

# The Gifts of Advent: Family

December 23, 2018: Week 4 of Advent

Abr  
aham  
was the  
father of  
Isaac, and  
Isaac the  
father of Jacob,  
and Jacob the  
father of Judah and  
his brothers, and  
Judah the father of Perez  
and Zerah by Tamar, and  
Perez the father of Hezron,  
and Hezron the father of Ram,  
and Ram the father of  
Amminadab, and Amminadab the  
father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the  
father of Salmon, and Salmon the father  
of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of  
Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,  
and Jesse the father of David the king. And  
David was the father of Solomon by the wife of  
Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and  
Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father  
of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and  
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of  
Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the  
father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah  
the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos,  
and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his  
brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the  
deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and  
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and  
Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the  
father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud,  
and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan  
the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph  
the husband  
of Mary, of  
whom was  
born

# JESUS

*who is called Christ.*

Use this weekly advent devotional for you to use at home, in the car, while waiting, at work, alone, with family, or in a group. This is for you! Advent preparations. If you would like to follow along with Pastor Angela, check out the Living Saviour YouTube channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuMJ5vxpQpMZLB8638JxE\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuMJ5vxpQpMZLB8638JxE_w)

## The Gift of Family

*The Gospel of Matthew begins with a family tree from Abraham to Jesus; the Gospel of Luke contains a different family tree in Chapter 3. Between the recitation of names, we also hear the story of God at work in our world from generation to generation. The Advent and Christmas seasons highlight the significance of family and friends in our lives. We witness Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, and the shepherds together tending their flocks. As God's children, we become part of the family tree.*

### **Gather**

*Gather your thoughts, family, friends, self, as we begin. You may speak the words of the dialogue, or silently read them.*

### **Dialogue**

Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and friends,  
**aunts, uncles, sons, and daughters,**

people who reach out to nurture and love,

**people who live by water and word—**

God adopts us and names us and claims us.

**God renews us, uplifts and restores us.**

Generations from Abraham to David to Joseph,

**to Jesus, son of Mary, Son of God;**

our generations too, and all those to come:

**We are joined in the family of God.**



## Light your candles

*At this time, light the first and second candles on your Advent Wreath. If you don't have one, you can simply light a candle of any kind, even turn on a battery powered one.*

## Sing/Listen

### Savior of the Nations, Come ELW 263

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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= t0jO8e8pkw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0jO8e8pkw)

Sing, hum, listen, for as long as you would like.

When you are ready, pray the following:

O God for whom we long,  
we thank you for the gift of family and friends.  
Strengthen the ties that bind us together,  
that we may sing with Mary:  
My soul magnifies you, and holy is your name.  
You shower mercy from generation to generation.  
We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ,  
your gift to all the world.

**Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

Matthew 1 Common English Bible (CEB)

**1** A record of the ancestors of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

<sup>3</sup> Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah,  
whose mother was Tamar.

Perez was the father of Hezron.

Hezron was the father of Aram.

<sup>4</sup> Aram was the father of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

<sup>5</sup> Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab.

Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth.

Obed was the father of Jesse.

<sup>6</sup> Jesse was the father of David the king.

David was the father of Solomon,  
whose mother had been the wife of Uriah.

<sup>7</sup> Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.

Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.

Abijah was the father of Asaph.

<sup>8</sup> Asaph was the father of Jehoshaphat.

Jehoshaphat was the father of Joram.

Joram was the father of Uzziah.

<sup>9</sup> Uzziah was the father of Jotham.

Jotham was the father of Ahaz.

Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.

<sup>10</sup> Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.

Manasseh was the father of Amos.

Amos was the father of Josiah.

<sup>11</sup> Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers.

This was at the time of the exile to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup> After the exile to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel.

Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.

<sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud.

Abiud was the father of Eliakim.

Eliakim was the father of Azor.

<sup>14</sup> Azor was the father of Zadok.

Zadok was the father of Achim.

Achim was the father of Eliud.

<sup>15</sup> Eliud was the father of Eleazar.

Eleazar was the father of Matthan.

Matthan was the father of Jacob.

<sup>16</sup> Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary—of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Christ.

<sup>17</sup> So there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen generations from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen generations from the exile to Babylon to the Christ.

*“God’s words of life for God’s people”*

## 1 John 3:1-3 The Message

**3** What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we’re called children of God! That’s who we really are. But that’s also why the world doesn’t recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who he is or what he’s up to.

<sup>2-3</sup> But friends, that’s exactly who we are: children of God. And that’s only the beginning. Who knows how we’ll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we’ll see him—and in seeing him, become like him. All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus’ life as a model for our own.

*“God’s words of life for God’s people”*

## **Reflection**

Sit in quiet and ask God to speak to you. Listen.

What part of the story touched you? Confused you?

Spoke to you about something in your life now? Something to confess, to learn? Pray for God’s guidance and revelation. Speak to God from your heart.

## Prayers

For this time of waiting and watching for the coming of our Savior, **we give you thanks, O Lord.**

When the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words, **we cry to you, O Lord.**

For the hope that shines through the darkest night, **we turn to you, O Lord.**

For the gift of friends and family who walk with us through life, **we praise your name, O Lord.**

For those who sorrow in this time of year, **we cry for you to come, O Lord.**

For those without voice in this world, and for those who do not listen, **we cry out for boldness in your name, O Lord.**

Gather us all under the promise of your Son, who taught us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Closing Song**

*If you have a computer, phone, or tablet, try this link for the closing song:*

People Look East                      ELW 248  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SPLN1g\\_ZFY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SPLN1g_ZFY)

OR

Room for Us All by *The Many*  
(Lyrics to this contemporary song at the end of the worship folder)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCAmkX7p2XI&t=49s>

## **Blessing**

The peace of God accompany your waiting,  
the light of Christ warm your hearts,  
and the joy of the Spirit fill you with hope.

**Amen**

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Join Us for Worship

Monday December 24, 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship services, all with candles and Holy Communion.

Sunday December 30, 8:30 and 10:30 Worship services

The Twelve Days of Christmas begin December 26! Join in the celebration ending on Sunday January 6, Epiphany day, the traditional day the Magi found the Lord Jesus.

Lyrics *Room for all of us*

Music, Hannah Rand Lyrics, Lenora Rand

Verses 1

They said no room  
They said move on  
They turned, turned you away.  
We've been there too  
Felt that alone  
Been hurt, been hurt that way.

Chorus:

Your light came shining  
Into this crying night  
Bringing hope, bringing healing  
Your love revealing.  
Your light came shining

Into this crying night  
To say it's ok  
there's room  
for all of us here

Verse 2

Oh but it's hard  
To open the door  
Not lock, lock love away  
We've been there too  
Felt so afraid  
To try, try another way

Bridge: We are on this earth to love

Bonus Song: Holy Is Your Name –*The Many*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8rCjcmxWPs>

## Blessing of the Nativity Scene

***A prayer for you and your family to use as you gather as a family, in sight of the Nativity scene in your home. You might incorporate it into your Christmas Eve or Christmas dinner blessing.***

O God, bless us who gather around this stable. As we celebrate Christ's birth into the world, may we receive the Christ child into our hearts with gratitude and song.

**Amen.**