



CHRISTMAS ADVENT CALENDAR

Hope for Everyone

We have created weekly family friendly
activities made just for you, in this season!



[EHILLS.ORG/CHRISTMAS](https://ehills.org/christmas)
#EHILLSCHRISTMAS

ADVENT READING GUIDE

We have attached our day by day reading guide for this season!

You can tune in Monday-Friday at 8am on our Facebook page to participate in our *Daily Time with God* community discussion or watch on-demand on YouTube!



Eastern Hills
Community Church



Daily Time with God



WEEK ONE & TWO

November 28 & 29	Weekend	Unto Us · Week One
Monday, November 30	Bring Light	Isaiah 9:1-7; John 1:1-9
Tuesday, December 1	Be a Better Adam	Romans 5:12-21
Wednesday, December 2	Bless Nations	Galatians 3:7-29
Thursday, December 3	Fulfill the Law	Matthew 5:17-20; Romans 8:1-4
Friday, December 4	Be Our High Priest	Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-10
December 5 & 6	Weekend	Unto Us · Week Two
Monday, December 7	Walk in God's Way	John 13:1-17
Tuesday, December 8	Seek and Save the Lost	Isaiah 49:8-13; Luke 19:1-10
Wednesday, December 9	Reign as King Forever	2 Samuel 7:8-16; Hebrews 1:3-4
Thursday, December 10	Bring God's Kingdom to Earth	Matthew 6:7-13; Luke 18:36
Friday, December 11	Defeat the Enemy	Hebrews 2:5-18

WEEK THREE & FOUR

December 12 & 13	Weekend	Unto Us · Week Three
Monday, December 14	Show Perfect Love	1 John 7-21
Tuesday, December 15	Heal Our Wounds	Isaiah 53:1-12
Wednesday, December 16	Be the Lamb of God	John 1:29; Romans 5:6-8; 1 Peter 1:17-21
Thursday, December 17	Be the Firstfruits the Resurrection	Romans 15:12-20, 35-44, 50-57
Friday, December 18	Make All Things New	2 Corinthians 5:11-21
December 19 & 20	Weekend	Unto Us · Week Four
Monday, December 21	Be God With Us	Jeremiah 23:5-8; Revelation 22:16
Tuesday, December 22	Bring Mercy	Matthew 1:1-25
Wednesday, December 23	Exalt the Humble	Luke 1:26-38
Thursday, December 24	Offer Us His Peace	Luke 2:8-20
Friday, December 25	Jesus is Born!	Matthew 2:1-12

DAILY TIME WITH GOD



WEEK ONE

November 28 - December 4 • Wonderful Counselor

Activity - Buy a gift for Christmas Store

Read Luke 1:26-1:38

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called **Wonderful Counselor**, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6

This week as we kick off our Advent Devotional, I want to look at the name **Wonderful Counselor**, which the prophet Isaiah uses to refer to Jesus – 700 years before He was born! Let's break this into two parts. First, what does the word **Wonderful** mean? It means that something inspires wonder within us. It is almost too great to comprehend. Next, **Counselor** can be seen in two ways. A counselor can be someone who helps us work through the pain and hard things in our lives. A counselor can also be a person in a position of authority. Both of these can apply to Jesus, depending on our circumstances. Jesus is and always will be more than we can understand or comprehend.

The scripture we are looking at this week comes from Luke 1:26-38, and it tells the story of when the angel Gabriel appears to Mary to tell her that she will have a baby. He explains that the baby will be Jesus, the Savior of the world. Oh yeah, and she will get pregnant even though she is a virgin: the Immaculate conception. This whole story is beyond understanding or comprehension. An angel talking to Mary, the virgin will bear a child, he will be the Son of God, the Savior of the World.

This is all the beginning of the most beautiful **love** story that has ever played out. God **loved** each of us so much that he couldn't imagine life without us, so he sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive us from our sins that were keeping us separated from God. What we will see during this Advent Season is that the **love** of God expressed in Jesus, the **Wonderful Counselor** is something that we will never fully understand or comprehend.

Week One Advent
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Are you wondering how you could bring the love of Jesus to someone in a practical way this year? As a family, buy a gift for our Christmas Store. You can grab a tag from church or check out our Amazon gift list in the "Christmas Store" section at **ehills.org/reachout**.

Make it a family event and have your kids help you pick a gift you could buy for a kid in our community that might help them see the love of God in their lives this Christmas season. You can also invite your friends and family to join you in helping bring the love of Jesus to a child this Christmas!

WEEK TWO

December 5 - December 11 • Mighty God

Activity - Family Christmas Movie Night

Read Luke 1:39-1:45

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son
is given; and the government shall be
upon his shoulder, and his name shall
be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6

Mighty: characterized by superior power and strength. Mighty brings to mind those who can lift cars or destroy a competitor in arm wrestling. Mighty describes someone who is unlike those around them. While we cannot always describe might, when we see it, we know it. This is true for Jesus too. When people came into contact with Jesus, they could not help but experience His might. He was powerful and strong beyond anyone around Him, and yet very little of His might was attached to physical brute strength. There was something about Jesus that made people pause and take note of His goodness, kindness, joy, passion, and so much more. Jesus became the physical representation of our **Mighty God** here on earth.

One of the most amazing moments of Jesus' might came before He was even born. While He was still in the womb, Jesus' mom, Mary, approached a fellow pregnant member of her family and the might of Jesus took over. Elizabeth, Mary's family, knew there was something unique and powerful about Mary's baby because the baby in her womb flipped! That's right, Elizabeth's baby did a somersault just because he was near another baby to be! Clearly, Jesus was more than just a child; He was someone to take note of. Before Jesus could breathe, walk, heal others, die for all of us, or come back to life, He was a buffer of God's incomparable power. Jesus truly is our **Mighty God** and has been since before He was born.



The beauty of having a **Mighty God** is that we do not have to be mighty. We do not have to have all the answers, we do not have to change the world on our own, we do not have to earn our place with God, and we do not have to lift cars or win at arm wrestling. God already showed that He is capable, even before Jesus was born. God can handle you and your world, no matter what you throw at Him. We can face each day with joy, knowing God has already proved His might every single day from the beginning of time. We can take deep breaths as we find joy and do somersaults as we rest in the one who can defeat death. Our **Mighty God** already has us so let yourself celebrate!

Week Two Advent

Guess what? We have a way to celebrate together this week! On Friday, December 11th, schedule a family movie night. Plan a stress-free dinner, buy some popcorn, and be on the couch at 6 pm for a streamed movie night, provided by Eastern Hills, in your own home. You can sign up to watch with us by going to **ehills.org/christmas**. We also have our chat in the app available, so feel free to comment along as our families have some fun in our own homes, yet together!

Want to spread joy? Buy some popcorn and candy for your friends or neighbors and invite them to join you on Friday night in their own homes! Christmas movies remind us to laugh and rest in joy, and social distancing cannot keep us from resting in our **Mighty God** "together."



WEEK THREE

December 12 - December 18 • Everlasting Father

Activity - Christmas Light Tour of Aurora

Read Luke 1:46-1:56

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son
is given; and the government shall be
upon his shoulder, and his name shall
be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, **Everlasting Father**,
Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6

Have you ever thought of God as **Father**? For some of us, thinking about God as **Father** creates a knot in the pit of our stomach. However, this season, the title of “Everlasting **Father**” can actually give us some genuine hope. When it comes to Christmas, we often imagine baby Jesus in the manger with animals. There is a lot of hope built into that picture of God, and we can find some of that same hope in the image of God as **Father**. Hundreds of years before, Isaiah gives us a prophetic vision of Jesus’ birth, where he describes God as “Everlasting **Father**.”

“Everlasting **Father**” means God is powerful and in control. Like sleeping soundly in a castle during a siege, no matter how dangerous or scary the enemy outside is, you know you’re safe. God can be that solid wall for us, the protective **Father** during the siege this year who allows us to find some real rest.

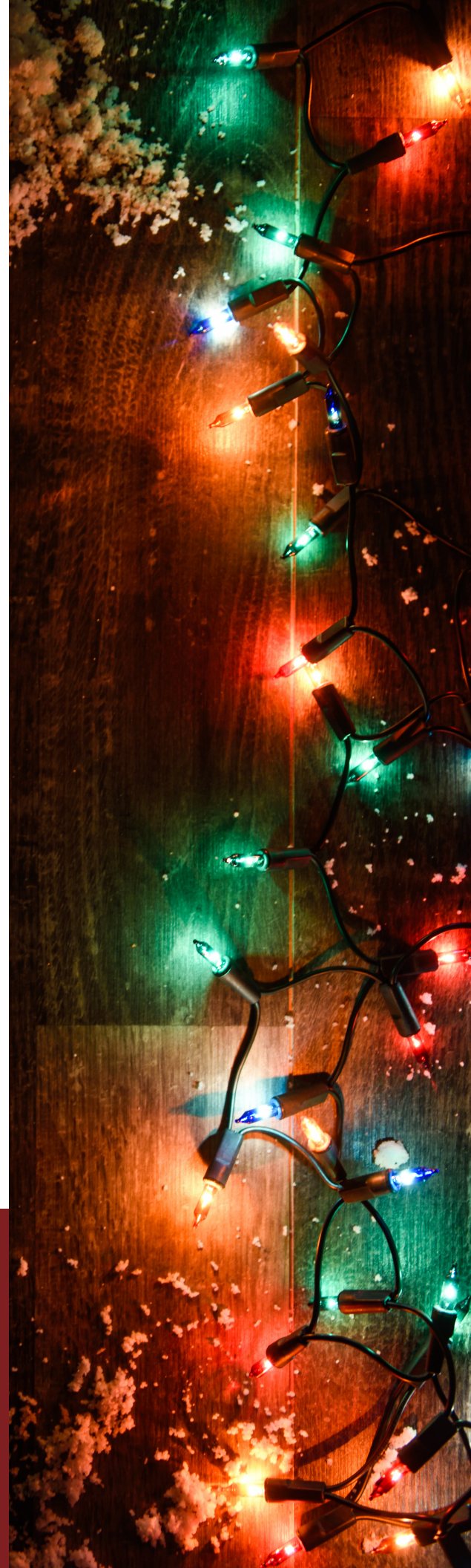
Luke illustrates a tender moment where we find Mary singing a song of praise to God when she realizes she’s been chosen to give birth to the Savior of the world! Mary, the mother of Jesus, is overwhelmed by God and sings a song that “magnifies” and “rejoices in” who God is – “God my Savior.” But the way she approaches God reflects how He has been fatherly toward her and how He has blessed her. God is the strength of His people and the one who makes all things right, providing for those in need in His family.



This may be a tough season for you, especially if your dad wasn't the best. Recognizing God as a protective **Father** may take some time to process and reflect before you can trust God with that title – and that's okay. If you've had a good dad, this may be a little easier, but still may take some time. This week, take a moment to think about the hope we share because of our "Everlasting **Father**."

Week Three Advent

God the **Father** wants good things for us. Take some time with your family this week and join us for a Christmas light tour of Aurora. Head to ***ehills.org/christmas*** to find the map and take your family to some amazing houses decorated for Christmas! As you're driving together, talk about the care and time that went into creating such beautiful decorations and how much more God the **Father** cares for you as his children.



WEEK FOUR

December 19 - December 24 • Prince of Peace

Activity - Invite people to watch Christmas with you

Read Luke 2:1-7

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son
is given; and the government shall be
upon his shoulder, and his name shall
be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6

WEEK FOUR

When we reflect on the past year, what are the different words you might use to describe it? Challenging? Unpredictable? Dumpster fire? There are plenty of words we could use when we look back on 2020, but I have a feeling “peace” is not one of them.

Peace: freedom from disturbance; tranquility; a stress-free state of security and calmness; everything coexisting in perfect harmony.

When we read about Jesus’ birth or even sing Silent Night, it’s easy for us to imagine a quiet and peaceful moment where heaven came to earth, but let’s remember that His birth was very real. Mary experienced the same pain experienced by mothers today, but instead of a clean bed in a hospital and doctors, she was surrounded by dirty straw in a stable with only her new husband. Most likely, this night was not silent and may not have been filled with peace. Yet, that was the night the **Prince of Peace** was born.

Jesus was the promised **Prince of Peace** the Jewish people had been waiting for. And when the angels appeared to the shepherds on the night when He was born, they praised God, proclaiming: *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”* (Luke 2:14).

Jesus continued to bring a sense of peace into the storms of life for those around Him. When the waves were crashing all around them, His closest friends were terrified, positive their boat would capsize, and they would all drown. In desperation, they woke the sleeping Jesus, shouting in fear. In response, Jesus commanded the wind and waves cease, reestablishing a sense of calm and **peace**.

If you have found yourself drowning in fear this past year, you are not alone, and the same **Prince of Peace** that was on the boat thousands of years ago remains with us today. Frequently our circumstances may continue to feel crazy and chaotic, but Jesus can reestablish a sense of **peace** that may not make any sense but calms us (Luke 8:22-25).

Week Four Advent

This year, maybe more than ever before, so many are desperate to find this kind of **peace**. We have a fantastic opportunity to share this good news with those around us! There has never been a better time to invite someone to watch a Christmas Eve service with you online. Think of who that might be – your neighbor, coworker, classmate, friend. Don’t miss the opportunity to invite them to experience the **peace** that is available with Jesus, who Makes Life Better. You can find more information and register to watch online at **ehills.org/christmas**.

Specific Kid Activities

Each week of our Advent series, our Eastern Hills Kids will also be sharing activities for you and your little ones to do.

Be sure to follow them and look for their post on Monday mornings of each week!



Eastern Hills Kids



@ehillskids



Tag us in the fun!

While you participate in each week, be sure to share your photos with us on social media and we will repost you and your family!

Be sure to follow us to stay connected with our Christmas Community!

#EhillsChristmas



Eastern Hills
Community Church



@ehillsaurora





MERRY CHRISTMAS

LOVE, EASTERN HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH
#EHILLSCHRISTMAS