

# A D V E N T

Readings, Songs, Meditations, Prayers for a Family Celebration

*Selected & Presented by Dean Summers*

Aaron Norman  
Music Consultant

HOLLY HOUSE PUBLICATIONS  
Renton, Washington

# A D V E N T

Readings, Songs, Meditations, Prayers for a Family Celebration  
Selected and Presented by Dean Summers

Copyright © 2026 by Dean Summers

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced  
in any form without permission  
in writing from the author.

FOURTH EDITION

ISBN 978-1-57726-100-1

Third Edition, 2014

Second Edition, 2004

First Edition, 1997

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations  
are from the King James Bible.

Holly House Publications  
Renton, Washington  
[hollybooks.com](http://hollybooks.com)

Printed in the United States of America

With Jan  
For our Grandchildren

*We see God's smile in your smiles!*

## WARNING

**FIRE HAZARD!** Flames and dripping wax can cause fire or injury. The activities described in this book must be supervised by a responsible adult. Use caution when lighting and extinguishing candles. Never leave lighted candles unattended. Keep matches, lighters, and lighted candles out of the reach of children. Do not allow flames to come in contact with evergreens or other objects. Keep lighted candles on a stable surface in secure holders. Do not allow candles to burn down into evergreens. Replace candles when they become too short, or if they drip excessively. Replace evergreens when they become dry or brittle. Do not use evergreens, such as pines and cedars, which exude resin when cut. Resinous plants are highly flammable.

# Contents

*Be sure to read “How to Use this Book,” page 77.*

Psalm 46	6
Advent	7
From My Family to Yours	8
First Sunday in Advent (thru 2037)	10
First Week in Advent	11
Second Week in Advent	27
Third Week in Advent	43
Fourth Week in Advent	59
Christmas Eve (thru 2037)	67
Christmas Eve	69
Christmas Day	71
How to Use this Book	77
Effectual Prayer	80
Regions & Languages	81
Pronunciation Guide	82
Phonetic Key	83
The Songs	84
Thank You!	85

## Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore will not we fear,  
    though the earth be removed,  
and though the mountains be carried  
    into the midst of the sea;  
Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled,  
though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

There is a river, the streams whereof  
    shall make glad the city of God,  
the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.  
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved:  
God shall help her, and that right early.  
The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved:  
he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

    The LORD of hosts is with us;  
    the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the LORD,  
what desolations he hath made in the earth.  
He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth;  
he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder;  
he burneth the chariot in the fire.  
“Be still, and know that I am God:  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”

    The LORD of hosts is with us;  
    the God of Jacob is our refuge.

# Advent

Advent is the season that begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In northern latitudes, as winter approaches, the days grow cold and dark. Christians in the North have a long tradition of marking the last days of autumn by reflecting on the advent, the arrival, of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We remember the arrival of our king as a newborn, whose first crib was a feeding trough in a stable in Bethlehem.

We remember his arrival at the Jordan River, when John the Baptist proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

We remember his arrival in Jerusalem, when he entered that city as the long-awaited savior of the people of Israel.

We remember his arrival at Golgotha, when, condemned by human authority, he was crucified for our sins.

We remember his arrival from the grave, when he appeared to Mary Magdalene.

We remember he has gone ahead of us to God our Father, though he remains with us in the gospel, in the Holy Spirit, in the breaking of bread.

We remember his promise to return, and to receive us into eternal life with God.

# From My Family to Yours

This book provides a simple, meaningful way to celebrate Advent with your family and friends. This is how my family celebrates the season. But, there are many traditions, and many variations on those traditions. There is no one way to do it right. So, feel free to be creative.

My family celebrates Advent with an Advent wreath placed at the center of our dining table. Our wreath is a ring of holly eighteen inches in diameter. It sits flat on the table. At the cardinal points of the wreath are four candles—three purple, one rose-colored. At the center of the wreath is a white candle. You can buy or make a frame for the wreath and candles, or you can use ordinary candlesticks, with or without an arrangement of holly.

Each evening, at suppertime, before the meal is served, we light an Advent candle or candles, and someone reads a passage from the Bible. We thank God for our meal by singing one of our favorite Christmas carols. Each night during the first three weeks of Advent, we focus on a specific region of the world as we pray for God’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. The fourth week, after we sing a carol, someone calls out, “Maranatha!” (as in 1 Corinthians 16:22), and we all respond, “Come, Lord Jesus!” (as in Revelation 22:20). “Maranatha” is from *Marana, ta*, Aramaic for “Our Lord, come!” Aramaic was Jesus’ household language. After the meal, the candles are extinguished.

Each evening of the first week, we light the first Advent candle. The second week, we light the first and second candles, and so on. The rose-colored candle is the third candle. On Christmas Eve, we light all the candles, including the white candle at the center of the wreath. The first thing Christmas morning, we light all the candles, and we read the Christmas Story from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke (printed on pages 71-73).

As a full circle, the wreath represents the perfect will of God. The holly, with its red berries, represents the crown of thorns and the blood from the day of Christ's crucifixion. As an evergreen, holly also represents the promise of eternal life. The four cardinal points represent the people from the four corners of the earth. Purple is the color of royalty, but it also represents sorrow. The rose-colored candle in the midst of the purple candles represents joy in the midst of sorrow. White is a symbol of purity. As the candles are lighted, they become a picture of Christ as the light shining in the darkness, our hope in the face of despair. When all the candles are lighted, the Advent wreath is a picture of Christ in the midst of the cherubim—a picture of Christ from the Book of Revelation.

According to the tradition we follow, there is a set order to the Bible readings based on an ancient order of service known as the Liturgy of the Word. And there is a name for each candle—a name that relates to the portion of the Bible from which a week's readings are selected. The Bible readings for this Advent service are from the King James Version—with a few updates in spelling and punctuation and with four corrections in translation ("nations" for *goyim* in Psalm 46:6, Psalm 46:10, and Isaiah 11:10; and "the LORD, the LORD" for *Yah Yahweh* in Isaiah 12:2). On pages 59 and 75, the translation of Luke 2:14 is my own.

During Advent, time is counted in the old way. Each day begins at sundown. Just as Friday evening is the beginning of the biblical Sabbath, and Christmas Eve is the evening before Christmas Day, the first day of a new week begins at sundown Saturday.

The fourth week in Advent is never the same length from year to year. It is a reminder that Christ's final advent will be unexpected. Even though we can calculate the days of our calendar to the year 2037 and beyond, Jesus may return today.

Dean Summers

## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(Begins Sundown Saturday)

2026 – November 29

2027 – November 28

2028 – December 3

2029 – December 2

2030 – December 1

2031 – November 30

2032 – November 28

2033 – November 27

2034 – December 3

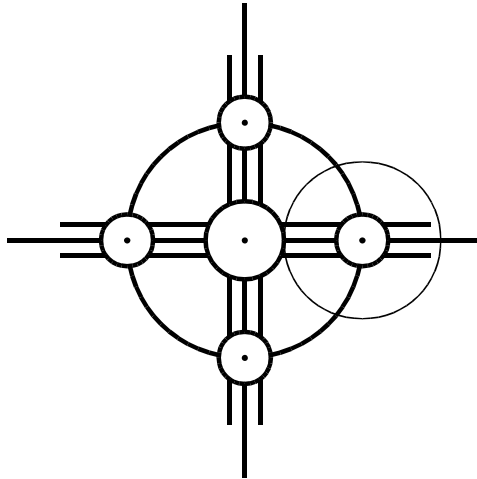
2035 – December 2

2036 – November 30

2037 – November 29

# FIRST WEEK IN ADVENT

Saturday Evening



The first candle is the Prophets' Candle. As we light the Prophets' Candle, we remember the prophets who spoke for God to the people of Israel and promised a Messiah who would bring peace, justice, and abundance to a world torn by war, injustice, and poverty.

By tradition, the candle is purple, a sign of sorrow to remind us of the suffering of God's children. The light of the Prophets' Candle is the light of hope in the darkness of violence and oppression. This week, the readings are from the Prophets. The prophets tell of God's verdict against violence and oppression. They tell of God's presence amid the victims of violence and oppression.

*Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14b

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran-som cap-tive  
Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re - joice! Em-  
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

**Tonight we pray for the healing of Africa south of the Sahara.**



Name some of the countries there.

Breathe in . . . and breathe out . . .

Picture the land, the water, the sky.

Feel God's heart

for the land, the water, the sky.

Picture the wilderness, the cropland, the cities.

Feel God's heart

for the wilderness, the cropland, the cities.

“Father, please bring healing to this your land.

We ask in Jesus' name. Amen!”

In Zulu: “Un-ku'lu-ən-ku'lu u-i-si-pe-pe'-lo se'tu  
na-mand'la et.”

*UNKulunkulu uyisiphephelo sethu namandla ethu.*