



**LINCOLN SQUARE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Celebrating Advent  
2011

## ***Celebrating Advent***

This year the Advent season starts November 27 and continues through Epiphany (January 8) which marks the visit of the Magi to present the Christ child with gifts.

What is Advent? Advent is from the latin word for “coming” or “arrival.” It is a period to intentionally reflect upon God coming to us in Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is a season marked with anticipation, waiting, and longing; we reflect on our need for God to come. Also, it is a season of joy and hope; God has come in Christ and will come again. Advent is a reminder of God’s first coming to us in Jesus, and of his awaited second coming to set all things right.

The Christmas season brings a flurry of activities and contrasting emotions. We are eager and overwhelmed; we are moved and indifferent; we feel connected and alone. In the busyness of life it is helpful to set aside time to consider a wonderful reality: God coming into our midst.

This focus on Christ’s promised birth in our worship creates space for us to consider (for the first time or again): What are we hoping for? Why do we have deep longings in our hearts? How is God with us in Jesus the answer to these longings?

## ***Celebrating Advent as a Church***

Our Advent services will include music, Scripture reading, and teaching directed by this special season. Our sermons will come from the Old Testament and the New Testament. We will seek to better understand the identity of God's people as those who wait on him; those who entrust their longings to God's faithfulness. As part of reflecting on the promise of God, we will have a Lessons and Carols service on December 18. This special Sunday morning service tells the story of God's promise fulfilled in the birth of Jesus through Christmas carols and a series of lessons from the Scriptures.

In addition, we will be using an Advent wreath in the service. A number of diverse traditions have contributed to the church's use of the Advent wreath.

The wreath - a circle of greens - symbolizes the created world.

In the candles, we remember that the Light that shines in the darkness is a burning fire that chases away every shadow, a love that floods every dark corner, and a hope that replaces the night with the dawn.

The candles have two particular symbols. First, the candles point to the coming of God's Son as the light of the world. Second, candles are a sign of waiting. Advent has historically been seen as not only a season of joy but also sober reflection. It is a time to acknowledge that longing and waiting are part of our faith. Therefore, Advent includes times of quiet and stillness in preparation for the grand celebrations of Christmas.

## ***Personal Celebration of Advent:***

This season I encourage you to use this Advent guide to direct times of devotion and prayer for yourself and/or your family. One idea is to have an advent wreath in your house. They are available at most craft stores. If the purchase of a wreath is not possible you can simply use candles (in a line or cross - with the Christ candle in the middle) or simply follow the Scripture readings in your times of study and prayer. Often, a meal time is a great chance to light the candle(s) and read a passage. A weekly schedule is included in the back of this guide.

Helpful Notes in setting up an Advent wreath -

- Four candles (3 purple and 1 pink) are in a circle with the white Christ candle in the middle
- Light a candle each week until all are lit - this is a telling of the Christmas story with each candle having a name/theme.
- Purple is the color of royalty - Jesus, the light of the world, comes as the Prince of Peace.
- Pink carries the idea of joy or rejoicing - in the midst of waiting it is a purposeful pointer to the joy of the coming Christ.
- White carries the ideas of holiness and purity - the Christ candle signifies that the holy Lord of hosts has come to us.

## Weekly Advent Schedule

### Week One of Advent: Sunday, November-27-2011

**We light the Prophet candle (purple) which symbolizes hope.**

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined  
(Isaiah 9:2).*

#### Daily Readings

##### Sunday

Morning: Psalm 146,147 Luke 21:5-19

Evening: Psalm 111, 112, 113 Amos 1:1-5, 13-2:8 1Thessalonians 5:1-11

##### Monday

Morning: Psalm 1,2,3 Matthew 21:1-11

Evening: Psalm 4,7 Amos 2:6-16 2Peter 1:1-11

##### Tuesday

Morning: Psalm 5,6 Matthew 21:12-22

Evening: Psalm 10,11 Amos 3:1-11 2Peter 1:12-21

##### Wednesday

Morning: Psalm 119:1-24 Matthew 21:23-32

Evening: Psalm 12,13,14 Amos 3:12-4:5 2Peter 3:1-10

##### Thursday

Morning: Psalm 18:1-20 Matthew 21:33-46

Evening: Psalm 18:21-50 Amos 4:6-13 2Peter 3:11-18

##### Friday

Morning: Psalm 16,17 Matthew 22:1-14

Evening: Psalm 22 Amos 5:1-17 Jude 1:1-16

##### Saturday

Morning: Psalm 20,21:1-7(8-14) Matthew 22:15-22

Evening: Psalm 110:1-5(6-7),116,117 Amos 5:18-27 Jude 1:17-25

## Weekly Advent Schedule

### Week Two of Advent: Sunday, December-4-2011

**We light the Bethlehem candle (purple) which symbolizes peace.**

*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. And he shall stand and  
shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of  
the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to  
the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace (Micah 5:2-5).*

#### Daily Readings

##### Sunday

Morning: Psalm 148, 149, 150 Luke 1:57-68

Evening: Psalm 114, 115 Amos 6:1-14 1Thessalonians 5:1-11

##### Monday

Morning: Psalm 25 Matthew 22:23-33

Evening: Psalm 9, 15 Amos 7:1-9 Revelation 1:1-8

##### Tuesday

Morning: Psalm 26, 28 Matthew 22:34-46

Evening: Psalm 36, 39 Amos 7:10-17,24-25 Revelation 1:9-16

##### Wednesday

Morning: Psalm 38 Matthew 23:1-12

Evening: Psalm 119:25-48 Amos 8:1-14 Revelation 1:17-2:7

##### Thursday

Morning: Psalm 37:1-18 Matthew 23:13-26

Evening: Psalm 37:19-42 Amos 9:1-10 Revelation 2:8-17

##### Friday

Morning: Psalm 31 Matthew 23:27-39

Evening: Psalm 35 Haggai 1:1-15 Revelation 2:18-29

##### Saturday

Morning: Psalm 30, 32 Matthew 24:1-14

Evening: Psalm 42, 43 Haggai 2:1-19 Revelation 3:1-6

## Weekly Advent Schedule

### Week Three of Advent: Sunday, December-11-2011

**We light the Angel candle (pink) which symbolizes joy.**

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger"*

*(Luke 2:10-12).*

#### Daily Readings

##### Sunday

Morning: Psalm 63:1-11, 98 John 5:30-47

Evening: Psalm 103 Amos 9:11-15 2Thessalonians 2:1-3,13-17

##### Monday

Morning: Psalm 41, 52 Matthew 24:15-31

Evening: Psalm 44 Zechariah 1:7-17 Revelation 3:7-13

##### Tuesday

Morning: Psalm 45 Matthew 24:32-44

Evening: Psalm 47, 48 Zechariah 2:1-13 Revelation 3:14-22

##### Wednesday

Morning: Psalm 119:49-72 Matthew 24:45-51

Evening: Psalm 49 Zechariah 3:1-10 Revelation 4:1-8

##### Thursday

Morning: Psalm 50 Matthew 25:1-13

Evening: Psalm 33 Zechariah 4:1-14 Revelation 4:9-5:5

##### Friday

Morning: Psalm 40, 54 Matthew 25:14-30

Evening: Psalm 51 Zechariah 7:8-8:8 Revelation 5:6-14

##### Saturday

Morning: Psalm 55 Matthew 24:1-14

Evening: Psalm 138, 139:1-17 Zechariah 8:9-17 Revelation 6:1-17

## Weekly Advent Schedule

### Week Four of Advent: Sunday, December-18-2011

**We light the Shepherd candle (purple) which symbolizes love.**

*When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us" (Luke 2:15).*

#### Daily Readings

##### Sunday

Morning: Psalm 24, 29 John 3:16-21

Evening: Psalm 8, 84 Genesis 3:15-18 Revelation 12:1-10

##### Monday

Morning: Psalm 61, 62 Luke 1:1-25

Evening: Psalm 112, 115 Zephaniah 3:14-20 Titus 1:1-16

##### Tuesday

Morning: Psalm 66, 67 Luke 1:26-38

Evening: Psalm 116, 117 1Samuel 2:1b-10 Titus 2:1-10

##### Wednesday

Morning: Psalm 72 Luke 1:39-56

Evening: Psalm 111, 113 2Samuel 7:1-17 Titus 2:11-3:8a

##### Thursday

Morning: Psalm 80 Luke 1:57-66

Evening: Psalm 146, 147 2Samuel 7:18-29 Galatians 3:1-14

##### Friday

Morning: Psalm 93, 96 Matthew 1:1-17

Evening: Psalm 148, 150 Luke 1:67-80 Galatians 3:15-22

##### Saturday

Morning: Psalm 45, 46 Matthew 1:18-25

Evening: Psalm 89:1-29 Isaiah 59:15b-21 Philippians 2:5-11

## **Weekly Advent Schedule**

### **The Week of Christmas Sunday, December-25-2011**

#### **We light the Christ candle which symbolizes the Light of the world**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...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 1:1-5, 14).*

#### **Daily Readings**

##### **Sunday**

Morning: Psalm 2, 85 John 3:31-36

Evening: Psalm 110:1-7, 132 Micah 4:1-5,5:2-4 1John 4:7-16

##### **Monday**

Morning: Psalm 28, 30 Acts 6:1-7

Evening: Psalm 145 2 Chronicles 24:17-22 Acts 7:59-8:8

##### **Tuesday**

Morning: Psalm 97, 98 John 13:20-25

Evening: Psalm 118 Isaiah 44:1-8 1 John 5:1-12

##### **Wednesday**

Morning: Psalm 124 Matthew 2:13-18

Evening: Jeremiah 31:15-17 Revelation 21:1-7

##### **Thursday**

Morning: Psalm 18:1-20 John 7:37-52

Evening: Psalm 18:21-50 2Samuel 23:13-17b Revelation 1:1-8

##### **Friday**

Morning: Psalm 20, 21:1-7 John 7:53-8:11

Evening: Psalm 23, 27 1Kings 17:17-24 Revelation 1:9-20

##### **Saturday**

Morning: Psalm 46, 48 John 5:1-15

Evening: Psalm 90 Isaiah 65:15b-25 Revelation 21:1-6

## ***Special Worship Services during Advent***

### **Sunday, December 11**

A Midnight Clear (A night of Christmas music and singing)  
at Covenant Presbyterian Church  
(2012 W. Dickens), 6 p.m.

### **Sunday, December 18**

Lessons and Carols Service,  
at Waters Elementary, 10:15 a.m.

### **December 24**

Christmas Eve Service at Waters Elementary, 5 p.m.

### **December 25**

Christmas morning worship service  
at Waters Elementary, 10:15 a.m.

Worship Location | 4540 N. Campbell Ave. Chicago, IL 60625  
Church Office | 4910 N. Lincoln Ave. Chicago, IL 60625  
phone: 773.677.7782 | [www.lincolnsquarepres.org](http://www.lincolnsquarepres.org)

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*a church, a neighborhood, and a city continually made new  
by the grace of Christ*