

# Ideas for Living Joyfully this Season

Adapted from <http://contemplativecottage.com/celtic-advent-calendar>

40 days of Celtic Advent and 12 days of Christmas 2017

In the 6th century, the Celtic Christians celebrated Advent during the 40 days before Christmas, as a mirror to the period of Lent before Easter.

Join us in a longer, joyful preparation for Christ's coming.

## November

	<b>CELTIC ADVENT BEGINS</b> Find a quiet spot in or near your home. Breathe and listen. How is God preparing you for Christ's birth?		Thank God for something you are grateful in your work, home or school.		<b>LITURGICAL ADVENT BEGINS</b> Welcome a new person at church or offer hospitality to someone new to you.
	Spend time looking at a favourite image, photo or artwork.		Give away a small gift.		Notice the really small things in your life and environment.
	Say a friendly 'hi' to someone who looks like they need it today		As you go to bed pray for God to work His goodness in those you love even as you sleep.		Write a text, email or note to someone in your family.
	Take someone on a walk outside or down memory lane or both.		Encourage someone today.		<b>CS LEWIS DAY</b> Respond in your actions today to one of these quotes: "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." "True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less."
	Think of a sound or song you hear often and chose something to pray for each time you hear it this season.		List things you are thankful for today. Tell God, tell each other.		Read something that brings joy to you or even better, read it to someone else.
			Share something delicious with someone.		

# December



Listen to a favourite piece of music and place a decoration in your room or home that reminds you of Jesus coming into this world.



Go for a walk and pray for each house you see Christmas lights or decorations in.



Greet a child at church today.



Smile at a shop keeper or someone that serves you and wish them a good day.



Call a friend and enjoy their voice.



Encourage a young person in your life. You may like to send a note or picture.



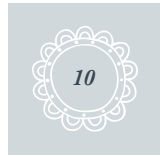
Look out the window or spend time in your yard noticing your surrounds and being at peace.



Play a game or do a puzzle.



Do, watch or remember something that makes you laugh. Share it if you can.



Read Mary's Song: Luke 1:46-55 from the Voice. Think about the God who notices us.



Notice the unique eye colour of the people around you today.



Light candles for whatever place or situation is on your heart and pray for God's joy there.



Support or encourage an organization or project bringing hope to others.



Do something creative in the home or yard and enjoy it.



Recall a favourite verse and let it flow into your life today. You may like to write or draw it.



Do something that brings peace to a place or person.



Read Isa 11:1-5 from the Message. Pray over your shoes that you might follow Jesus into this week.



Read Isaiah 33:22. Tell the LORD who He is to you. Listen for any feelings, pictures or words that come to you.



Read Revelation 3:7 from the CEV. Each time you open a door today pray for God to open it with you.



Read Malachi 4:2 from the CEV. Spend some time in the morning sun and remember the ways God has been shining on you.



Read Isaiah 9:2. Look up at the night sky and pray for Jesus' light over your neighbourhood and world.



Read Isaiah 9:6 from the CEV. Create a picture in your mind or on paper for each of Jesus' names in this reading.



Read Isaiah 7:14 from the GNT. Immanuel means 'God is with us.' Notice how God is with you and those you meet throughout today.



**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Where have you experienced God's Joy this Advent?



**THE BIRTH OF JESUS**  
Feast today with those you love, adopt someone who needs a family, let yourself be adopted if you need one.



**THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS BEGIN**  
Read Psalm 148. Notice all the things, people and creatures that Jesus came for today.



Read a story from Jesus' life today. How is this story a light for your path? Psalm 119:105



Each time you have a drink today remember the Holy Spirit is with you. Psalm 139:11-12



Learn something about love from a childhood memory or a kid in your life today. Matthew 18:2-5



Plot a map of special places God has taken you this season. Psalm 19:8-9 from the Message



Be aware of the attempts of the enemy to lead you away from love and resist them. Revelation 12:10-12



EPIPHANY  
Place something at your door that reminds you of Jesus' presence in your house. Matthew 2:11



Tend to a plant or part of your garden and think about the way God is growing you and your relationships. Isaiah 58:10



Open your heart to show your love to God in church today. Psalm 43:3

## January



Arrange to have someone over. Matthew 5:14-16 the Message



As you open the curtains today. Invite Jesus to fill your whole life with His light. John 8:12 the Message



How can you share about God's goodness today? 1 Peter 2:9-10 the Message

*“How we spend our days is how we spend our lives.”*

*Annie Dillard*