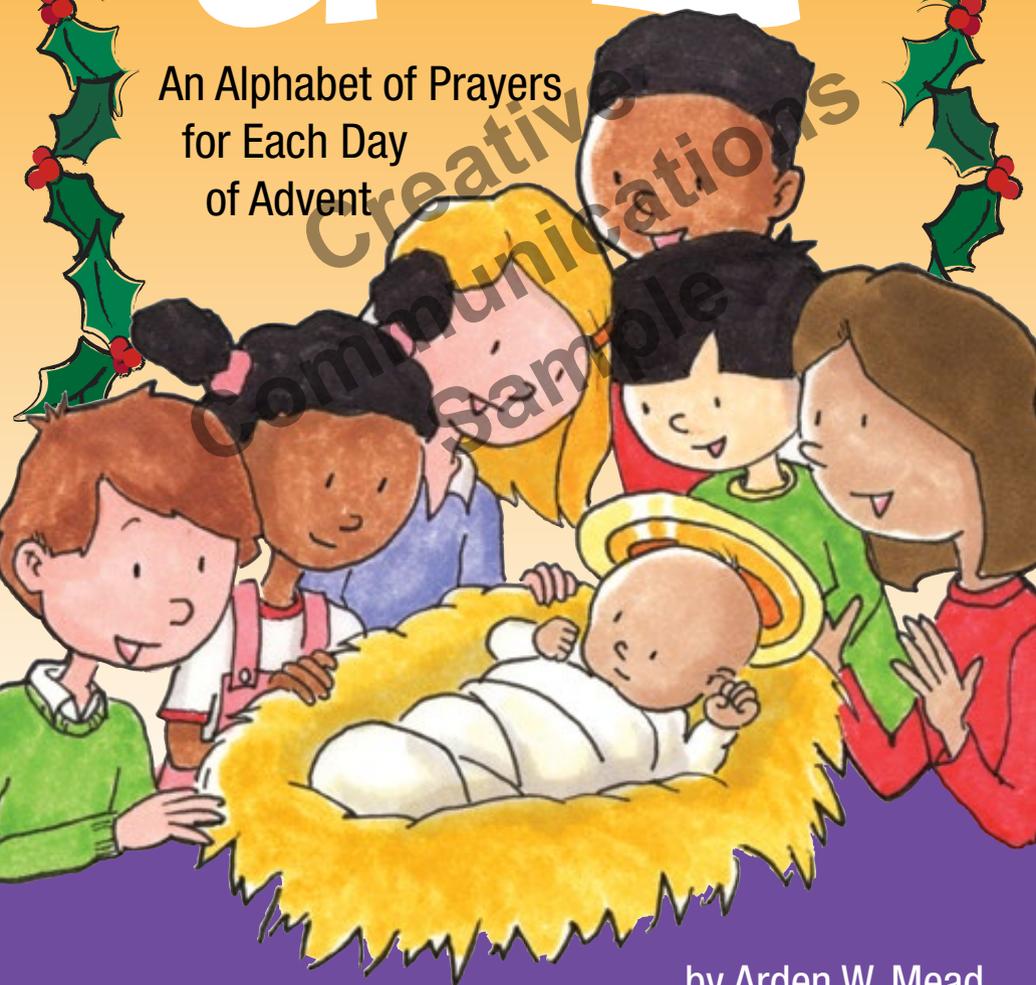


Advent a to Z

An Alphabet of Prayers
for Each Day
of Advent



by Arden W. Mead





angel

Read Luke 1:26-28

An angel came to Mary once, to tell her some good news:
she was going to have a baby, a very special baby—
Jesus was coming to be our Savior, Christ the Lord,
and that's the best good news of all!

And angels came to Bethlehem,
to tell the shepherds waiting there
the same good news:

Jesus was coming to be our Savior,
Christ the Lord,
and that's the best good news of all!

O God, I wish I had an angel to tell me that good news.
How excited I would be to hear one say to me,
“Jesus is coming, Christ the Lord!”

That really is the best good news of all.

If I can't have an angel, God, then can I be one?

Oh, help me find some way to say (to someone
who is waiting too, and needs good news):
“Jesus is coming, Christ the Lord!”

Oh Jesus, does it ever bother You
that Christmas is Your Birthday
but everyone gives Christmas gifts
to everybody else
and nobody gives anything to You?

And everyone says, "Merry Christmas!"
to everybody else—which is, I guess,
like saying, "Happy Jesus' Birthday!"

Does anyone say anything to You?
And cards are sent, like birthday cards,
to everybody everywhere, except to You.
And people ask, "What would you like
at Christmas time this year?"

And we make lists of what we want.

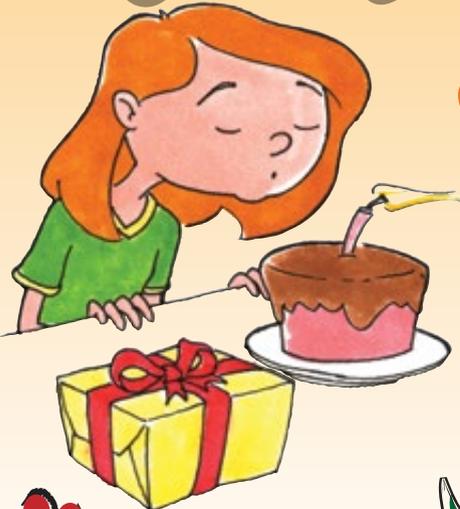
Does anyone ask you?

What would You like for Your birthday, Jesus?
I don't know where to send a card,
so let me just say it (and mean it too):
"Happy Jesus' Birthday, Jesus, to You!"



Birthday

Read Luke 1:35





Candles

Read Ephesians 5:8



Christmas is a time for candles, shining bright,
beginning with the Advent wreath, where “bright”
gets brighter week by week,
until the Day has come.

Dear God, help me to be like Christmas candles.
Help me let my light shine, as Jesus told me to,
that I may be a Christmas candle,
making Advent brighter, day by day
and week by week, for You.

I need Your love, O God, to light my flame.

And, since it is so small and frail,
I need Your power and Your protection
to keep it glowing day by day.

And I need other people, too, to be like other candles
shining brightly all around me, helping me
to let my own light shine.

Lord, help me let my own light shine not only “bright”
but brighter week by week and day by day—
not only mine, but everyone’s, until You come!

Did Mary really ride a donkey, Lord, to Bethlehem?
Was it a bumpy ride? Was she uncomfortable?
Or was she thankful for that little animal
that worked so hard to carry her there?
You rode a donkey once, too, didn't You, Jesus?
On Palm Sunday You came into Jerusalem
not riding on a prancing Yankee Doodle pony,
but on a humble donkey.

And were you thankful too for that small animal
who worked so hard to carry You there?
The Bible says that You were thankful for the children
singing out Your praises that bright day.

Even though children are little, like donkeys,
we work hard to sing Your praises
and welcome You at Christmas time.
Thank You Lord, for hearing us, and for being thankful
for all the little things we try so hard to do for you.



D

Donkey

Read Zechariah 9:9



Eggnog

Read Isaiah 43:19



This is the time of year for special tastes and smells.

Some of them I like a lot (like cookies), and some

I don't care for very much ... but still,

they're special, and they all are signs

that Christmas is drawing near.

When You became a baby, Jesus Christ,

everything was new and special, wasn't it?

Or was it old, something You remembered

or already knew about from ... when, before?

Eggnog is something different to do with eggs—

right at the time when I thought I knew

all there was to know about eggs.

You don't fry or scramble or boil it—

it's different, and kind of good.

I guess I don't know everything about Christmas either.

Help me find something different this year,

Lord Jesus, and help me understand

how really good Your surprising goodness is.



Family and Friends

Read Luke 2:4-5

Wouldn't it be terrible to have to celebrate Christmas all by myself? Part of the fun of the season is having other people to share it with, especially people who really care.

Jesus, I'm glad that You were not alone on the first Christmas either, but that You had Mary and Joseph there, and shepherds too, and wise men, to help You celebrate.

Part of the fun is having other people to share it with. And so I understand how hard it must have been for You to suffer and die, later, all by Yourself. That must have been awful!

Thank You, Lord, for doing that alone for me so that I never have to be alone again.

Thank You, too, for friends and family who help make Christmas more fun to celebrate.

Help me be a friend to anyone who feels alone and needs someone to share with, as a family.



G



Gifts

Read Romans 6:23

I don't mean to be greedy, dear Lord God,
but I do get excited when I think about the gifts
that I will get for Christmas.

It's nice to be given things; it's even nice
to look forward to what they might be.

Is that why You keep telling us
that Your great love comes to us as a gift?—
not something we can earn
or something we deserve,
but as a gift, freely given, dearly paid for
by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Oh, help me to be as excited about that great gift
as I am about all the others I look forward to.

And help me find some way
to offer it to others too,
along with all the other gifts I give,
that we may all have something to look forward to,
something even more than Christmas gifts.

Advent a to Z

Spend time each day of December praying through the alphabetical Advent poems contained in this thoughtful booklet that helps children connect the sights and sounds of the season to the coming of the Christ Child in a fun and familiar way. From Angels and Eggnog to Stars and Wreaths, these prayers provide a daily guide for children of all ages as they prepare to celebrate Jesus' birthday!

