



ADVENT

Hope for the World

Contents

About Us/Join Us.....	02
Week 1: Hope For the World	03
Week 2: Peace for the World.....	06
Week 3: Joy for the World.....	09
Week 4: Love for the World	12
Conclusion.....	15

About Us

At Bread for the World, our mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger. Our faith in Christ is the foundation of our efforts, and compels us to love our neighbors near and far. There are more than 700 million people experiencing hunger around the world every day. Not only are people in need of food, but there's a global hunger for justice, equity, and security. **This is why our work is grounded in the hope that Christ's arrival brings and is inspired by God's redemptive love.**

Join Us

Join Bread for the World as we prepare our hearts during this Advent season for the coming of Christ – Immanuel, God with us. Christ's birth represents God's love, mercy, and grace and brings light and life to a world so often marked by the shadows of sin and death. As such, we are called to join in Christ's example and work to be a light of hope in the darkest of places.

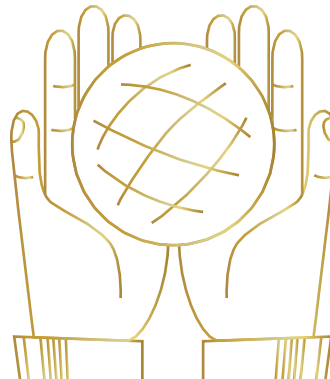
Will you join us in prayer and reflection this Advent season as we wait in anticipation for the one who brings **hope, peace, joy, and love to this broken world?** May Christ's light shine in us as we work for a world free from hunger.



HOPE

MATTHEW 3:1-12 NRSV

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axis lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."



We begin Advent with an exercise of repentance. We turn away the things in this world that we think can save us—whether that is money or food or friends or busy-ness. And we turn toward God so that we might be Christ's light and Christ's love and Christ's body in this world. We trust in the hope of a God more powerful than death, who came in body and flesh to walk among us. In Christ, God shows us that we can trust in the power of God to shine through us so that we might shine the light of God's hope on the injustice and suffering that hides in the shadows of sin and death in this world.

God of Grace, as we learn of the many people experiencing hunger around the world, let our hearts be encouraged knowing that hunger is solvable. Let hope fill our spirits and please guide us in finding ways to help end hunger in our time.

MORE ADVENT PRAYERS

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PEACE

ISAIAH 2:1-5 NRSV

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!



As we look around the world, we see violent conflict that causes hunger, migration, and destruction of infrastructure—leaving people without hope. This Advent, we wait for the coming of the Prince of Peace so that the world might be reconciled, and peace might prevail. A peace that is anchored in justice and mercy. A peace that shows compassion for those whose lives are disrupted, whose bodies are broken, and whose voices are so often drowned out. As we wait, though, we – Christ’s body in this world – can shine the light of God’s peace on the violent conflicts around the world. May we lift our voices in prayer and advocacy and mediation. May our hands and feet move in ways that demonstrate peace.

Prince of Peace, people around the world are living amid conflict that leads to hunger, destruction, and hopelessness. Please bless our world with peace and grant relief to those suffering in war-torn nations. Let us be beacons of light to everyone experiencing hunger and poverty as a result of violent conflict.

MORE ADVENT PRAYERS

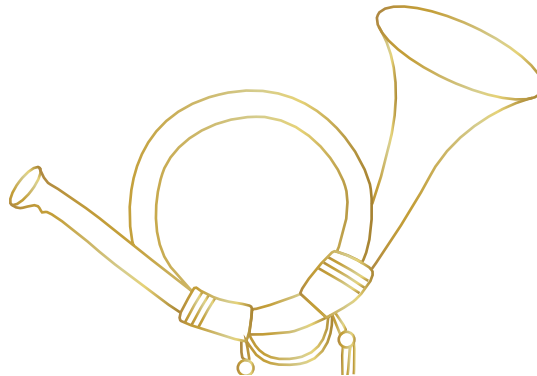




JOY

LUKE 1:46b-55 NRSV

⁴⁶My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.



Our hearts are filled with joy and anticipation as we wait for the Lord to come and set us free. Trusting in the Lord, we can be freed from the death dealing structures of oppression and destruction around us. We trust that God is powerful enough to bring the powerful down from their thrones, lift up the lowly, and fill our hungry neighbors with good things. This joy can open our eyes and stir our hearts out of complacency so that we might shine the light of Christ's joy to our neighbors and friends, and so that we are not satisfied with things as they are. Moreover, it moves us to participate in building God's kingdom here on earth.

God, your presence fills our hearts with joy. We're moved to do good in the world by helping our neighbors near and far who are experiencing hunger. Please guide our efforts and allow us to spread the joy, peace, love, and hope you have graciously given to us without measure.

MORE ADVENT PRAYERS

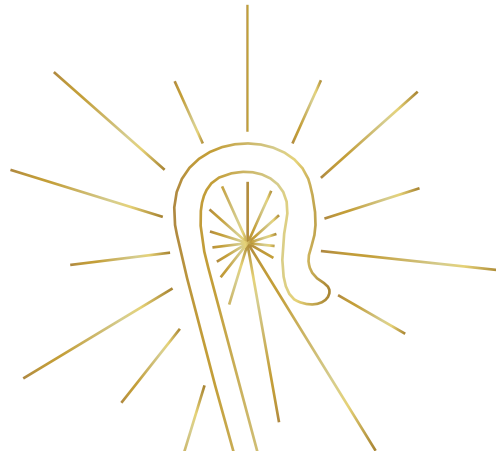




LOVE

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 NRSV

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth ²before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! ³Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. ⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. ⁶You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. ¹⁷But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. ¹⁸Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. ¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.



God loved the world so much that God came to walk among us in human flesh in the person of Jesus, the Christ. As we wait for our savior, we reflect on that deep abiding love that Jesus demonstrated through teaching, healing, and forgiving sins. He came so that relationships might be restored between God and God's people and among the people of the community of faith. May we shine light on the places in this world that need Jesus' restoring love so that they might know that love more deeply and feel that love in the communities in which they live.

God, please allow our words and actions to reflect the love that you've demonstrated to us. Please help us to restore communities and relationships, as we work together to put an end to hunger in the world. Guide us and give us vision to build a world where everyone has access to nutritious food.

MORE ADVENT PRAYERS

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ADVENT

Hope for the World

Conclusion

Now that we've reflected on the significance of Christ's arrival through scripture and prayer, let us carry these Advent themes into the Christmas celebration and throughout the coming year. Bread for the World is committed to pursuing a world without hunger, and we hope you will continue to support our efforts by speaking up, praying, and giving.

Christ's presence in the world is the greatest sign of a brighter future. As Christians, we can come together to spread hope, joy, love, and peace in Jesus' name while working to end hunger in our time.