



Come & Worship

CHRIST, THE KING OF GLORY

FROM **CREATION** TO **CHRIST'S COMING**,
DISCOVER THE STORY OF **WORSHIP** FULFILLED
IN THE **KING OF GLORY**.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL 2025

Beloved in Christ,

Advent is a season set apart to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord and King, Jesus Christ. In these days leading up to Christmas, we are reminded that the heart of the Christian life is worship. From the garden of Eden to the throne room of heaven, the Scriptures tell the story of a God who calls His people to worship Him—and at the center of that story stands Christ, the King of Glory. Advent brings us to the apex of that story, where the Son of God takes on flesh and the nations are summoned to bow before Him.

This devotional, ***Come and Worship: Christ, the King of Glory***, has been written to guide you, your family, and our church body into deeper worship this Advent season. Each day provides a passage of Scripture, a reflection that connects the text to the person and work of Jesus, a simple question and prayer to help families engage, and a hymn to sing in response. My prayer is that these pages would not simply inform your mind but inflame your heart with affection for Christ.

Here are a few encouragements as you use this resource:

- **Read Together.** Whether you are alone, with your spouse, or gathered as a family, take time each day to open God's Word. Even if only for a few minutes, the daily rhythm of Scripture shapes us for eternity.
- **Reflect and Respond.** Read the short meditation slowly, consider how it points you to Christ, and allow the Spirit to stir your heart in worship. This is not just information—it is fuel for adoration.
- **Engage the Next Generation.** The family prompt is designed to help children grasp the wonder of worship. Ask the question, invite their answers, and pray together. This is how we, as parents and as a church, "bring up our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

- **Sing with Joy.** Each day ends with a hymn or carol, many of which are familiar to our children. Do not rush past this. Singing together is one of the sweetest ways to imprint truth upon the heart and to join our voices with the great chorus of saints through the ages.
- **Keep Christ Central.** Remember, Advent is not about sentimentality, consumerism, or mere tradition. It is about Christ. He came once in humility; He will come again in glory. Every reading, every prayer, every song is meant to lift your eyes to Jesus, that you might behold Him and worship Him.

Church, I am praying that through these 25 days, the Lord will deepen our awe of Christ, enlarge our joy in Him, and renew our longing for His return. May this season not merely prepare us for Christmas morning, but for the day when faith becomes sight and we join the nations around the throne, crying with one voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Rev. 5:12).

For His glory and your joy,

Pastor Arthur Gonçalves

Devotional contributions from Pastor Arthur Gonçalves, Traie Odom, Zachary Seigman, Don Stewart, Jeremy Toro, and Kim Melnick

Reflection

Advent begins with a call to remember who we are and why we were made. In a season filled with noise and hurry, God's Word takes us back to the quiet wonder of creation—to the very first note of the song of worship. *"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.'"* Humanity was created not as an afterthought, but as the pinnacle of God's design—made to reflect His glory and delight in His presence.

From the beginning, worship was woven into our DNA. Every heartbeat, every breath, every work of our hands was meant to magnify the Maker. To be human is to be a worshiper. But when sin entered the world, our song went off-key. We began to adore creation instead of the Creator—looking for satisfaction in gifts rather than in the Giver. Advent, then, is not only a season of waiting but of remembering—remembering that we were made to worship the King of Glory.

When Christ entered the world, He came to restore that original harmony. He lived as the perfect image-bearer, the true worshiper whose every act and word glorified the Father. In Him, we see what we were created to be: worshipers who love, trust, and obey God with joy. And through His cross and resurrection, He restores our hearts to sing again.

The hymn *"All Creatures of Our God and King"* echoes this same truth:

*"All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise Him! Alleluia!"*

As creation joins its chorus of praise, we remember that worship is not limited to one day or one place. It is the posture of the redeemed heart—lifted in awe before the Creator who became our Redeemer. So as this Advent season begins, pause amid the noise and wonder: You were created and called to worship. The lights, the songs, and the joy of this season all whisper the same invitation—“O praise Him, alleluia!”

Family Worship Prompt

Question for Children: “Why did God make us?”
(Answer: To worship Him and enjoy Him forever.)

Prayer:

“Lord, thank You for creating us in Your image and calling us to worship You. As we begin this Advent season, help us quiet our hearts and lift our eyes to Jesus, the King of Glory.”

Song of Worship:

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Reflection:

In the beginning, worship was pure. Adam and Eve lived face-to-face with God, walking with Him in perfect fellowship. But when the serpent spoke and they listened, something catastrophic happened—worship was distorted. Instead of exalting God, they elevated self. Instead of trusting His word, they questioned His goodness. The very first act of rebellion was not merely disobedience; it was misplaced worship.

Sin always begins with a worship problem. The heart that once bowed before the Creator now bowed before a lie. The tragedy of Genesis 3 is not only that humanity fell, but that our worship fell with us. The altar of the heart turned inward, and ever since, mankind has been trying to fill that void with created things—power, pleasure, pride—anything but God.

Yet even in the ruin, a promise shines through the curse. God speaks of One who will come, the Seed of the woman, who will crush the serpent's head. Here, in the midst of rebellion, grace breaks in. The King of Glory is promised—One who will restore what was lost, who will redeem worship itself.

Every shadow of redemption from this point forward points to Him. He is the true and better Adam who obeys where Adam failed. On the cross, Jesus silenced the serpent's accusations once and for all. His heel was bruised, but Satan's head was crushed. Through Him, our hearts are made new, and worship is restored—not as a duty, but as a delight.

When we sing, “O come, all you unfaithful, come, weak and unstable,” we are echoing the truth of Genesis 3. Sin may have distorted worship, but grace invites us back. The King has come for the unfaithful, for the ashamed, for those hiding among the trees. And in His presence, our hearts can finally bow rightly again.

Family Worship Prompt

Question for Children: “Why do you think God promised a Savior right after Adam and Eve sinned instead of just punishing them?”

(Answer: Because even in their rebellion, God’s heart was already set on redemption, not destruction.)

Prayer: “Father, thank You for pursuing us even when we turned away. Thank You for sending Jesus, the promised King, to crush the serpent and restore our worship. Help our hearts bow before You in gratitude and love. Amen.”

Song of Worship:

“O Come, All You Unfaithful” (Sovereign Grace)

Reflection:

While the Old Testament focuses primarily on the nation of Israel, every book in God's Word reveals His global purpose. From the beginning, the Lord's plan has been to form a people blessed by His presence and devoted to joyful worship of Him forever.

In our passage, Abraham is blessed to be a blessing to "all the families of the earth." That promise is fulfilled in Jesus, whose birth we celebrate in the Advent season, even as we anticipate His glorious return. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, both Jews and Gentiles are given the hope of salvation and, by His grace, the privilege of worshipping Him together as citizens of His Kingdom.

In the Advent season, we join with millions around the world to offer worship to the One who, as today's song declares, is *"The King of kings and Lord of lords - And He shall reign forevermore."*

And that's not all! One day, our joy in worship will be complete as a great multitude from every nation will worship before the throne of God in a world made new as, together, we give blessing, glory, and honor to our King who reigns forever.

Oh Church! We are a people called out of darkness and into His marvelous light! We belong to the King, set apart to declare the hope of Advent and the glory of the One in whom every promise to Abraham finds its fulfillment.

This Christmas, as we marvel that *“here within a manger lies the One who made the starry skies,”* may we know that the infinite God humbled Himself to dwell among us. May we rejoice that the Creator entered His creation and gave His life that we might know His grace and glory!

And, may we look to a future where we will join with people from every tribe and nation, singing with joy in the fullness of His Kingdom, *“He shall reign forevermore!”* Until that day, may we give thanks for His glorious gift and may we worship Him with all our hearts.

Family Worship Prompt:

Question for Children:

What promise did God give to Abraham that is fulfilled in Jesus?

(Answer: God promised to bless all the families of the earth. Jesus has made the blessing true.)

Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, we praise you for blessing families all over the earth and for calling us to worship you together. Fill our hearts with joy as we worship you and look to the day when we’ll join with the nations to worship you forever. Amen”

Song of Worship:

“He Shall Reign Forevermore” (Chris Tomlin / Gettys)

Reflection:

Exodus 12 describes the ordinance of the Passover and the details for its administration and remembrance. God is commanding the congregation of Israel to “prepare” for a mighty work that he is going to accomplish over the land of Egypt, and this also serves as a foreshadowing of the work that Christ will complete more than 1500 years later as God’s perfect, unblemished lamb of sacrifice to redeem you and me.

During Advent we are invited to rejoice and reflect on Christ as “Deliverer” and “Redeemer.” We are exhorted to marvel and worship as we ponder His incredible and completed work to fulfil God’s redemptive plan for humanity.

Both the Passover and Advent represent new beginnings – Exodus 12 for the Israelites marked the birth of a nation and Christ’s Advent (coming or arrival) is clearly outlined in the gospel accounts of the miraculous birth of a baby born King of kings.

Advent and Exodus 12 both reveal that redemption is not an end in itself, but a gateway to worship. God rescues His people so they might know Him, love Him, and glorify Him. During this Advent remember that this child who was born came to give His life as a ransom for all who will believe. So, meditate on the awesome wonder of his coming and know that in Him you are redeemed to everlasting life, love, service, and worship.

Family Worship Prompt:

Question for Children: “Why did Christ come?”
(Answer: To redeem us to Himself and to worship Him always.)

Prayer:

Father Thank you that you are a God who hears, acts, and redeems. Everything about Advent points to your great love for us and your redemptive plan through Christ the King. May we celebrate and worship the Lamb of God – our promised Redeemer.

Song of Worship:

“Behold the Lamb” (Communion Hymn)

Reflection:

When we reflect back on the Exodus, you may find it easy to remember what God rescued Israel from (Egyptian slavery) but what did He rescue them for?

Look at Exodus 3:12, “He (God) said, *“But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”*

The word serve also means to worship! God rescued His people so they could serve and worship Him, and that is what Exodus 20:1-6 is all about, God teaching His people how He is to be worshipped rightly. And God reminds Israel that He rescued them from slavery (v.2), it wasn't by their own strength, their own plans or escape strategy, God alone saved Israel so that they could love Him as their greatest treasure and joy.

In Exodus we are taught the pattern of God's ultimate plan of redemption, that He sent His own Son into the world to free us from our slavery to sin so that we can worship God from our very hearts. Jesus was born and lay in a manger to show us that true worship starts with humility, as the wise men came and worshiped Jesus as a little child (Matthew 2:11), they were worshipping the Almighty LORD God of Israel.

Here is the heart of Christmas, Jesus wasn't just born only to be worshipped but to restore our worship to God forever. Jesus came to be our final sacrifice, to pay for our sins and permanently end our separation from God. As Jesus died on the cross He was accomplishing a new exodus by freeing us from sin and saving us to live our lives marked by worship!

As the song *Only a Holy God* reminds us: "Cry Out, Sing Holy, Forever A Holy God, Come and Worship the Holy God"

Jesus is the only way to a restored relationship with God. By faith in Christ, have you experienced this joy of knowing that God delights when you praise Him? And that He cares for you? Meditate on these truths and ask the Lord to show you in this advent season the power of the Gospel displayed in your life by responding to this good news through serving others and worshipping the King of kings!

Family Worship Prompt

Question for Children: "For what purpose did Jesus come to save us?"

(Answer: To bring us back to God to love and worship Him always.)

Prayer:

"Oh Father, thank you for sending Your One and only Son to save us from our sins, and to restore us to You. Help us to live lives of worship and obedience to Your Word, so that we may shine as lights and draw many others to be saved."

Song of Worship: "*Only a Holy God* (CityAlight)"

Reflection:

Advent invites us to marvel again at the faithfulness of God. In a world filled with uncertainty and change, promise is a rare word—but not with God. In 2 Samuel 7, the Lord made a promise that would anchor all of redemptive history: a King would come from David's line whose throne would never end.

God said to David, *"I will raise up your offspring after you... and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."* (vv. 12–13) At first glance, it seemed Solomon would be that king. He built a magnificent temple, but his reign ended in weakness and idolatry. The earthly kingdom failed, yet heaven's promise endured. Generation after generation looked for the Son of David who would reign in righteousness and draw the nations to worship.

That long-awaited King is Jesus Christ. Matthew's Gospel opens with royal assurance: *"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David."* Every failed ruler, every broken promise, every longing heart pointed to Him. He did not come to build a temple of stone, but to make His people a living temple of praise. His throne is not upheld by armies or wealth, but by grace and truth.

The Advent season reminds us that waiting is not wasted when the One we wait for is faithful. The world's kingdoms rise and fall, but Christ's reign remains unshaken. His sovereignty brings peace in our chaos and hope in our waiting. When the promises of this world disappoint us, we rest in the One whose every word is "Yes and Amen."

The hymn “*Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*” gives voice to this awe:

“See the true and better Adam,
Come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law—in Him we stand.”

Every promise finds its fulfillment in this King. So as you walk deeper into Advent, let your worship be steady and your heart untroubled—because the promised King has come, He reigns, and He will come again.

Family Worship Prompt

Question for Children: “What kind of King did God promise to send to David’s family?”

(Answer: A forever King — Jesus — who rules with love and truth.)

Prayer:

“Father, thank You for keeping every promise. Thank You for sending Jesus, the forever King whose rule is righteous and whose love never ends. Help us to worship Him with joyful hearts and to trust His reign over all things.”

Song of Worship: “*Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*” (Matt Boswell & Matt Papa)

Reflection:

Psalm 2 makes it clear that that true worship belongs to God's Anointed - King Jesus.

We don't have to look far to recognize that there is a world full of people and governments who refuse to worship our Lord. They set themselves against God and against His Son. But, their resistance and rebellion do nothing to thwart His plans. Our God has given Jesus the name that is above all names and, one day, every knee will bow in worship before Him.

Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, God has established that He will have complete authority over all people and all places for all time. The coming of His Kingdom is comprehensive, global, and eternal!

This is good news for His people. As those transformed by grace, our only response is to give our very lives in worshipful submission to the King. And, by God's grace, our worship becomes delight!

Jesus, our Lord and King, has come, He reigns, and His rule will one day be seen in all the earth. Today's song "*Joy to the World*" looks ahead to Christ's second coming, the day when His Kingship is fully realized.

But, even now, those who have trusted and found refuge in Christ, can sing these words with great exultation!

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come, Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing."

The Lord's invitation goes out to all, but not all are willing to prepare room for this King. Psalm 2 reminds us that His judgment is sure for those who resist His reign. In the words of John Calvin, "We must either be blessed by resting under his protection, or perish by rebelling against him."

Through the carols of the Advent season, the good news of Christ echoes in unexpected public spaces, calling hearts to receive this King. As the redeemed, may we be found worshipping Him and may the fruit of our lives reveal His glory and goodness as we live to praise the One of whom we sing these words, *"He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove - the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love."*

Family Worship Prompt:

Question for Children:

What does it mean to let every heart prepare Him room?

(It means we make Jesus most important in our hearts and lives—He's our King!)

Prayer Prompt

Lord, we thank you for sending King Jesus - the One who rules with truth and grace. Help us to worship Him in our hearts and with our lives, not just at Advent, but everyday of our lives.

Song of Worship: "Joy to the World"

Reflection:

Darkness has a way of making everything seem hopeless. In Isaiah's day, God's people were walking in deep darkness—surrounded by enemies, weighed down by sin, and longing for deliverance. But through the prophet, God spoke a promise that pierced the night: *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."*

That light was not a concept or a feeling—it was a Person. Isaiah points forward to a Child who would be born, a Son who would be given. This wasn't just any child; this was the long-awaited King. His names reveal His nature: *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*. Every title declares something astounding about the One who was to come—He would be both human and divine, both infant and infinite.

In a world that chases power through politics, armies, or influence, God's answer to the darkness is a baby. That's the wonder of worship at Christmas. The One who holds the stars entered our world as a helpless child. The One who spoke light into existence became the Light who would walk among us.

This prophecy reaches its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. When He was born in Bethlehem, the dawn Isaiah foresaw finally broke. Angels filled the sky with worship. Shepherds hurried to bow before Him. Wise men journeyed across nations to lay gifts at His feet. Heaven and earth united in adoration of the newborn King.

A Child Born, A King to be Worshipped

Worship begins when we see Him rightly—as the Light in our darkness, the Prince who brings peace, and the God who became man for our salvation. “Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven” captures this awe perfectly: the joy of Heaven humbled to rescue the lost, the King worthy of all praise.

The same King who came once will come again, and His kingdom will have no end. Until then, we live as people of the light—those who worship in wonder because the Child has come, and the King reigns forever.

Family Worship Prompt

Question for Children: What do you think it means that Jesus is both a baby and a King at the same time?

(Answer: It means that the all-powerful King of heaven humbled Himself to become one of us so He could save us.)

Prayer: “Lord Jesus, Light of the world, thank You for stepping into our darkness. You are the Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace. Help us to worship You with hearts full of wonder today. Amen.”

Song of Worship: “Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven” (Gettys)

Reflection:

My wife Michelle is a great gardener and has two “green thumbs.” She can take a plant cutting and get it going without much trouble - everything she touches seems to spring up, grow, and blossom. In Isaiah, the prophet uses many agricultural metaphors to describe the coming King: branches, vineyard’s, fruit, stumps, roots, and shoots. The branch and blossom Isaiah is describing in chapter 11:1-10 springs from the stump of Jesse, David’s father, through whose line the messianic King would come.

Isaiah 11 (and 12) unveil God’s plan for Israel and that plan is one of blessed hope and a coming King. It is a great vision of the everlasting deliverance that both Advents will usher in - the second, culminating in the Millennial reign of Christ.

All the promises of scripture and Advent anchor our hope and magnify the glory of the coming King whose very words bring salvation and call us to live in purposeful obedience, faithfulness, and worship, as we await His glorious appearance.

I love verse 9, it says “the whole earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord.” That traces to Habakkuk 2:14 and the prophecy of a future fulfillment at the Second Coming when the King of glory (Ps 24:7-10) returns to take His rightful Throne.

There, in the Millennial Kingdom, the nations will worship and adore the King of Kings – Oh Glorious Day!

Family Worship Prompt:

Question for Children: Who will all the world one day worship?

(Answer): *Christ, the Lord*

Prayer:

Father Thank you that the first Advent points us to the great vinedresser. May we abide in and be found in Him each and every day...For apart from Him we can do nothing. We pray Psalm 67:1-3 – “be gracious to us and bless us and make your face shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the people praise you!” Lastly, strengthen us by your Spirit as we wait for the blessed hope of the second Advent, when our Lord returns to deliver the faithful who have believed in Him – come quickly we pray, Amen

Song of Worship: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Reflection:

For centuries, people have been fighting, lying, and stealing to gain power. Some have even gone so far as to get rid of their own families to obtain it. Yet, in the town of Bethlehem, a King was born, not one born into riches, significance, or a royal palace, but one born in a manger.

This King didn't come in pride or in a domineering manner; He came in humility. Humility defines His life. Even though He has all the power in the universe and could strike down any enemy in a moment, we see Him love, show compassion, and care for others.

We see a humble Shepherd and a humble King who came to extend grace, mercy, and forgiveness. This King shows us what it truly means to lead His people. In leading His people, He shows us how we are to lead our lives and our families.

Too many times, we try to lead in our own strength and ability. Yet the Lord calls us to follow this King of Glory, who leads His people in truth and righteousness.

Who are you worshiping today? Who is leading your life? Who is sovereign over all? It's Jesus Christ, the Humble King, born in the small town of Bethlehem!

This Shepherd King is worthy of our worship and praise! Join me as we sing, "Come, Adore the Humble King"!

Family Worship Prompt:

Question for Children: Who is the Humble King?
(Answer): *Jesus Christ is the Humble King who was born to save His people)*

Prayer:

Dear Lord, As we reflect on Your character as a humble Shepherd King, may You work in our hearts to be more like You. Use the difficulties and challenges in our lives to mold us into the image of Your Son, Jesus. May we look and act like Him in all we do. We love You and thank You for all You do. Amen.

Song of Worship:

Come Adore the Humble King (Boswell & Papa)

Reflection:

Remember back to Week 2, Day 9 and Isaiah's prophecy of a coming King ? Well, here it is! Matthew 1 introduces the first advent and the birth of the King. He begins with a lengthy, but critically important genealogy which establishes Christ's heritage – The King must come from Abraham for racial lineage, and David for royal lineage – Christ fits both!

Then, starting in verse 18, we see the birth record of Jesus. It's a very familiar text that probably has had thousands of sermons written about it during the Advent and Christmas season. It really is a foundational passage with rich theological themes: Joseph's faithfulness and obedience, the virgin birth, and the fulfilled prophecy of "Immanuel, God with us." The Nicene Creed that we recite weekly also describes this miraculous event...saying: "who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man." (God with us).

This virgin birth is critically important doctrine and emphasizes the agency of Mary's conception is from the Holy Spirit and not from a man. The genealogical opening in Matthew clearly states that Joseph was not the father of Jesus, but the son of Jacob, and husband of Mary.

A vital truth to recognize is the virgin birth bypasses the curse of Jeconiah who did not forsake idolatry. Jeremiah 22:30 tells us that "no blood child of his would inherit the throne of David."

The virgin birth evades the sin problem inherent in man and therefore provides the necessary royal conditions for the birth of the sinless, Savior King. Every detail of scripture points to this first Advent. We can rightfully and joyfully, worship and “bring laud” which is praise and honor to the Babe, The Son of Mary – Who is, Christ the King!

Family Worship Prompt:

Question for Children: What Child is This ?
(Answer): *Christ the King ! Immanuel*

Prayer: Father we are grateful for Christ the King who humbled himself and came down in the form of a babe to usher in redemption for all who will receive His free gift. The “King of Kings salvation brings” our accompanying song says, may our wonder of your great love for us shift to worship, as we contemplate how His life transitioned from the manger to the cross. What Child is This? He is the only Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world as our sacrificial atonement for sin. Praise His Name, Amen

Song: “*What Child Is This*” (1868, W. Chatterton Dix)

Reflection:

One of the greatest forms of acknowledgment and submission is the act of bowing. When you bow before someone, you are affirming their status and your inferiority to them. In our passage, we see these wise men come and bow before the young Jesus. The significance of this moment is that these men, who are Gentiles, have come to bow before and worship the Jewish Messiah.

In human eyes, this may seem foolish and a waste of time, but in the eyes of the Lord, it is a precious moment. God, in His gracious providence, has not only provided a way for the Jews to receive mercy but has also provided a way for the Gentiles to receive mercy. By the grace of God, Jesus' sacrifice is extended to all who would believe and trust in Him by faith. Every person from every nation, tribe, and tongue can come to know the true God through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Through the word of Christ, nations around the world can experience the mercy and forgiveness of God. Brothers and sisters, this reality is the reason we financially, physically, and spiritually support missionaries—because we believe that God is using them to bring the hope of the Gospel to the nations. Jesus' finished work brings the nations before Him in worship! Will you join me in worshiping the King who alone can make the nations glad?

Family Worship Prompt:

Question for Children: Who Alone can make the nations Glad?

(Answer): Jesus Christ has made the nations glad through his finished work

Prayer:

Almighty God,

I pray that we would consider and worship Jesus for bringing hope to the nations. Lord, remind me that I was once lost like all the others, but You extended grace and mercy to me. God, please empower me to bring this good news to all those around me, and strengthen those brothers and sisters who are bringing this Gospel truth to the nations. May God's grace, mercy, forgiveness, goodness, and love forever make the nations glad. In Your mighty name, I pray and give thanks. Amen.

Song: "Let the Nations Be Glad" (Boswell & Papa)

Reflection:

It's amazing who God chooses to reveal Himself to. On the night Jesus was born, the first people invited to witness the arrival of the King were not the religious leaders, the powerful, or the noble—but shepherds. Men forgotten by society, working through the night in the cold, keeping watch over sheep. And suddenly, heaven broke through their darkness.

The angel's announcement wasn't just news—it was worship. "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." The message was simple but stunning: the long-awaited Savior, Christ the Lord, had been born. Heaven's glory flooded the field as a multitude of angels proclaimed, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"*

The shepherds didn't stay where they were. Worship moved them. They said, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened." And when they found the baby lying in a manger, they did what every heart made new by grace does—they adored Him.

In that stable, surrounded by the smell of hay and animals, they met the King of Glory wrapped in swaddling clothes. Their response was pure worship. They returned "glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen." The night began with fear but ended in joy, because true worship always leads to rejoicing in the presence of Christ.

This story reminds us that God still invites ordinary people—people like shepherds, people like us—to come and see Jesus. Worship isn't for the impressive or the perfect; it's for those who recognize their need for a Savior.

When we sing “*Angels We Have Heard on High*,” we echo the chorus that filled that first Christmas night. The song of heaven has become the song of redeemed hearts: “*Gloria in excelsis Deo*”—Glory to God in the highest!

Family Worship Prompt

Question for Children: Why do you think the angels and shepherds were both so full of joy when Jesus was born?

(Answer: Because they knew that through Jesus' birth, God was bringing hope and salvation into a broken world.)

Prayer: “Father, thank You for sending Jesus, the Savior-King. Fill our hearts with the same joy the shepherds felt that night, and let our lives overflow with worship and praise to You. Amen.”

Song of Worship: “*Angels We Have Heard on High*”

Reflection:

Who is this King revealed in John 1?

The Apostle John begins his account of Jesus, not focused on biographical details, but by fixing his readers' minds on the identity of our Lord. Commentators have noted that John's introduction contains some of the most theologically packed words in all of Scripture.

The passage begins with John echoing the Creation of the earth, showing that Jesus has eternally existed with God and is, indeed, God. He reveals that the eternal Word lived as a human, displaying the glory, grace and truth of God while dwelling among men.

John highlights that Jesus is not only the Creator of all things, but that He is the true Light who gives us life and, although He was rejected by His own people, He is the only One through whom we can become children of God.

Today's song, "*Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*" leads us in the truth of His identity and His work on behalf of sinful people like us.

*"Come, behold the wondrous mystery, in the
dawning of the king
He the theme of Heaven's praises, robed in frail
humanity
In our longing, in our darkness, now, the light of life
has come
Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to
ransom us"*

Oh Church! May we praise Him for the mystery of the incarnation! May we see that our Sovereign Lord is orchestrating a plan of redemption that no human mind could have conceived.

May we behold the wondrous mystery of Jesus—our God and King made flesh.

May we stand in awe that the Almighty humbled Himself to dwell among us.

May the baby in the manger point us to the Lamb on the cross and to our risen Lord, King Jesus, who gives us abundant and eternal life.

And may the mystery of Christ move us to worship and magnify His name, not just at Christmas, but for all our days.

Family Worship Prompt

Question For Children:

What is the great mystery we celebrate at Christmas?

(That Jesus, our God and King, became a human to save us.)

Prayer Prompt

Lord Jesus, thank you for coming near to sinners like us and for dying and rising again that we might have life forever with you. By your grace, help us to grasp more deeply the wonder of this mystery, that our worship of you, our God and King, may grow.

Song: “Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

Reflection:

The wilderness often reveals what we truly worship. After forty days of fasting, Jesus stood face to face with the enemy of souls, who offered Him a shortcut to glory: *“All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”* (v. 9)

It’s hard to imagine such a temptation, but in many ways, we face it every day. The world whispers, *“You can have the kingdom without the cross. You can have joy without obedience, glory without submission.”* Yet in this sacred moment, Jesus models true worship. He answers, *“You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.”* (v. 10)

This is the heart of worship—to give our ultimate allegiance to God alone. The devil’s offer was counterfeit, just like the ones we face in our own deserts: comfort instead of holiness, approval instead of faithfulness, ease instead of endurance. But where we often yield, Jesus stood firm. He worshiped the Father with perfect trust, proving Himself the true King—worthy of every knee bowing and every heart singing.

The song *“Christ Is Mine Forevermore”* by City Alight captures the same reality:

*“Mine are days that God has numbered,
I was made to walk with Him.”*

This is worship—walking with God in faith through every season. The hymn continues,

*“Come rejoice now, O my soul,
For His love is my reward;
Fear is gone and hope is sure—
Christ is mine forevermore.”*

In Christ, we find the power to resist the false worship of the world. When temptation comes, we remember that every fleeting pleasure is nothing compared to the eternal joy of belonging to Him. The One who conquered in the wilderness now reigns on the throne, and He invites us to worship Him not out of fear, but out of freedom.

As Advent continues, lift your eyes from the glittering kingdoms of this world to the glory of the King who overcame them all. He is worthy of your trust, your obedience, and your adoration. Worship Him alone—for Christ is yours forevermore.

Family Worship Prompt

Question for Children: “What does it mean to worship only Jesus?”

(Answer: It means to love, trust, and obey Him more than anything else.)

Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, You are the only true King. Help us to turn away from the things that promise happiness but cannot satisfy. Teach us to worship You alone, and remind us that You are ours forevermore.”

Song of Worship: “*Christ Is Mine Forevermore*”
(CityAlight)

Reflection:

Up to this point in the book of Matthew we have clearly seen that Jesus is the promised Messiah. We see his royal lineage, the announcement of His kingdom, His demonstrated authority through teaching and miracles, and His preparing the disciples for ministry. Now, in chapter 11, John the Baptist is in prison and is asking about the deeds of Christ and if He is the “One who is to come.” The answer comes in vv4-6 with a slew of miracles and that the good news is preached – Jesus is affirming his messianic identity through His word and works. You may remember similar teaching to the apostles from John 14:11 – Christ is telling them He and the Father are One and that if they won’t receive the truth on the testimony of His word, then believe on the evidence of the very works which He had done – “believe me for the very works’ sake.” Being convinced by the very miracles themselves is the idea. The local communities where Christ is preaching are rejecting Him despite the miracles and they will be severely judged. All they had witnessed should have led them to repentance.

Next, He urges the weary to come to Him and he will give them rest. It very well could be the greatest invitation ever issued – “Come.” This invitation is for salvation and rest for your souls. Then afterward, for a daily “Come” – to allow the Spirit of Christ to grow and mature us into his likeness. Gloriously, at a future day, there will be a third “Come” – that of the second Advent where our returning King will lead us to eternal rest in His presence.

So, for this Advent we can rest assured that if we have named the name of Christ we have nothing to dread – we are forgiven, our future is sure, and the price has been paid. Our accompanying songs third refrain says: “To this I hold, my sin has been defeated, Jesus now and ever is my plea, Oh the chains are released, I can sing, “I am Free” Yet, not I but through Christ in me...He is our only hope, all the glory evermore to Him, let’s rest in and worship our reigning King this Advent.

Family Worship Prompt:

Question for Children: Who forevermore is our reigning King?

(Answer): Christ the Lord – God with Us

Prayer: Father, thank you for giving us your blessed Son who takes away the sin of the world. What a glorious gift of grace that was born in that lowly stable. May we come to know Him so that we may find rest from the burden of our sin. Help us Lord to not rely on our own resources and feeble strength, but to cast all our cares on Christ and his righteousness. May we, as Augustine said, “find no rest till we find our rest in Thee.” Amen.

Song: “Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me”
(CityAlight)

Reflection:

Up to this point, throughout the Gospel of Matthew there has been a burning question for those listening and following Jesus, “Who is Jesus?” “Who is this person that performs miracles and speaks for God?”

Now in Matthew 16, Jesus finally answers the question, but He does this through probing the hearts of His disciples by asking them, “*But who do you say that I am?*” (Matthew 16:15)

Can you imagine hearing that question and listening to the disciples whisper among themselves, trying to put together what they had seen and heard from Jesus? Then steps forward, the bold disciple, Simon Peter who confesses these marvelous words, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” (Matthew 16:16)

Then Jesus declares a blessing upon Peter, God the Father had revealed to Peter who Jesus is, that He is the long awaited Messiah! But notice this wasn't something that mere intellect or information could reveal, this is as a direct action by God to spiritually open Peter's eyes and confess that Jesus is the Son of God.

What this teaches us is that knowing Who Jesus is, is not the same as knowing a recent event, a famous person or something taught in school. To know Jesus is to have God reveal or disclose to you the greatest spiritual reality in the universe, *that Jesus is Lord of all*, and that means Lord of you. To know Jesus means that you must personally confess and believe that Jesus is the Christ and Son of God.

As the hymn *Crown Him With Many Crowns* reminds us, we need our souls to be made alive to love and follow Christ:

“Awake, my soul, and sing, Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King, Through all
eternity”

As you meditate on the good news of Jesus our King coming into the world in this advent season, remember that the question, “who is Jesus?” is far more important than Christmas lights and gifts. Jesus is the King and Savior of the world and by faith in Him you can be confident that not even the gates of hell can prevent Christ’s Kingdom from advancing to the ends of the earth (Matthew 16:18).
For He Is King of All!

Confessing and Worshipping the King

Family Worship Prompt

Question for Children: “What is Jesus’s identity?”
(Answer: *That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.*)

Prayer:

“Oh Lord, thank you for revealing Jesus Christ your Son to us, that you did not leave us in the dark and lost in our sins, but have graciously called us to Yourself. Please help us live bold lives for you especially in this advent season, to confess that Jesus is our Savior and declare this good news to the world.”

Song of Worship: “*Crown Him With Many Crowns*”

Reflection:

Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest! As Jesus makes His last journey to Jerusalem, the people line His pathway with palm branches. They expected that Jesus would come to Jerusalem and overthrow the Roman government. They wanted a King who would reestablish Israel as the dominant force in the world.

But this King had His eyes set on a greater enemy, one not defeated by human effort or power, but only by the mighty work of God. We see that God sent His Son, Jesus, to destroy the power of sin and death. And even though the people did not understand the great work Jesus was going to accomplish, and even though they would later shout, “Crucify Him!”, they rightly gave Him the worship He deserved.

But brothers and sisters who know the truth, are you worshiping Jesus? Are you shouting, “Hosanna in the highest”? Or is “Jesus the King” just a mundane title for you? We who know the truth, shouldn’t we be praising His name from the mountaintops? Shouldn’t we be worshiping Him in the valleys?

How will you respond to the coming King? Let us join together in song and worship our King, saying, “Hosanna in the highest!”

Hosanna! Worship the Coming King

Family Worship Prompt:

Question for Children: Who is to be worshiped and praised as Hosanna in the Highest?

(Answer): Jesus Christ the King who has arrived is Hosanna in the Highest

Prayer:

Wonderful God,

We praise and worship you because you are worthy of it all! We thank you because you are the king who has come to save his people. Thank you for not leaving us to ourselves but giving us your son Jesus who is worthy of all the praise, all the glory and all the honor!

Song: "Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)" (Brenton Brown / Paul Baloché)

Hosanna! Worship the Coming King

Reflection:

In this passage, Jesus is instituting the ordinance of the Lord's Supper with His disciples. The disciples did not deserve to be at the Lord's table, but out of His gracious mercy and because He chose them, they sat and shared a meal with Jesus. In this meal, He prepared them for what was to come: His body that would be broken and His blood that would be shed. Jesus reminded them that they would continue to fulfill this ordinance until He returns.

God, by His gracious providence, has directed our church to remember the Lord's Supper every Sunday. This reminder is not a mundane or merely religious practice, but an ordinance given to us by Jesus Himself, one we are to observe until He comes again. We were once devout enemies of God, counted among the children of wrath. Yet God, in His infinite grace and mercy, made peace with us through the perfect life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

When we gather at His table, we are reminded of His sacrifice, our pardon, and the glorious promise of His imminent return. The Lord's table is not a place where we should mope or be weighed down by sins that have already been forgiven, but a place where we are reminded of Jesus' great sacrifice and His unending love. This should not lead us to sorrow but to joy. It should stir our hearts to worship and praise our God for all He has done.

Do you realize that this present table of worship is preparing us for the eternal table of worship? One day we will be with our Lord and Savior in eternity, eating from His table and drinking from His cup forever. So, why don't you join me in praising and worshiping Jesus, rejoicing in His mercy, and admiring the power of the cross?

Family Worship Prompt:

Question for Children: How do we worship Jesus in the Lord's Supper?

(Answer): By reminding us of his great sacrifice for us and his promise to come back for his people

Prayer:

Almighty God,

We thank you and praise you for the sacrifice you made for us on the cross. As we come to your table, let us come in worship of you and be reminded of all that you have accomplished. Help us to know that one day you are coming back for your people. Be with us as we recognize and affirm the power of the cross in our own lives. Help us to continue to worship you and preach the truth of the power of your cross. In your mighty name, we pray and give thanks. Amen!

Song: "The Power of the Cross" (Gettys)

Reflection:

At the very center of the gospel story stands the cross—a scene both horrifying and holy. *“Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour”* (v. 45). For three hours, creation itself mourned as the Creator hung between heaven and earth. In the darkness, Jesus cried out, *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”*—words that pierce the silence of our own suffering.

For many, Advent is a season shadowed by loss or loneliness. The empty chair at the table, the ache of absence, the pain of memories too dear to revisit—all of it can make this time of year heavy. But here at Calvary, we find the King who enters into that pain. He knows what it means to be forsaken, to grieve, to bear unbearable sorrow. He is not a distant Savior watching from above—He is “a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.”

The song captures it so well:
*“Man of sorrows, Lamb of God,
 By His own betrayed.
 The sin of man and wrath of God
 Has been on Jesus laid.”*

In the thick darkness, judgment fell—not on sinners, but on the sinless Son. And yet this was not defeat; it was victory. When Jesus breathed His last, the earth shook, the veil tore, and the way into God’s presence was opened. Even the centurion who witnessed it all declared, *“Truly this was the Son of God!”* (v. 54).

The cross reveals the heart of true worship: beholding the worth of Jesus in His suffering. We worship the King not because life is easy, but because He endured the worst pain imaginable to make us His own. His cry of abandonment secures our adoption; His death secures our life.

So if your heart feels heavy this Advent, look to the cross. The King you worship there is no stranger to sorrow. He meets you in your darkness with love that does not waver and promises a dawn that will never fade.

*“Now my debt is paid,
It is paid in full—
By the precious blood
That my Jesus spilled.”*

This is the song of Advent hope—worship at the cross of the King.

Family Worship Prompt

Question for Children: “Why did Jesus die on the cross?”

(Answer: To take our sin away and bring us back to God.)

Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, thank You for suffering for us. When our hearts are heavy, remind us that You understand our pain and have conquered it through Your cross. Help us worship You with thankful hearts.”

Song of Worship: “Man of Sorrows” (Hillsong)

Reflection:

Death is a constant reminder of what stands before us. Mighty kings, rulers, and leaders who have done great things ultimately fall to the power of death. Human strength and effort can never stop death, no matter how hard humanity tries. In all their striving, people have sought to prolong life in an attempt to escape death. Yet death is a judge with an appointed day for every human being. If we are left to ourselves, the only thing we can be certain of is that we will die.

But here in Matthew, we see a glorious truth about our God standing in the face of death and the certainty that all humanity faces. Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, not only dies but after three days rises from the dead. His tomb, guarded by Roman soldiers and sealed with the seal of Rome, is rolled away as Jesus steps forward in a glorified body that He will have for all eternity. What once was a treacherous enemy can now be seen as the gateway that brings us to our Savior. If Jesus has risen from the dead, then we can be confident that everything He said is true. We can know for certain that we do not serve a dead Savior but a risen King. And this risen King is calling all His people to worship and proclaim His perfect life, His death, and His resurrection. He promises that one day those who trust in Him will also rise from the dead just as He did.

Brothers and sisters, you do not need to fear death, because the One who conquered it has power over life and death. Jesus Christ is our living hope, to whom we give worship and praise. So I encourage you to join me and sing this glorious song of our living hope, Jesus Christ.

Family Worship Prompt

Question for Children: Who is our living Hope?

(Answer: Jesus is our living Hope because he conquered death and lives forever more.)

Prayer:

Glorious God, We come before you in gratitude, thankful that you have conquered death. We are reminded that the world fears death, but we welcome it because we know it brings us to you. Thank you for removing the sting of death and giving us a great and glorious living hope. Thank you for the confidence you have given us through your perfect life, your death, and your resurrection. Lord, please help us hold fast to the reality of our resurrection to come. We praise you and thank you for all that you have done. In your mighty name, Jesus, we give thanks. Amen.

Song of Worship: “Living Hope” (Phil Wickham)

Reflection:

The story of Advent begins in a manger, but it ends on a mountain. The child who once lay in swaddling clothes now stands risen in glory, declaring, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.*” (v. 18) From that authority flows His great commission—to make disciples of all nations. This is not merely a call to mission; it is a call to worship. Christ sends His followers so that every tribe and tongue might bow before His throne.

This truth is deeply personal to me. My family came to this country as Portuguese immigrants—crossing oceans, carrying stories, culture, and hope. And somewhere along the way, the gospel reached us. The good news of the risen King traveled across languages and generations until it found its way into our hearts and our home. Yet even now, not everyone I love has believed. Still, Advent reminds me that the mission of Christ continues—that the same King who came near in Bethlehem still calls people from every nation and family to worship Him. His kingdom cannot be contained by borders or limited by unbelief.

The hymn “*Jesus Shall Reign*” captures this glorious vision:

“Jesus shall reign where’er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.”

This is where Advent leads us—toward a world filled with worshipers. The risen King now reigns through His Church, and His authority extends to every corner of creation. The mission of Advent continues each time we speak His name, love our neighbor, or pray for hearts to believe. His reign is certain, His promise sure, and His glory inevitable.

So as this season draws to a close, take heart: the King still sends, still saves, and still reigns. One day all nations will lift their voices in worship—and even now, families like mine are living proof that He is doing it.

Family Worship Prompt

Question for Children: “What does Jesus want His followers to do?”

(Answer: To tell the world about Him so everyone can worship the King.)

Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, You are the King of all nations. Thank You for bringing the gospel to us. Keep us faithful to share Your good news and to trust that every heart You call will one day worship You. May all the earth sing: Jesus shall reign.”

Song of Worship: “*Jesus Shall Reign*”

Reflection:

By the time we reach Acts 13, the story of redemption that began in a garden and climaxed in a manger is now spreading to the ends of the earth. Paul and Barnabas are preaching the gospel in Antioch, and the whole city gathers to hear the word of the Lord. The Jewish leaders reject the message—but the Gentiles receive it with joy. What happens next is one of the most beautiful scenes of worship in the New Testament: *“When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord.”*

For the first time, the nations begin to worship the King who was born in Bethlehem. The promise given to Abraham—that all nations would be blessed through his offspring—is being fulfilled. Jesus, the King of Glory, has come not for one nation but for all people. The gospel breaks down every wall of race, culture, and class. Heaven’s invitation is global: *“Come and worship Christ, the King.”*

This moment in Acts shows us what true worship looks like when grace reaches the undeserving. These Gentiles had no history with the temple, no lineage in Israel, and no claim to the covenants. Yet through Christ, they were welcomed to the table of worship. That’s the power of the gospel—it turns outsiders into sons and daughters, enemies into worshipers.

When they rejoiced and glorified the word of the Lord, they were doing what every redeemed heart does—responding to grace with praise. That’s what our song “O Praise the Name (Anástasis)” captures: the wonder that the cross, the resurrection, and the risen King have opened the way for all people to sing, “O praise the name of the Lord our God.”

Advent reminds us that Jesus didn’t just come to rescue individuals—He came to gather worshipers from every tribe, tongue, and nation. The King has come, and the nations are rejoicing.

Family Worship Prompt

Question for Children: How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus came for people from every nation, including us?
(Seek Personal Answers)

Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, thank You for making a way for all nations to worship You. Fill our hearts with the same joy the Gentiles felt when they heard the gospel, and let our lives declare Your glory among the nations. Amen.”

Song of Worship: “O Praise the Name (Anástasis)”
(Hillsong)

Reflection:

Today's reading has been called *The Hymn of Christ*. It is one of the most glorious passages in all the Bible revealing both the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus.

The Apostle Paul has called the church to unity through humility and selfless service to others. He then gives a stunning portrait of the ultimate, humble servant, the Lord Jesus. Paul's words confront us and convict us in our pride.

The passage reveals that Jesus, though fully God, did not cling to His divine rights or status as God, but willingly chose to live among sinful people and, in extraordinary humility, He emptied Himself and became a servant, living in perfect obedience to the Father.

Instead of fighting for His rights as the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, Jesus obeyed the Father's plan, all the way to His death on the cross.

As a result, God has highly exalted Him, giving the Lord Jesus the name above all names. He is the One to whom every knee will bow and every tongue will, one day, confess His Lordship.

God's ways are clearly not our ways. We see what Gospel living looks like in Jesus' sacrifice as He reveals that true greatness comes from humility and real power is found in surrendered service to the Lord and others.

Today's song, "At the Name of Jesus" is full of Gospel truth from our passage. The song begins with the divinity of Jesus, "The Mighty Word."

It speaks of His humility and the suffering He endured "For a season."

As the song reaches its crescendo, we are celebrating His ascension and His exaltation and we are called to worship.

"He is God the Saviour, He is Christ the Lord, ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored."

The call then becomes personal - will we submit the throne of our hearts to Him?

*"In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue
All that is not holy, all that is not true;
Crown him as your captain in temptation's hour,
Let his will enfold you with its light and power."*

Oh Church! May we walk worthy of our Lord - living humbly, bowed before Him in adoration and walking in obedience to Him, now and for all our days!

Family Worship Prompt

Question For Children:

Why did Jesus come down from heaven?

(Because He wanted to obey God and show His love for us even though it meant dying on the cross)

Prayer Prompt

Lord Jesus, thank you for humbling yourself and leaving the majesty of heaven to come to earth, to live as a man, to serve and to die so that we might be saved from our sin. May we gladly worship you and may we learn how to walk in humility from you. In your name we pray and give thanks.

Song: "At the Name of Jesus"

Reflection:

Advent began with anticipation and ends with adoration. From Genesis to Revelation, the story of Scripture has led us here—to the throne room of heaven, where the promise is fulfilled, the King is revealed, and worship never ends.

John writes, *“Then I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain... and they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.’”* (vv. 6, 9)

This is the culmination of Advent—the worship of the Lamb who was slain. The waiting is over, the sorrow is silenced, and the song of redemption fills heaven and earth. What began in a manger and was sealed at a cross now resounds through eternity in the worship of a countless multitude. Every nation, every generation, every redeemed heart joins in one anthem: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!”

The song *“Is He Worthy?”* gives language to this longing and this fulfillment:

“Do you feel the world is broken?” We do.

“Do you feel the shadows deepen?” We do.

“But do you know that all the dark won’t stop the light from getting through?” We do.

Those words echo the heart of every believer who has walked through sorrow, loss, or longing—those who have waited for the day when darkness will be no more. And now, in this final vision, the light of Christ fills everything. The tears we have shed are gathered up into His glory.

The songs we sang in faith on earth now rise in fullness before the throne.

In that moment, the questions cease, the waiting ends, and the church answers forever:

“He is! He is!”

“He is worthy! He is worthy!”

Jesus—the Lamb who was slain—is the King who reigns. He alone is worthy of all our worship.

This is where Advent leads us: from the cradle to the cross, and now to the crown. Worship begins here on earth but never ends, for in eternity, our voices will join the song that never fades: *“To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”* (v. 13)

The story of worship finds its completion not in our songs, but in His. And forever, the redeemed will sing: He is worthy.

Family Worship Prompt

Question for Children: “Why is Jesus worthy of our worship forever?”

(Answer: Because He died and rose again to save us and will reign forever as King.)

Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, You are worthy of all our worship. Thank You for redeeming us by Your blood and giving us hope that never ends. Fill our hearts with joy as we wait for the day we will see You face to face and join the song of heaven.”

Song of Worship: *“Is He Worthy?”* (Andrew Peterson / Shane & Shane)

(For the close of Advent and the beginning of a new year)

Benediction: All Glory be to Christ

As another Advent season draws to a close and a new year stands before us, we find ourselves once again at the crossroads of memory and hope. We've looked back to a manger in Bethlehem, where the King of Glory humbled Himself and took on flesh for us. We've stood beneath the shadow of the cross, where that same King bore our sin and sorrow. And we've lifted our eyes to heaven, where the Lamb who was slain now reigns forever.

Advent teaches us how to wait—but it also teaches us how to live. We live between two comings: the first that purchased our redemption, and the second that will complete it. Every day between them is a day of worship. The true meaning of life is not found in resolutions or achievements but in glorifying Christ—the One who holds all things together and who will one day make all things new.

As we turn the page into a new year, many of us carry both gratitude and grief. Some of us rejoice over what God has done; others ache from what has been lost. But whether in joy or in sorrow, one truth remains steady: Jesus Christ reigns, and every breath we take is grace.

The song “*All Glory Be to Christ*” captures this beautifully:

*“Should nothing of our efforts stand,
No legacy survive;
Unless the Lord does raise the house,
In vain its builders strive.”*

Those words remind us that our plans, our dreams, and even our ministries are nothing unless Christ is at the center. As the new year begins, let this be our anthem:

*"To You who boast tomorrow's gain,
Tell me, what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn—
All glory be to Christ."*

The chorus declares what our hearts must cling to:

*"All glory be to Christ our King!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
All glory be to Christ!"*

So as we leave Advent and step into a new year, may this truth shape our days: the same King who came for us still reigns over us. Every sunrise is another invitation to worship. Every moment is an opportunity to live for His glory.

Church, the story is not over. The song is not finished. The Lamb who was slain is still gathering the nations, still drawing hearts to Himself, still worthy of our praise. Until He returns in glory, may every breath, every act, every word, and every year proclaim:

All glory be to Christ.

Closing Prayer:

"King Jesus, as we step into a new year, fix our eyes on You. Teach us to live each day in worship, to trust You in joy and in sorrow, and to give You glory in all things. You are worthy of our lives, our labors, and our love—forever and ever. Amen."

Song of Worship: *"All Glory Be to Christ"* (Kings Kaleidoscope / 2012)



Come & Worship

CHRIST, THE KING OF GLORY

