

Advent at the A-Frame

2020 Personal Worship Experience Guide

Welcome to Advent at the A-Frame

Advent celebrates the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love given to us through Jesus Christ.

This year's Advent at the A-Frame is different. It is a Self-Guided Worship Experience. Use this guide to journey through the themes of Advent. Each section has Scriptures and Songs. At the end of each section, there is a space for you to write down your reflections.

Take your time as you read, meditate and reflect.

Start

Be still. Breathe. Spend some time in silence. Press PAUSE on the sea of thoughts, activities, conversations, and experiences of the past week. Take a few moments to just rest. Ask God to calm your heart and quiet your thoughts.

Gifts

Think about these four words: **HOPE. PEACE. JOY. LOVE.**

Which of these is present and strong in your life? Are you struggling to experience any of them? Which ones? Why?

Hope

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. [...] For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

Go deeper: [Psalm 122](#); [Isaiah 2:2-5](#); [Romans 13:11-14](#)

Song: Hymn 196 [Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus](#)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Go deeper:

Hymn 211 - [O Come O Come Emmanuel](#)

Hymn 213 - [Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates](#)

Hymn 214 - [Savior of the Nations Come](#)

Word Study: [Yakhal](#) (Hope)

Biblical hope chooses to wait expectantly for God to bring his goodness to bear in our future regardless of how dark our circumstances are. This hope comes from God’s past faithfulness. At

Advent, we look backward in order to look forward to a better future. Our hope is that God will liberate humanity, and the entire universe, from evil.

Respond: What will you hope for? (Write your thoughts / prayer:)

P e a c e

Scripture: Psalm 29:11, John 14:27

“The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.”

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

Go deeper: [Psalm 80:1-7](#), [Colossians 3:15](#)

Song: Hymn 218 [It Came Upon the Midnight Clear](#)

It came upon a midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, From heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats, O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains, They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds The blessèd angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, And hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing!

For lo!, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

Go deeper:

Hymn 377 - [It is Well With My Soul](#)

Hymn 534 - [Be Still My Soul](#)

Hymn 431 - [Let There Be Peace of Earth](#)

Word Study: [Shalom](#) (Peace)

Biblical peace means to make complete or to restore to a state of wholeness. The Advent of Jesus is the arrival of peace. He not only made peace with God for us, but he became our peace. Through The Advent of Jesus, not only are we no longer in conflict with God, but much more God has restored us to a state of wholeness.

Respond: Where do you need “shalom” in your life?

J o y

Scripture: Matthew 2:10-11

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

Go deeper: [Psalm 146:5-10](#); [Isaiah 35:1-10](#); [Luke 2:8-14](#)

Song: Hymn 246 [Joy to the World](#)

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

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

Go deeper:

Hymn 89 - [Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee](#)

Hymn 644 - [Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring](#)

Hymn 715 - [Rejoice The Lord is King](#)

Word Study: [Chara](#) (Joy)

Biblical joy is an attitude that God's people adopt, not because of good circumstances but because of God's love and promises. It's our future destiny, not our current struggles that determine our joy as we anticipate our future redemption. But joy isn't about ignoring the negative aspects of life, but rather it's a profound decision of faith and hope in Jesus' life and love.

Respond: Where is there evidence of God's promises in your life?

Love

Scripture: John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

Go deeper: [Psalm 24:1-10](#); [Isaiah 7:10-14](#); [Luke 2:8-20](#); [1 John 4:10](#)

Song: Hymn 384 [Love Divine, All Loves Excelling](#)

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation; Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit, Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find that promised rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, 'Til in heaven we take our place,
'Til we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Go deeper:

Hymn 480 - [Oh Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go](#)

Hymn 363 - [And Can it Be](#)

Hymn 475 - [Come Down Oh Love Divine](#)

Word Study: [Agape](#) (Love)

Biblical love seeks the well-being of others, even enemies, without looking for anything in return. The magnitude of God's love was revealed in The Advent, life, and death of Jesus. The heart of the Christian faith is a trust that at the center of the universe is a being that is overflowing with

love for this world and that our primary purpose is to receive his love and express it back to others.

Respond: How has God shown His love to you? How has he used you to show His love to others?

Share the Gift

We hope that Advent at the A-Frame was a blessing to you. As a final response, we encourage you to look beyond yourself to those around you. Ask God to help you share His gifts with others this Christmas.

Hope

Who in my life is in need of Hope?

How can I share the Hope of Jesus with them this week?

Peace

Who in my life is in need of Peace?

How can I bring the Peace of Jesus to them this week?

Joy

Who in my life is in need of Joy?

How can I spread the Joy of Jesus to them this week?

Love

Who in my life is in need of Love?

How can I demonstrate the Love of Jesus to them this week?