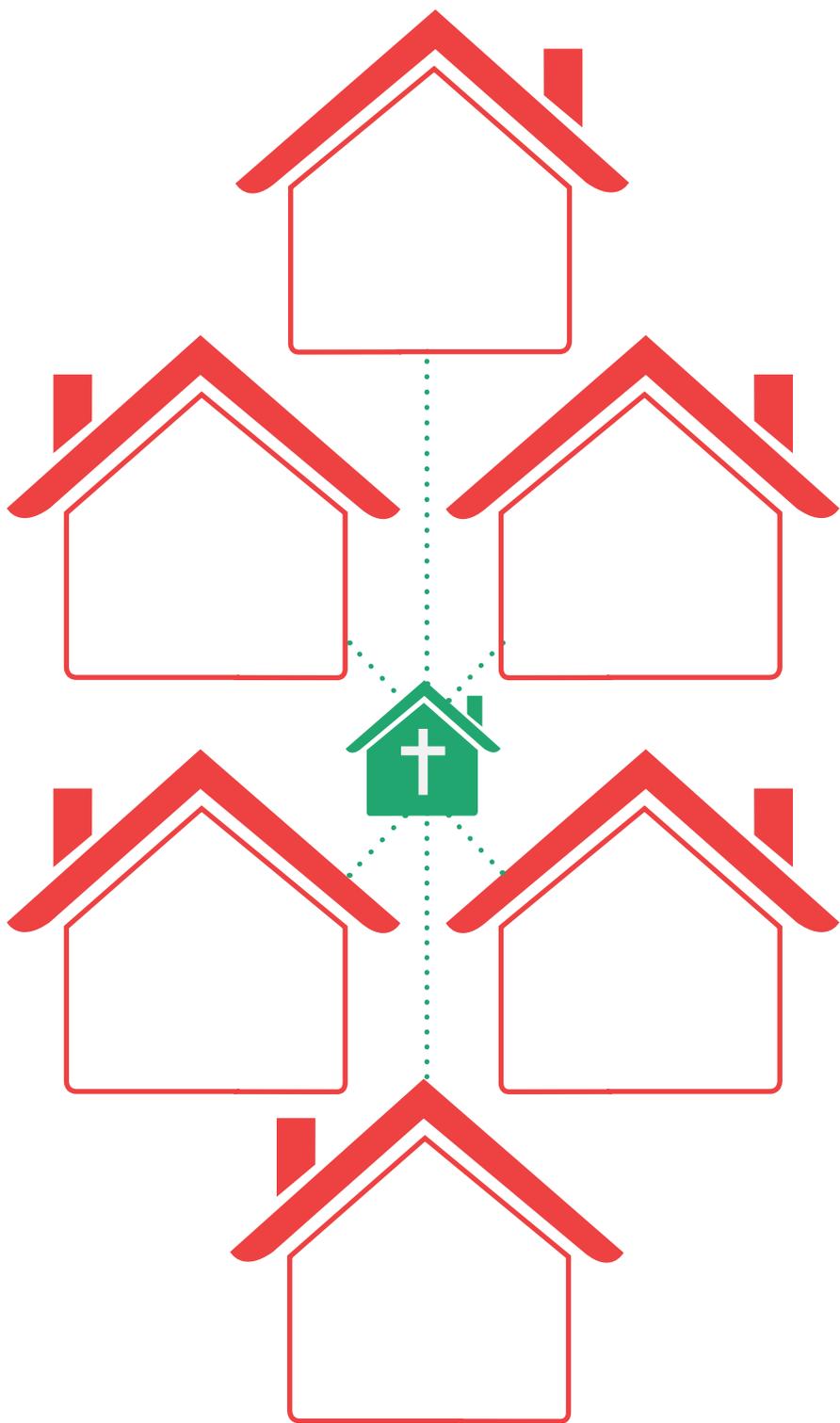
# Pray

## OPEN OUR HEARTS, O GOD...

Use the template to the right to record the names of your neighbors and pray for God to bless them and that they might encounter his truth and love.

- Pray for opportunities to bless them throughout the season of advent.
- Pray with the expectation that God will answer your prayers and open doors of opportunity.





*Give*



## HANDS AND FEET

As you pray, use this space to record your thoughts and ways in which you might reach out and bless those amongst whom God has placed you as he provides you with opportunities to do so.

## REFLECTIONS:



**IDEAS:**

