

FIRST WEEK

Christmas
Advent
With-ness

DECEMBER 1-7

This Advent calendar is designed to help you and your family walk through the Advent season with Scripture as your guide. Whether by yourself, in a group text, or around the dinner table, this guided experience will bring the Christmas season to life in a new way. Each day is anchored in Scripture and features either a prayer to read aloud or reflection questions to consider and discuss. Christmas is about the *with-ness* of God, the birth of the Savior, Immanuel. May this journey through Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love be a daily reminder of the true gift of Christmas: Christ Jesus our Lord.

December

01

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 9:6-7 (NIV)

Whether you're on your own or with a group, read this prayer aloud:

Jesus, as we begin this first week of Advent, we open our hearts to hope. This isn't a passive waiting; it's active anticipation. We lean into the story you are writing, expecting to see glimpses of your goodness all around us. In the Christmas story, hope isn't hidden—it's alive in every detail: in the angel's announcement, in Mary's courageous "yes," in a star that leads the way, and in a manger that holds the Savior of the world.

You came as a child, yet the government rests on your shoulders. You are our Wonderful Counselor when we're searching for direction, our Mighty God when we feel weak, our Everlasting Father who holds us close, and our Prince of Peace in a restless world. Lord, open our eyes to notice hope in new places. Teach us to look for it, to speak it, and to live it. Let this Advent season awaken a deep and steady hope within us, reminding us that your Kingdom is near and your promises are sure.

Come, Lord Jesus. Fill us with hope as we follow you. Amen.

December

02

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

LUKE 1:30–33 (NIV)

Prayerfully reflect on or discuss these questions with friends or family:

The angel's words to Mary reveal a promise that would change history: her child would reign forever. Where do you see God's promises unfolding in your own life right now? How can you practice hope by trusting God's story is still being written in you and through you?

The angel described Jesus as "the Son of the Most High," the one whose Kingdom will never end. How might reflecting on the greatness of Jesus change the way you approach this Advent season? How might you live differently if your heart was fully centered on his eternal reign?

December

03

But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.

PSALM 39:7 (NIV)

Whether you're on your own or with a group, read this prayer aloud:

Lord Jesus, we turn our hearts toward you, the true source of our hope. The world offers countless things to chase, but none can satisfy the deepest longings of our souls. Like the psalmist, we declare: "Our hope is in you."

Teach us to look for hope with intention—to see it shining through the story of your birth, to hear it echoed in your promises, and to notice it unfolding in the ordinary moments of our lives. Hope came wrapped in humility, cradled in a manger, and announced with angelic songs. Hope drew near to heal what was broken and brought light to the darkness.

Anchor us in hope today. Remind us that your presence is steady when life feels uncertain and your promises remain firm when everything else shifts. Stir in us a deeper trust as we wait and prepare for your coming.

Come, Lord Jesus. Be our hope—now and always. Amen.

December 04

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

ISAIAH 40:30–31 (NIV)

Take a moment to reflect on these questions, or talk about them with friends or family:

As we move closer to celebrating Jesus' birth, remember that God's strength meets us right in the middle of everyday life. Where do you need his strength to carry you this week? How can this season of preparation become a time of renewal instead of exhaustion?

To "soar on wings like eagles" means rising above what weighs us down and seeing life from God's point of view. How does the promise of Jesus' coming, both then and now, lift your heart? How can you practice a hope that helps you rise, run, and walk faithfully through this Advent season?

December 05

Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

ROMANS 12:12 (NLT)

Whether you're on your own or with others, read this prayer aloud:

Jesus, as we move through this Advent season, teach us what it truly means to rejoice in our confident hope. Our joy is rooted in who you are—faithful, present, and powerful. You came once to bring salvation, and you will come again to restore all things. That promise fills our hearts with steady hope as we wait for you.

Help us to celebrate that hope with joy each day. Shape in us a patient spirit that trusts your perfect timing and rests in your plans. And keep us faithful in prayer as a way of drawing near to your heart and aligning our lives with your purposes.

Hope is not passive; it is alive and active. It stirs us to watch for your movement, to listen for your voice, and to prepare the way for your Kingdom. As we continue this season of anticipation, fill us with hope that overflows into joy, patience, and prayerful expectation. Amen.

December
06

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23 (NIV)

Take time to reflect on these questions, or talk about them with friends or family:

Advent invites us to pause and remember. To call to mind God's faithfulness even when life feels uncertain. What helps you remember God's goodness in this season? How might reflecting on his past faithfulness strengthen your hope for the days ahead?

The birth of Jesus is the most powerful and personal example of God's faithfulness. How have you seen his faithfulness at work in your life this year? As you prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, how can you let gratitude for his unchanging love fill your heart with hope?

December
07

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

ROMANS 15:13 (NIV)

Whether you're alone or with others, read this prayer aloud:

God of hope, fill our hearts with the joy, peace, and love that come from trusting you. Remind us that hope is not something we create on our own but a gift poured into us by your Spirit. It grows as we place our confidence in your promises and rest in your unchanging love.

Let this hope rise within us until it overflows. Let it shape the words we speak, the way we love, and the way we see the world around us. May it be more than just a feeling; may it become the lens through which we live.

As we wait for the celebration of your coming and the fulfillment of all you have promised, fill us again and again with your presence. Teach us to walk each day with joyful expectation, peaceful hearts, and a hope that cannot be contained.

Come, Holy Spirit. Fill us, shape us, and overflow through us with the hope of Christ. Amen.



Hope

**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.**

ISAIAH 9:6 (NIV)

SECOND WEEK

Christmas Advent Shalom

DECEMBER 8-14

Pace is more than the absence of conflict—it's the presence of God. The Hebrew word *shalom* speaks of wholeness, harmony, and restoration; life made right under God's loving care. From the beginning, God's desire has been to bring peace between himself and his people, healing what sin has broken.

The prophets foretold a coming Prince of Peace who would rule with justice and compassion. When the angels announced Jesus' birth, they proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." This week, we'll walk through Scripture to see how God's peace was promised and fulfilled in Jesus and how his presence still brings calm, unity, and restoration to our lives today.

December
08

See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey... He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

ZECHARIAH 9:9-10 (NIV)

Whether by yourself or as a group, read this prayer aloud:

Lord Jesus, our righteous King, we welcome you with reverence and joy. You did not come in power or pride but in humility to show us that your kingdom advances not by force, but through love. You are the Prince of Peace who proclaims wholeness to the nations. As your rule extends from sea to sea, may your shalom, your peace, heal the divisions of our world—war and greed, fear and oppression, pride and indifference.

Reign in us, King Jesus, until every heart bows before you and every corner of creation is renewed by your peace. Teach us to embody your gentleness and to carry your message of reconciliation wherever we go. May our words and actions echo the humility of your arrival and the hope of your eternal reign. We long for the day when all creation flourishes under your just and merciful rule. Come, Lord Jesus, and let your peace reign on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

December
09

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

COLOSSIANS 3:15 (NIV)

Prayerfully reflect on or discuss these questions with friends or family:

Paul tells us in Colossians that the peace of Christ can rule in your heart. What does it look like for Christ's peace—not our emotions, worries, or preferences—to truly rule our hearts and decisions?

Thankfulness is a key element in anticipating Christ. How does practicing gratitude help me experience a deeper sense of peace in my everyday life?

December
11

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

EPHESIANS 2:14–17 (NIV)

Whether by yourself or as a group, read this prayer aloud:

Jesus, you are our peace. You tore down every wall that divides—between Jew and Gentile, friend and stranger, near and far. Through your cross, you made one new humanity, reconciled to God and to one another. Forgive us for the barriers we still build: of resentment, fear, or pride. Heal our divisions and teach us to see every person as someone you died to redeem. Let your Spirit form in us the courage to cross boundaries, listen deeply, and love sacrificially. Where hostility once ruled, plant seeds of compassion. Where suspicion festers, grow trust. Make your church a living witness of unity, a signpost of the new creation you are forming. May we be people who preach peace—not just with our lips but with our lives—so the world might see your reconciling power at work. You are our peace, Lord; make us instruments of that peace until the whole earth reflects your love. Amen.

December
10

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

NUMBERS 6:24–26 (NIV)

Prayerfully reflect on these questions or discuss with friends or family:

God's blessing is not distant—it's deeply personal. His face shining upon us is a picture of his nearness, delight, and care. When have I most clearly felt the Lord's face "shine" on me—his presence bringing calm, belonging, or blessing?

God's peace isn't meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When his grace touches our lives, it becomes something we can share. How can I become a vessel of God's peace and blessing toward others this week?

December

12

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

JOHN 14:27 (NIV)

Whether you're alone or with others, read this prayer aloud:

Lord Jesus, you promised a peace unlike anything the world can give—your own peace, born of trust in the Father and rooted in his unconditional and neverending love. Today we receive that gift of peace. Quiet the noise within us and calm the storms around us. When our hearts are troubled and fear whispers its lies, remind us that you are near and that nothing can separate us from your presence. Teach us to rest in the assurance that your Holy Spirit lives in us, guiding, comforting, and interceding for us.

Let your peace transform and enable us to be gentle yet strong, humble yet steadfast. Help us carry this peace into anxious spaces like homes filled with worry, workplaces burdened by striving, communities longing for hope that we may see them transformed into spaces of wholeness and peace. Help us to dwell fully in your peace so that we can actively bring peace to where you have placed us. Allow us to live in such a way that others can encounter your peace and love through us. Thank you for this unshakable gift that you've given us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

December

13

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

ROMANS 12:18 (NIV)

Prayerfully reflect on these questions or discuss with friends or family:

Living at peace with others often begins with a courageous first step. God's heart is for reconciliation, even when it feels uncomfortable or uncertain. Is there anyone I'm avoiding reconciliation with, where God might be inviting me to take the first step toward peace?

True peace isn't just about outward harmony—it begins with the posture of our hearts. What inner posture—humility, patience, forgiveness—helps me live as a peacemaker even when others don't respond in kind?

December

14

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6–7 (NIV)

Whether by yourself or as a group, read this prayer aloud:

God of peace, you invite us to bring every care and burden to you in prayer. Today we lay down our anxieties, our racing thoughts, our fears about what lies ahead. Teach us to breathe in your presence and exhale our worry. Thank you that your peace is not fragile or fleeting—it transcends understanding and stands guard over our hearts and minds. Help us to trust that you are near, working in ways we cannot see. When chaos surrounds us, anchor us in Christ, the steady center of our lives. May gratitude rise within us like a song, reminding us of your faithfulness through every season. Replace our restlessness with your stillness, our fear with confidence in your care. Guard our hearts, Lord, that we may live from a deep well of peace—whole, centered, and secure in you. Amen.

Peace

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

JOHN 14:27 (NIV)

THIRD WEEK

**Christmas
Advent
Gladness**

DECEMBER 15-21

Joy is the song of Advent. It is the deep, steady *gladness* that comes from knowing God is near.

It's more than a feeling; it's the confidence that God keeps his promises and that his presence changes everything. Throughout Scripture, joy appears in unexpected places: through angelic announcements, a virgin's song, and a manger holding the Savior of the world.

When the angels declared, "I bring you good news of great joy," they announced that joy had taken on flesh in Jesus. His coming turns sorrow into singing and fear into praise. This week, we'll journey through Scripture to see how God's joy was promised, proclaimed, and fulfilled in Christ—and how that same joy still fills our hearts today.

December

15

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name."

LUKE 1:46-49 (NIV)

Whether you're on your own or with a group, read this prayer aloud:

God, our Savior, we join with Mary in saying, "Our souls glorify the Lord." You see us, you know us, and you have been mindful of us, just as you were mindful of her. You lift up the humble, you fill the hungry with good things, and you turn our waiting into wonder.

We rejoice in you. Not because everything is perfect, but because you are present. You have done great things for us, and holy is your name. Fill our hearts with the kind of joy that cannot be taken away. Joy that runs deeper than circumstances, joy that springs from knowing you are near.

As we remember Mary's song, teach us to sing our own songs of gratitude, hope, and praise that echo through this season and beyond. Let our lives magnify your goodness and our hearts overflow with the joy of salvation.

Come, Lord Jesus. Awaken joy within us as we see your hand at work in every part of our story. Amen.

December 16

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:10–11 (NIV)

Prayerfully reflect on or discuss these questions with friends or family:

The angel's message wasn't limited to a few—it was for everyone. How can you share the joy of Christ's birth with others this season? What does it look like for you or your family to carry this "good news of great joy" into your community?

The heart of Advent joy is found in this truth: a Savior has come. How does remembering that Jesus is your Savior, not just the world's, change the way you experience this season? Where do you see his saving presence at work in your life right now?

December 17

"If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

JOHN 15:10–11 (NIV)

Prayerfully reflect on these questions or discuss with friends or family:

Jesus invites us to remain in his love—to stay connected to him like branches to a vine. How can you make space this Advent to slow down and truly abide in his love? What practices help you stay close to God in a season that often feels hurried?

Jesus said he wants his joy to be in us. What do you think it means to have the joy of Christ within you? How is this different from the temporary happiness the world offers during the holidays?

December 18

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

MATTHEW 2:10–11 (NIV)

Whether by yourself or as a group, read this prayer aloud:

Jesus, like the wise men who followed the star, we come before you with hearts full of joy. You are the fulfillment of every promise, the light that leads us home. When they saw the star, they rejoiced—and so do we, because your presence changes everything.

You are worthy of our worship and our wonder. Teach us to bring our own gifts to you: our time, our love, our trust, our praise. Let every act of giving this season become an act of worship, flowing from joy in who you are.

As we look toward Christmas, fill us with the same awe the wise men felt as they knelt before you. May our joy not be fleeting, but rooted in the truth that you are here—Emmanuel, God with us.

Come, Lord Jesus. Light our way with joy that overflows in worship, gratitude, and love. Amen.

December 19

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 PETER 1:8–9 (NIV)

Whether by yourself or as a group, read this prayer aloud:

Jesus, even though we cannot see you with our eyes, we love you with our hearts. This Advent season reminds us that faith is not just believing in what we can see. Faith is trusting in your unseen presence that fills us with inexpressible and glorious joy.

You are the fulfillment of every longing and the promise of salvation that gives our souls rest. The joy you give is not temporary; it is eternal, flowing from the confidence that we belong to you and that your work in us is not finished.

As we prepare to celebrate your coming, fill us again with that deep, steady joy that only you can give—the joy that strengthens faith, sustains hope, and overflows in love. Let this joy be visible in our words, our worship, and our everyday moments.

Come, Lord Jesus. Though we do not see you, we rejoice in you: our Savior, our joy, and our everlasting hope. Amen.

December

20

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

PSALM 5:11 (NIV)

Prayerfully reflect on these questions or discuss with friends or family:

This verse calls us to sing for joy—to let worship rise from hearts that know God’s goodness. What songs, prayers, or moments of gratitude help you express joy to God? How can you make space for worship to fill your home and your heart this week?

Those who love God’s name find joy in his presence. What does it mean to you to rejoice in the Lord rather than because of your circumstances? How might you carry that kind of joy through the rest of this Advent season?

December

21

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

PHILIPPIANS 4:4 (NIV)

Whether by yourself or as a group, read this prayer aloud:

Lord Jesus, you are our reason to rejoice not just once, but always. As we move through this Advent season, fill our hearts with the kind of joy that doesn’t depend on what’s happening around us, but on who you are within us.

You are faithful, you are good, and you are near. That alone is reason enough to celebrate. Teach us to live each day with grateful hearts—to find joy in your presence, in the beauty of creation, and in the quiet moments where your peace meets us.

Let our joy be a light that shines to others, reminding the world that true gladness is found in you. Help us to rejoice again and again because you are perfect in your love for us.

Come, Lord Jesus. Fill us with a joy that overflows. A joy that sings, serves, and shines with your goodness. Amen.

Joy

**But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid.
I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all
the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been
born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.**

LUKE 2:10–11 (NIV)

CHRISTMAS WEEK

**Christmas
Advent
God is Love**

DECEMBER 22-25

In 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, the Apostle Paul writes about love as the root of the Christian faith and the defining character of God. As Paul writes, "...if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, ***I am nothing.***" God's love defines who He is, and as John writes in 1 John 4, "***...God is love.***" When we endeavor to understand the virtue and characteristic of love, we begin to understand who God is and what He is like. God is patient and kind. He does not boast or become easily angered. He always protects. We can always trust and place our hope in Him, for He will always persevere. Love is the heart of Christmas. It's not just something God gives; love is who God is. This week, we'll journey through Scripture with expectant anticipation of Christ's arrival, seeing how God's love was promised, pursued, poured out, and finally, arrived among us in Jesus.

As we step into the final week of Advent, we're remembering the love God has shown us. His love changes us, and it opens our eyes to the people around us who might need hope right now. Take a quiet moment to ask God who he's placed in your life to love this week. One of the simplest ways to share that love is to invite someone to join you at a Christmas service.

To make inviting easy, pick up invite tools at your campus or find digital invites at saddleback.com/christmasinvite

December

22

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14 (NIV)

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.

ISAIAH 9:6 (NIV)

Whether by yourself or as a group, read this prayer aloud:

Heavenly Father, from the very beginning of time, your promises have never changed. We place our trust, our faith, and our hope in you. Your promises are everlasting and steadfast. You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. As we enter this final week of Advent, help us posture our hearts to look to Jesus' arrival with anticipation. Remind us, Holy Spirit, that Jesus is the fulfillment of your love and that through him, you have promised us salvation and eternal relationship with you. Father, help us never forget your promises or the gift of your Son, Jesus, who came so that we might be saved by grace through faith. We give you thanks, Jesus, our Prince of Peace.

December

23

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16 (NIV)

Whether by yourself or as a group, read this prayer aloud:

Heavenly Father, you are the Creator and Ruler of the universe. From the very beginning, you've pursued us and called us to yourself. Even in our shame and hiding, your love keeps reaching out. You pursued our ancestors, you pursue us now, and you will keep pursuing every generation because of your great love. Thank you for being our God and for loving us so faithfully. Your steadfast love never wavers or fails. Thank you for seeking us and drawing us back to you. You have kept your promise to love us from the beginning of time and will continue until we see you face to face in eternity. Thank you, King Jesus, for coming to us, living a perfect life, and giving your life to bring us back into relationship with God.

December 24

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 JOHN 4:9–11 (NIV)

Whether by yourself or as a group, read this prayer aloud:

Heavenly Father, we reflect on the words of your disciple John and lift our hearts to praise you. You are love itself. You have promised your love and pursued us with it, and through your Son, Jesus Christ, you have poured it out completely. Let our worship this week be our grateful response. Your mercies are new every morning, and your grace reaches all people—those who know you and those who have yet to see your love. We thank you for showing that love by becoming one of us—born in a manger, living among us, and sharing in our joys, longings, pain, and trials. Thank you for the cross that reconciles us to you and for the gift of grace and mercy through Jesus Christ. Even when we don't fully understand your love, help us receive it with open hearts and reflect it back to you in worship and to others in kindness. Thank you, our perfect and loving God.

December 25

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

LUKE 2:1–7 (NIV)

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:10–11 (NIV)

Whether by yourself or as a group, read this prayer aloud:

Heavenly Father, you are our God, and there is none like you. We worship you today and praise you for your love and mercy. From our first breath, you have promised to rescue us. Throughout the ages, you have pursued us, spoken to our ancestors, and called us to follow you.

You became flesh and sent your Son, Jesus, to be poured out as an offering to cover our sins out of your great love for us. Today, we sing praises before you, for you have done something wonderful—we celebrate that love arrived in a manger. Today we remember the day you fulfilled your promise and came to us.

Lord Jesus, we call you Immanuel, for you truly are God with us. You stepped down from your heavenly throne into our world, our lives, and our stories. You are not a God who has abandoned his people but a God who is with his people. We praise you for your arrival, for being here still, and for never leaving us. You are kind, loving, and merciful—perfect in all your ways.

We bless your holy name and thank you for being Immanuel, God with us now and forever.

Love

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 (NIV)



Christmas

at Saddleback