



# **Preparing for** *Christmas Eve Communion*

A 7-Day Prayer Guide

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## Preparing for Christmas Eve Communion A 7-Day Prayer Guide

Communion on Christmas Eve is more than a sweet tradition to observe between carols and candles. Jesus instructed us to observe communion as a way to remember his personal sacrifice on the cross paying the penalty of our sin with his own death. Scripture instructs us to be prepared spiritually to receive communion.

To prepare ourselves for a Christ-honoring observance of communion compels us to examine ourselves. Is there any unconfessed sin in my life? How am I relating to my family? Am I engaged with my church family? Is my life honoring Jesus at home, work, and play? Am I drawing close to Jesus through Bible study and prayer? Though these questions are not comprehensive, they provide a starting point as you listen to the Holy Spirit speak truth into your life.

Christmas is merry and bright when we rejoice over God becoming one of us and celebrate His light shining in our dark world. This 7-Day Prayer Guide will help you prepare for our Christmas Eve Communion and a wonderful celebration of Christmas. I hope to see you at 3:00 pm, 4:30 pm or 6:00 pm on Christmas Eve as we sing carols, light candles, and observe communion. Invite a neighbor, bring a friend, and worship Jesus with us.

Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Bob

Thanks to our writers who provided thoughtful prayer prompts for each day.





## Day One

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 | Written by Pastor Michael O'Neal

### **The Place of Jesus' Birth Foretold**

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days."

**Micah 5:2 ESV**

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem."

**Matthew 2:1 ESV**

Hundreds of years before that first Christmas morning, God promised that the Savior of the world would be born in the little town of Bethlehem. God kept his promise. He always keeps his promises. He can be trusted. Take a moment and reflect on how God has kept his promises to you. As you pray today, thank God for his faithfulness. Thank God for providing a Savior for you. Ask God to help you trust his promises today.





## Day Two

Thursday, December 19, 2019 | Written by Mrs. Carrie O'Neal

### **The Birth of a Savior Foretold**

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."

**Isaiah 9:6-7 ESV**

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

**Luke 2:11 ESV**

Take a moment to reflect on the real reason that we celebrate Christmas. Focus on the birth of Jesus, God's only Son, who was sent to be our Savior. Praise Jesus for who He is—our Wonderful Counselor, our Mighty God, our Everlasting Father, and our Prince of Peace. Thank God for sending Jesus to die for our sins so we can be forgiven and live for Him. Ask God to help you remain focused during this season on who Jesus is and what He has done for us.





## Day Three

Friday, December 20, 2019 | Written by Pastor Cole Wilkins

### **Angels Worship Jesus**

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

**Luke 2:13-14 ESV**

Praise God throughout the day for His glory, power, majesty, and splendor. Consider taking a moment to praise Him for as many of His specific traits as you can. As you reflect on His qualities, you might experience a number of emotions – awe, joy, or wonder perhaps. Whatever feelings arise, make sure to bask in His peace. Whatever concerns you may be carrying, joyfully surrender them to Him. Let His peace wash over you and flood your soul...peace that can only come from the King of Kings.





## Day Four

Saturday, December 21, 2019 | Written by Mrs. Erin Wilkins

### **Mary Worships the Savior**

#### Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,'"

Luke 1:46-47 ESV

Ask God to help you, like Mary, magnify the Lord today and rejoice in Him as your Savior. Confess to God the moments this December when you have lost sight of the meaning of Christmas and have sought to glorify self over the Savior. Pray that God will make you a servant in this season of Advent - not looking to satisfy your own needs, but to humbly meet the needs of those around you, for the purpose of glorifying God.





## Day Five

Sunday, December 22, 2019 | Written by Mr. Jason Turner

### **Shepherds Worship the Infant Jesus**

“And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.”

**Luke 2:16 ESV**

As you enter the busyness of the Christmas season, and find yourself scrambling for last minute gifts, think of the shepherds rushing to Bethlehem. They left their sheep in the fields much like the disciples left their fishing business to follow Jesus. So make it your aim to rush to the savior. What if you ran with haste to the place you do your daily worship? What if we came to him with the same urgency that the angels did when they heard of this great announcement?





Day Six  
Monday, December 23, 2019 | Written by Mrs. Karen Isbell

## **Wisemen Worship the Child Jesus**

"They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet...'  
When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."

**Matthew 2:5,10-11 ESV**

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days."

**Micah 5:2 ESV**

The wise men traveled far to worship Jesus. By faith they followed a star, seeking the King they were expectantly waiting for. Jesus is the only thing that will satisfy us, but we can easily be distracted. Ask yourself what is distracting you from worshiping Jesus? Confess any idols you have allowed to turn your worship away. Advent is a time of expectancy and seeking, like the wise men, to come and worship Jesus. Ask Christ to help you diligently seek Him first this Christmas season.







## Day Seven

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 | Written by Mr. Bobby Wilson

### **Will You Worship Jesus, the Son of God?**

"So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you."

**Hebrews 5:5 ESV**

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

**John 1:14 ESV**

We are so busy this time of year that it can be easy to lose sight of the true reason for the season: Jesus. As you pray, thank God for his plan of salvation. God is in control. We worship, knowing Christ endured all the sins of this world and conquered them at the cross. His sacrificial love covers us in peace. Peace gives us joy to celebrate and bow down before the Redeemer. As Christ first loved us, let us worship Jesus by loving others during the Christmas season and beyond.

