

Devotions for the Second Week of Advent

During this week, you are invited to make paper lanterns, which might go near the branch on your table. The instructions are found at <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Paper-Lantern>. The devotions use pattern Number 2.

Opening Hymn **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, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your ad - vent here;



that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.



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

Biblical Verse and Response *see the next page.*

Prayer based on Philippians 1:9-11

Stir up your people, God of grace
so that their love might overflow more and more
with knowledge and full insight.
Make them pure and blameless,
so that their lives become lanterns
announcing your good news
producing a harvest of righteousness through Jesus Christ,
for your glory and praise.

Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn **O come, O come Emmanuel** verse 2

Texts and possible responses

Monday

The voice of one crying in the wilderness from Luke 3:4
The good news of Advent begins in an unformed place, sometimes almost blank and void. Place the paper next to the branch. Although it doesn't look like it yet, the paper will become a lantern. Reflect for a moment about what you might be becoming.

What remains unshaped, but could become a source of good news?

Tuesday

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. from Luke 3:4
Fold the paper in half.

What preparations are ahead of you?

Wednesday

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us. Luke 1:78

Cut the paper, making space for the light to come through.

What spaces might you create so God's light shines more clearly?

Thursday

And to guide our feet into the way of peace. from Luke 1:79

Make a tube of the paper by connecting the ends.

What connections do you look for so you might be guided into peace?

Friday

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death
Make the handle. from Luke 1:79

What helps you to hold the light of Christ well?

Saturday

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Luke 3:5-6

Finish the shape. The lantern is now formed, but our lives are never finished.

What are the next steps for you to prepare for the coming of the Christ child?

Next Sunday

You might carefully put a tea light with some protective glass around it in the lantern. But the lantern is paper, so it is very important that this never be left unattended.