

The Nazareth Trust Advent Calendar 2021





Hello December!

We'd like to give you a warm welcome to the first day of the Nazareth Trust's virtual advent calendar. Every day, until Christmas, we will open a new door to reveal a Bible verse, a poem or maybe a song... Will you join us? Feel free to take your favourite warm beverage with you!

Today we will reflect on [Isaiah 40:28-31](#):

²⁸ Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.



After opening today's calendar door, we didn't get any chocolate but instead, a classic Christmas carol: "O Come All Ye Faithful" (originally written in Latin as "Adeste Fideles").

Here's the lyric video in case you would like to sing along: [O Come All Ye Faithful Lyric Video - Hillsong Worship](#)

Hope you enjoy the song as much as us!



The third day of the Nazareth Trust virtual advent calendar is here and brings some Bible verses by [Luke 2:8-12](#) about the birth of Jesus:

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”



Today we opened the fourth door in our calendar, and we revealed a wonderful version of [“A Hallelujah Christmas”](#) by Cloverton, a contemporary Christian music and worship band from Manhattan, Kansas.

We hope you enjoy it!

I've heard about this baby boy
Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift
With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

A couple came to Bethlehem
Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place for You were coming soon
There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay
God's only Son was born, oh Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

The shepherds left their flocks by night
To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You
It was just as the angels said
You'll find Him in a manger bed
Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

A star shown bright up in the east
To Bethlehem, the Wise Men three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You
And to the place at which You were
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

I know You came to rescue me
This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you
My sins would drive the nails in You
That rugged cross was my cross, too
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah



The last door of this week: number five! We were delighted to find **Isaiah 9:6-7** at the other side of the door:

⁶ 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 Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.



A new week is here, and door number six brings us a quote from **Pope Francis** about gifts:

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it."



The seventh door reveals some Bible verses from [Luke 1:30-33](#):

³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”



Today our virtual advent calendar door takes us back to 1976, with a recording of the song “**Little donkey**” sung by Vera Lynn.

Vera sadly passed away last year at the age of 103 and was an English singer and songwriter whose musical recordings and performances were immensely popular during WWII. As part of the Entertainments National Service Association (ENSA), she took part in concerts for the British troops in Egypt, India, and Burma during the war.

“Little Donkey” is a famous Christmas carol written by Eric Boswell in 1959 and describes Mary’s journey to Bethlehem.

Here is the link to the song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dk6n2alHuU>



After opening the door number nine, we reveal a Bible verse from **John 1:14**:

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



The door number ten brings us a song: [“Emmanuel \(Hallowed Manger Ground\)”](#) by Chris Tomlin, and American contemporary Christian music singer, songwriter, and worship leaders from Texas.

Are you ready to sing along?

What hope we hold this starlit night
A King is born in Bethlehem
Our journey long, we seek the light
That leads to the hallowed manger ground

What fear we felt in the silent age
Four-hundred years can He be found
But broken by a baby's cry
Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
God incarnate, here to dwell
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Praise His name Emmanuel

The son of God, here born to bleed
A crown of thorns would pierce His brow
And we beheld this offering
Exalted now the King of kings
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
God incarnate, here to dwell
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Praise His name Emmanuel

Oh, praise His name Emmanuel
Oh, praise His name Emmanuel



“Gabriel Message – Genesis Sixteen” is a lilting carol which takes inspiration from **Luke 1: 26-38**, where the angel Gabriel appears to Mary, telling her she will bear a son named Jesus.

Click here to listen to the song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5oA29INBH8>



Today the second week of advent is coming to an end. After opening the door, we find the Second Sunday of Advent Readings: Preparation.

³ A voice of one calling:

“In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

(Isaiah 40:3-5)



Another classic Christmas carol: [“Silent Night”](#)! We do hope you enjoy this solo piano version by Thomas Hewitt Jones. Here you are the lyrics in case you’d like to sing along:

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth



Today we unfold [Luke 1:26-38](#) - Birth of Jesus
Foretold:

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.



We have already revealed more than half of the doors in our calendar. The door number 15 brings us a pleasant surprise, with the Bible passage ‘Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael’ ([John 1:46-51](#)) (about Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus:

⁴⁶ “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

⁴⁸ “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰ Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹ He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”



It's time to warm up our voices and get singing again! Today's song is a popular Christmas carol based on a French poem written by Placide Cappeau in 1843, that composer Adolphe Adam adapted to music in 1847.

The song reflects on the night of Jesus' birth, as recorded in Luke 2. We're talking about ["O Holy Night"](#), also known as "Cantique de Noël", sang by the American country music singer-songwriter Martina McBride. Here you are the lyrics:

O holy night
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining

'Til he appeared
And the soul felt its worth
The thrill of hope
The weary world rejoices

For yonder brinks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees

O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night divine
O night, o night divine

O holy night
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear savior's birth
Long lay the world

In sin and error-pining
Till he appeared
And the soul felt its worth
The thrill of hope

The weary world rejoices
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The seventeenth door brings us a poem called “**If You Look for Me at Christmas...**” written by an unknown author. This poem reminds us that Christmas is a symbol of Jesus’ never-ending love for us:

If you look for me at Christmas,
you won’t need a special star;
I’m no longer just in Bethlehem,
I’m right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me
amid the celebrations.
You’ll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment
from your list of things to do,
and listen to your heart, you’ll find
I’m waiting there for you.

You’re the one I want to be with,
you’re the reason that I came,
and you’ll find Me in the stillness,
as I’m whispering your name.

Love, Jesus



Today we reveal a soothing advent prayer song [“Emmanuel”](#) sung by Seth Enriquez while playing his guitar.

As you listen, you might like to echo these words as your own prayer today...

O Wisdom
Lord and Ruler
Root of Jesse
Key of David
Rising Sun
King of the nations

Emmanuel
Emmanuel
Emmanuel
Emmanuel

Lord Jesus Come
Lord Jesus Come
Lord Jesus Come
Lord Jesus Come



Today it's the Third Sunday of Advent Readings and our door reveals a scene full of joy: 'The Magi Visit the Messiah' from [Mathew 2:10-11](#):

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



We're fast approaching the end of our advent calendar, and today we bring you a piece of Australia with this marvellous adaptation of ["Joy To The World"](#) by Hillsong Worship.

Get ready to sing!



Today, 21st of December, we would like to reflect on David Adam's "A prayer before a Christmas Crib" based on the Celtic tradition. David Adam was a British Anglican priest and writer born in 1936 in Alnwick, Northumberland. He worked at the coal mines for three years starting at the age of 15 and was later ordained at Kelham Theological College. Adam was the vicar of Danby-Castleton-Commondale in North Yorkshire for more than 20 years and after became the rector of Holy Island, Lindisfarne.

I open the stable door;
I kneel before the infant;
I worship with the shepherds;
I adore the Christ child.
I give my love with Mary and Joseph;
I wonder at the 'Word made flesh'.
I am aware of the love of God:
I sing glory with the angels;
I offer my gifts with the wise men.
I receive the living Lord;
I hold Him in my hands;
I go on my way rejoicing,
glorifying and praising God.



The door number twenty-two brings us some Bible verses about love from [John 3:16-19](#):

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.



The penultimate door of our calendar will make us sing again! This time, it brings **“Follow The Star”** a song by Allan McKinlay, a Scottish worship leader, pastor and songwriter, who currently lives in California, US.

Are you ready to follow the star?

Click here to listen to the song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxCej7NwWCE>



It's Christmas eve, which means that we have reached the last door of the advent calendar. It brings us another Bible passage from Mathew (1:18-25) about the birth of Jesus Christ, titled 'Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son':

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 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."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.



**Merry Christmas
from the
Nazareth Trust!**