



# Not Your Typical *Church Ladies* Podcast

Companion Guide  
Advent 2023

## **Advent Week One: Welcoming Emmanuel with John the Baptist**

*“A voice cries out: ‘In the desert prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’” Isaiah 40:3*

Advent is an in-between time. A time when we walk in the wilderness. What does it look like to point the way to God when you’ve left one place but have not yet reached your destination?

*“But according to his promise, we await a new heavens and a new earth.” 2 Peter 3:13*

What new thing do you want to ask God to do in your heart this Advent?



**Advent Week One:  
Welcoming Emmanuel with John the Baptist**

*“You are not lacking any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*1 Corinthians 1:7*

For what gifts are you grateful, even as you wait for God to move in your life?



## **Advent Week Two: Welcoming Emmanuel with Mary**

*“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”*

*Luke 1:45*

What promise are you waiting for God to fulfill in your life? What helps you trust in that promise?

*“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.’”* Luke

*1:46*

How does your life make God’s love apparent in the world?

## Advent Week Two: Welcoming Emmanuel with Mary

*“Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.” Luke 2:19*

What memories do you cherish as you look back on your life in faith?



## **Advent Week Three: Welcoming Emmanuel with Joseph**

*“An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.’”*

*Matthew 1:20*

When have you felt afraid to do what God was calling you to do?

*“An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him.’”* *Matthew 2:13*

God spoke to Joseph in dreams, and Joseph listened from a place of openness and receptivity. How do you listen for God?

## **Advent Week Three: Welcoming Emmanuel with Joseph**

*“When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’”*

*Matthew 2:19-20*

When has God called you to decisive action, even if it meant rearranging your life or making big changes in trust?



## **Advent Week Four/Christmas: Welcoming Emmanuel with the Shepherds and Angels**

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.” Isaiah 9:2*

In what way are you longing for light in your life right now?

*“The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’” Luke 2:10*

The first people to know about Jesus’ birth were lowly shepherds. God likes to surprise us by showing up in unexpected places. In your life, how has God shown up in surprising ways?



## **Advent Week Four/Christmas: Welcoming Emmanuel with the Shepherds and Angels**

*“When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. And all who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.”*

*Matthew 2:17-18*

What message does God call you to share with someone who needs to hear good news?



## **Feast of the Holy Family/Epiphany: Welcoming Emmanuel with the Magi**

*“Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking, ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.’” Matthew 2:2*

What star are you following in your life right now? What’s leading you forward in faith?

*“They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Matthew 2:10-11*

What gift of the heart do you offer to God today?

## Feast of the Holy Family/Epiphany: Welcoming Emmanuel with the Magi

*“Having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.” Matthew 2:12*

When has God led you in a different direction?  
Did that route lead to safety or adventure (or both)?





This Advent season we are Welcoming Emmanuel in our faith community and in our hearts. In our weekly podcast, we'll reflect on some of the key figures in the Christmas story as told in Scripture: John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, and the kings. All of these people had their own way of welcoming Jesus.

Together we will explore how their stories relate to our own personal stories of preparing a place for Christ to be born in our lives. So please join us each week for a conversation about faith in your real life. In the midst of all the business of the season, we are here to help you take a moment to catch your breath, focus on God, and connect to our community.

New episodes will drop every Sunday, and you can find us on YouTube or Spotify.

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