

## Devotions for the First Week of Advent

*Begin by lighting one candle on the Advent wreath*

Advent Song

**O come, O come, Emmanuel**

verse 1

English John Mason Neale 1852

based on 15th-century French processional



1. O come, O come, Em-man - u - el, and ran - som cap-tive Is - ra - el,  
2. O come, thou Branch of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa-tan's ty - ran - ny.



that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
From depths of hell thy peo-ple save and give them vic-tory o'er the grave.



Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

An Advent Verse (see the other side)

An Advent Response (also on the other side)

Prayer *This is one possibility, but don't feel limited to this*

Let us pray:

Stir up your power, Christ Jesus, and come;

awaken us to your creativity,

so that like a winter branch awaiting the warmth of the sun,

we might conceive new opportunities,

and find energy remembering your promises,

until that day when peace and justice reign

and we dance around the tree of life,

whose leaves are for the healing of the nations,

giving praise to the Blessed Trinity, now and ever. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.*

*Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.*

*For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.*

*Amen.*

Advent Song

**O come, O come, Emmanuel**

verse 2

*See above*

## Texts and possible responses

*If you have a branch, you might pass it from person to person, so that each person has their turn to respond.*

Monday Jeremiah 33:15a

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

*This Advent, what hopes are springing up in you?*

Tuesday Psalm 25:5

Lead me in your truth, and teach me.

*Name one thing you learned today and give thanks.*

Wednesday I Thessalonians 3:9

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

*Who has given you joy this day and for whom you are thankful?*

Thursday I Thessalonians 3:12

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

*Where did you experience love today?*

Friday Luke 21:25

[Jesus said,] "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves."

*What has been distressing today or maybe this week so far? How might you bring those concerns to God?*

Saturday Luke 21:29-30

Then [Jesus] told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near."

*Look carefully at the branch. What do you see that you might have missed? Imagine what this branch might say to you if it could speak.*