

# Advent 2023

Day	Name	Verse	Background
1	Lord	<b>1 Corinthians 1:3</b> <i>Grace and peace to you from God, our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</i>	In the New Testament we learn that God's reign of peace and love is through the lordship of his son, Jesus Christ.
2	Saviour	<b>Luke 2:11</b> <i>'Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you, he is the Messiah, the Lord.'</i>	Jesus is the Saviour from God and born of Mary at the first Christmas.
3	Messiah	<b>Matthew 16:16</b> <i>Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God'.</i>	Jesus is the King promised by God through the Old Testament prophets. (Messiah or Christ is the anointed King)
4	The Vine	<b>John 15:1</b> <i>'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.'</i>	The vine was a picture frequently used of Old Testament Israel. Jesus represents the faithful people of God.
5	The Way	<b>John 14:6</b> <i>Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me.'</i>	Jesus is the way to know God, his forgiveness, healing and life.
6	The Truth	<b>John 1:17</b> <i>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.</i>	Jesus is the Truth in a human being. God's character of grace and truth is completely seen in him.
7	The Life	<b>John 10:7-10</b> <i>Therefore Jesus said again, 'Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'</i>	We are invited to look in all sorts of places for meaning and enjoyment. Life in its fullness is found only in knowing Jesus.

8	<b>Immanuel</b>	<b>Matthew 1:23</b> <i>'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' ('which means God with us').</i>	Almighty God who is above and beyond all things, has come down to us in a baby boy, born into humble circumstances.
9	<b>Redeemer</b>	<b>Luke 1:68</b> <i>'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.'</i>	God in Christ has come down to us, to be like us and to redeem us, to buy us back from the slavery of sin.
10	<b>The Rock</b>	<b>Matthew 7:24</b> <i>'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.'</i>	Trusting in Jesus is like the wise man who built his house on the rock. He is the firm foundation.
11	<b>The Word</b>	<b>John 1:1-14</b> <i>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ...</i>	The Word of God has become flesh. Everything that God is; creator, light, life, grace and truth are to be found in Jesus.
12	<b>Son of God</b>	<b>Mark 1:10,11</b> <i>Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'</i>	Many have tried to claim that title, but only one has ever been acclaimed with a voice from heaven as the beloved Son of God.
13	<b>Counsellor</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:6</b> <i>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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.</i>	God's wisdom flows from Jesus and is to be found in him. We need only look to him for our guidance as we seek his Spirit's leading.
14	<b>Lamb of God</b>	<b>John 1:29</b> <i>The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.'</i>	Lambs were used as sacrificial animals in the Old Testament rituals. Jesus death in our place on the cross was the ultimate sacrifice.

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| 15 | <b>High Priest</b>   | <b>Hebrews 7:27</b><br><i>Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.</i>                  | The High Priest is the one who enters the presence of God with the blood of the sin offering. Jesus' is the once and for all offering for sin.                                 |
| 16 | <b>Anointed One</b>  | <b>1 Samuel 16:13</b><br><i>So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David.</i>  | Just as the Old Testament kings of Israel were anointed with oil, so the true King Jesus Christ was anointed with the Holy Spirit to fulfil his mission.                       |
| 17 | <b>Living Water</b>  | <b>John 4:13,14</b><br><i>Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'</i> | Water is the source of life and eternal life is found through a relationship with Jesus; this is life beyond compare; to satisfy the deepest need and strongest thirst.        |
| 18 | <b>Morning Star</b>  | <b>Revelation 22:16</b><br><i>'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning star.'</i>  | The morning star heralds the start of day. Jesus lived, died and rose again to destroy the power of darkness and to bring in the everlasting day.                              |
| 19 | <b>King of Kings</b> | <b>Revelation 17:14</b><br><i>They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings – and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.'</i>                                       | Jesus is the King to whom all who claim that title will ultimately have to bow. He is the true King over everything and everyone and his Kingdom is one of glory and of peace. |
| 20 | <b>Lord of Lords</b> | <b>Philippians 2:9-11</b><br><i>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.</i>                                   | Jesus Christ is Lord over heaven and earth. All rulers are subject to him.   |

- 21 **Lion of Judah** **Revelation 5:5**  
*Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.'*  
 The Lion of Judah was a title first given to David in the Old Testament. Jesus is the one who fulfils completely the role of the triumphant King who has conquered the enemies of his people, namely sin and death.
- 22 **Good Shepherd** **John 10:11**  
*'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'*  
 Jesus put our lives before his own as he willingly laid down his life, in order to save us.
- 23 **Prince of Peace** **Romans 5:1,2**  
*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.*  
 The peace that Jesus brings is not just an absence of war between human beings and a sense of inner peace, but rather the most important peace of all, peace with God which his death achieved for us.
- 24 **The Resurrection** **John 11:25,26**  
*Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'*  
 Jesus was himself raised from the dead and so all of us, who one day face death ourselves, still carry the hope of and look forward to eternal life with him.
- 25 **Jesus** **Matthew 1:21**  
*'She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'*  
 At just the right time, God sent his Son Jesus Christ, to be born, live among us and die in our place to save us from our sins and give us a future and a hope.

